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PROTECTED AREA POLICY WORKING GROUP: CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN



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Cover photo: Cover photo: Rattan collectors near Iko Esai. Controlled collection is permitted on a 4,000 hectare conservation research area—jointly managed by CERCOPAN and Iko Esai community—that borders Cross River National Park. (Photo by Allen Turner, ARD, Inc.)

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Acronyms

AMWS	Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary
APM	Advanced participation methods
CBNRM	Community-based natural resources management
CLUP	Community land-use plan
CRNP	Cross River National Park
CRS	Cross River State
CRSFC	Cross River State Forest Commission
DIN	Development in Nigeria
FMC	Forest management committee
GRADO	Grassroots Development Organization
LGA	Local government association
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NTFP	Non-timber forest product
PA	Protected area
PAPWG	Protected Area Policy Working Group
SAN	Sustainable agriculture and non-timber forest products
SPACE	Sustainable Practices in Agricultural Environments
STPG	Single tree permit guidelines
SZC	Support zone community

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Cross River National Park (CRNP) and the Cross River State Forest Commission (CRSFC) are intent on identifying the causes and sources of protected area management disputes and on mitigating conflict before it expands and/or erupts into greater conflict. As part of this effort to manage disputes better and mitigate conflict before it occurs, both authorities have committed to an analysis and development of a set of actions on these issues through the Sustainable Practices in Agriculture for Critical Environments (SPACE)-coordinated Protected Area Policy Working Group (PAPWG).

Representatives from CRNP and the CRSFC assessed the conflicts that they address in their institutions and submitted reports based on those assessments. Simultaneously, SPACE and SPACE partners Development in Nigeria and Grassroots Development Organization met in four SPACE communities to assess conflicts that the communities experience. From these reports, six categories of conflicts were identified and ranked: (1) park/reserve boundary alignment and demarcation, (2) access and forest resource use, (3) timber harvest regulation compliance, (4) enclaves, (5) human–wildlife conflicts, and (6) communities boundaries.

Over a three-day period, the PAPWG convened an action planning workshop to identify actions that can be taken to address the identified conflicts. Six mutually reinforcing strategies were identified, and form the framework of this action plan:

- Policy analysis and applied research
- Develop conflict management and dispute resolution mechanisms
- Strengthen institutional capacity to manage conflict
- Rights, roles, and responsibilities of a public awareness campaign
- Information sharing and management
- Leveraging resources for agreements.

These strategies provide for short- and long-term actions across the six categories of conflict and for achieving the conflict management objectives identified by the PAPWG.

The PAPWG conflict management and dispute resolution action plan was originally developed to be carried out over a year and a half—the duration of the SPACE Project— with the expectation of continued action by PAPWG members after the project closed out. The PAPWG identified immediate actions to launch the action plan as well as proposed activities for each conflict category. A preliminary budget of proposed SPACE-sponsored activities was developed. However, SPACE’s advanced participation methods (APM)/mediation specialist (and author of this report) recommends that the PAPWG start by addressing a series of actions that are focused on human–wildlife conflict in the community of Bamba and with the CRNP. These activities can be addressed through short-term investments of time and resources, can provide experiences and lessons to be applied in other communities and by the CRSFC with Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary communities and managers, and can build good will between all actors in a short time frame and lay the foundation for dialogue and negotiating agreement over the more complex conflict management issues such as access and forest resource use.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Thirty-four percent of Cross River State (CRS) is covered by Nigeria’s remaining tropical high forest—a forested landscape that has received international recognition as a biodiversity hotspot—and is home to endangered species such as the Cross River gorilla, chimpanzee, and mandrill baboon. The majority of Cross River State’s forests are protected by the Cross River National Park (CRNP) or managed as forest reserves by the Cross River State Forestry Commission (CRSFC). Approximately 150,000 people live in 110 villages surrounding these protected areas; 6 more villages are located within the national park boundaries (CRNP, 2005). Today, the CRNP and CRSFC face a principal, shared challenge: how to protect or conserve the flora and fauna entrusted to them in the face of conflicting land use interests held by the growing human population whose livelihoods are dependent on the same land and forest resources. This management challenge has given rise to various types of disputes and conflicts over resource use, rights, and management priorities between Cross River State protected area management authorities and between authorities and bordering communities. Although violent confrontation is not rampant, sometimes disputes between protected area authorities and communities have been known to escalate into violence, resulting in legal action. These disputes have contributed to a growing awareness of conflicts over land use between the CRS protected area institutions and neighboring communities as well as a growing sense of need to assess and actively address this issue if protected area management objectives will be achieved.

1.1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND ACTION PLAN

Both the CRNP and the CRSFC are intent on identifying the causes and sources of protected area management disputes and on mitigating conflict before it expands and/or erupts into greater conflict. As part of this effort to manage disputes better and mitigate conflict before it occurs, both authorities have committed to an analysis and development of a set of actions on these issues through the Sustainable Practices in Agriculture for Critical Environments (SPACE)-coordinated Protected Area Policy Working Group (PAPWG). The CRSFC states in their August 2005 conflict assessment report (Annex A), “Managing the remaining part of the forest to meet conflicting interests has been a source of great concern to the commission. Conflict is [therefore] inevitable. Thus our worry now is rather on how the various conflicts could be managed.” To this end, members of the PAPWG met for three days with SPACE protected area management specialist and the SPACE advanced participation methods (APM)/mediation specialist to categorize the types of disputes and conflicts they face today, rank them, and develop a strategy, or set of actions, for achieving conflict management objectives.(See textbox.)

The purpose of this action plan is to qualify and to the degree possible, quantify the nature of disputes and conflicts that exist between institutions and between these institutions and communities bordering either the CRNP or forest reserves of the CRSFC. The results of this analysis contributed to an action planning workshop with the PAPWG, which developed a set of next steps in a series of actions and commitments that contribute to a reduction in disputes and conflicts in natural resources management in the future.

Objectives of the PAPWG Conflict Management and Dispute Resolution Strategy:

1. Develop institutional capacity to manage conflict.
2. Develop conflict resolution mechanisms appropriate to affected parties to address the prioritized conflict areas.
3. Develop a system of managing and sharing information to reduce conflict
4. Raise awareness of all stakeholders about the conflict.

The assessment of the disputes and conflicts around CRS protected areas reveals that transforming them to more peaceful conditions will take long-term investment by state institutions and affected parties, while there are more immediate steps that can be taken to mitigate existing conflicts. This report reviews the categories of conflicts reported by the CRNP and CRSFC and bordering communities, in section 3.0: PAPWG Conflict Management and Dispute Resolution Strategy. It also summarizes a general strategy for addressing the issues underlying each of these conflict areas. Section 4, PAPWG Conflict Management and Dispute Resolution Action Plan, describes the specific actions that the PAPWG protected area institutions and SPACE can take to mitigate existing conflicts—immediate and longer-term actions that support achievement of the objectives that were defined by the PAPWG. A comprehensive schedule of activities was developed by the participating SPACE team members over the remaining year and a half of SPACE implementation. However, it has become evident that the scope and scale of the proposed actions in this plan are too ambitious for the time remaining or the resources available. To a more manageable end, section 5, Human-Wildlife Conflict Management—A Pilot Approach, recommends a set of actions to address one conflict type, human-wildlife conflict, as a starting point from which the protected area institutions, target communities, and SPACE can build capacity and good will, derive lessons to be applied to follow-on conflict management approaches, and begin developing the conditions for more peaceful relationships.

1.2 SPACE OBJECTIVES AND THE PAPWG

The PAPWG, which was formed in February 2005 and has representation from both CRNP and CRSFC, has included conflict management and dispute resolution as critical elements of the PAPWG agenda. The mandate of the group is to address issues affecting biodiversity conservation and natural resources management policy and practice in critical environments. The work of the PAPWG is supported by the USAID-funded SPACE Project. Conflict management and mitigation is considered a key aspect of the PAPWG's work plan for 2005; the results of discussions and planning with the PAPWG have identified further opportunities for collaboration with the SPACE community land use planning (CLUP) and sustainable agriculture and non-timber forest product (SAN) technical assistance.

The SPACE Project seeks to improve and diversify livelihoods in selected communities in Cross River State, Nigeria, that neighbor one of the most precious remnants of the lowland tropical rain forest that once spread across all of West Africa. Closely tied to this objective is that of slowing agricultural expansion into these last primary forest remnants and conserving their ecological values and processes.

SPACE will achieve these objectives through an integrated approach that addresses three key themes:

1. **Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM).** Strengthening community-level forest management institutions and relationships to improve conservation and management of tropical rain forests.
2. **Sustainable Agriculture.** Improving productivity and quality of selected agricultural and non-timber forest products, strengthening farmer groups, and enhancing value chain management.
3. **Protected Area Management.** Improving the enabling environment for participation in biodiversity conservation and benefit sharing.

Together, activities implemented through these themes will increase income, enhance food security, and conserve biodiversity in the CRS.

SPACE's approach focuses on two important opportunities to enhance sustainable livelihoods while conserving the ecological processes and values of these critical environments:

1. Developing effective governance at the community level.
2. Developing forms of collective action by producers in relation to markets.

However, without effective natural resource governance at the community level, strengthening market relationships will only lead to increased pressure on CRS's precious primary forestlands. To improve natural resource governance and in turn protected area management, SPACE enlisted the participation of

the CRNP and CRSFC, as well as the Wildlife Conservation Society, in the PAPWG to address biodiversity and natural resource management policy and practice.

The ARD/SPACE team that embraces this challenge is made up of an expatriate team leader and five long-term Nigerian specialists in sustainable agriculture, marketing and value chain management, CBNRM, conservation, and gender. SPACE is also working through a number of subcontracts with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including One Sky, Development in Nigeria (DIN), Grassroots Development Organization (GRADO), and the Sustainable Tree Crops Program. The implementation phase of SPACE began September 30, 2004, and will continue through February 2007.

1.3 ACTION PLANNING METHODOLOGY

1.3.1 Protected Area Institution Assessments of Conflicts and Disputes

In preparation for development of this conflict management and dispute resolution action plan, two parallel information-gathering and data analysis activities took place. The CRNP and the CRSFC developed written assessments of the disputes and conflicts between the CRSFC or CRNP and communities bordering protected areas. Two-person technical teams at the CRNP and CRSFC assessed the dimensions of disputes and conflicts from the perspective of both protected area institutions. These teams conducted a review of the dimensions of community disputes and conflicts as perceived by both institutions and identified disputes between these two institutions. On the basis of available reports and literature, as well as interviews within the institution at state and local levels, problematic geographic areas, inter-institutional issues, and problematic communities were identified. The results of these assessments are in Annex A.

1.3.2 Community Conflict Assessment Meetings

At the same time, SPACE and PAPWG members carried out a series of community dispute and conflict assessment visits. The PAPWG conducted a preliminary identification of target communities that will be visited for this exercise. PAPWG members divided into two, cross-disciplinary teams (Cross River North and Cross River South) and visited communities to better understand the dimensions of disputes and conflicts with protected areas from the perspective of these communities. These meetings were organized by SPACE implementing partners DIN or GRADO, to the degree possible, and facilitated by SPACE technical advisors. The methodology used for collecting this information was designed by the SPACE Project and carried out by both field teams in the communities of Nsofang, Ebbakken, Bamba, and Okuni (see Annex B).

1.3.3 PAPWG Conflict Management Action Planning Workshop

On completion of the institutional and community assessments, the PAPWG and SPACE team members reviewed the draft reports and met as a team for three days (August 18, 19, and 22, 2005) to analyze and characterize the problems and issues contributing to the disputes and conflicts. On the basis of a review of the reports from the protected area institutions and community meetings, the SPACE team grouped and characterized reported disputes into categories identifying affected parties and resources. The SPACE team presented this draft characterization of conflicts around protected areas to the PAPWG during the action planning workshop. The PAPWG further refined the categories after reviewing the various interests, needs, and conflict management options espoused by the institutional and community actors.

Criteria were solicited by the SPACE APM/mediation specialist, and a ranking tool was developed by the PAPWG and used to guide the team's prioritization of the categories of conflicts based on the scale (frequency, number of affected parties, geographic impact) and severity (impacts on management objectives, community livelihoods, financial resources, and potential for violent conflict) of the conflict (see Annex C). PAPWG members were also asked to score the conflicts on the basis of potential to reach agreement—the potential is higher in cases where shared interests had been expressed between the actors. This

ranking tool was based on the qualitative information derived from reports and the collective knowledge of the members of the PAPWG. Distinctions were made between the impacts on management objectives of the participating protected area institutions, CRNP, and CRSFC, and rankings reflect the cumulative scores of the criteria given by each of the institutions.

With a firm and more comprehensive understanding of the types of conflicts that affect protected area management in the CRS, the PAPWG brainstormed the various actions that need to be carried out to address these conflicts and developed them into strategies. These strategies were more fully developed by the PAPWG within each of the conflict categories and immediate “launch” actions were identified. The results of this planning can be found in Annex D.

This three-day action planning workshop was facilitated by SPACE APM/mediation specialist, Ms. Marsha Kellogg, and convened with the participation of PAPWG members Ms. Gabriel Agba, park warden, Oban Division, CRNP; Dr. I. O. Ojong, assistant director, Park Protection and Research, CRNP; Ms. Caroline Olory, park officer, CRNP; Mr. Fidelies Anukwa, divisional head, CRSFC, Northern CRS, Ikom; Dr. Otu Ibor, assistant director, Planning and Statistics, CRSFC Headquarters, Calabar; and SPACE team members Mr. Alade Adeleke, Mr. Tony Atah (DIN), and Ms. Patience Obaji (GRADO).

Workshop results and action recommendations were finalized in this report by the SPACE APM/mediation specialist after the final drafts of the assessment of disputes and conflicts reports by the CRNP and the CRSFC were resubmitted to SPACE in November 2005.

1.3.4 Limitations on Action Planning Process:

Travel restrictions placed on TDY in Nigeria during July and August changed and limited the original scope of work and travel times of Ms. Kellogg (the APM/mediation specialist). Originally scheduled for 18 days of effort, including 3 days of travel and one day pre-departure for preparations, Ms. Kellogg’s in-country work was reduced to 7 days. These scheduling changes also influenced the PAPWG members’ availability to attend the action planning workshop, nor could everyone attend all 3 days. These time restrictions gave the team an opportunity to carry out the conflict analysis and ranking with the protected area institutions and define a set of objectives, broad strategies, and initial actions. However, further analysis of conflicts and conflict management planning with target communities was not carried out. Also, scheduling of the proposed actions was carried out by the SPACE team members only.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS OF ACTION PLAN

Community conflict assessment meetings took place in four SPACE communities residing in two of the critical environments targeted by the SPACE project.

- Ebbakken and Bamba, located within the large block of contiguous forest in northern CRS, including Afi River Forest Reserve (together with Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary [AMWS]), Mbe Mountains, and the Okwangwo Division of the CRNP. The forest block is contiguous with Takamanda Forest Reserve in Cameroon, and is the only known location of the critically endangered Cross River gorilla.
- Nsofang and Okuni, communities located near the Cross River South Forest Reserve, an increasingly fragmented and degraded forest that still provides a tenuous link between the forests of northern CRS and the CRNP Oban Hills Division. The forests here are under intense and increasing pressure from conversion to cocoa. The Oban Hills Division of the park is the single largest forest block in the CRS and is also contiguous with Korup National Park and Ejagham Forest Reserve in Cameroon. Taken together, this represents the largest block of contiguous forest remaining in West Africa.

However, on further discussion and analysis of the conflicts and development of the action plan, the PAPWG also identified communities along the Oban Road Corridor with high conflict incidence, especially conflicts related to boundary realignment and access and forest resource use. The “Oban Road Corridor,” which effectively divides the CRNP Oban Hills Division into two sections, is another SPACE critical environment. However, road access and agricultural encroachment into park boundaries and increasing political tensions over land tenure and use make this critical environment a difficult area to achieve early results.

The SPACE site selection process first identified the critical environments in which SPACE interventions would work during the project’s design phase in April/May 2004. The SPACE design team defined critical environments as “areas of high ecological value, at risk from unsustainable uses.” The threat analysis identified four principal criteria for use in selecting the critical environments in which SPACE will be operational. In summary, selected areas:

- Have a high biodiversity value,
- Provide ecological services such as clean water, biological corridors, and ground cover that protects and enriches the soil,
- Are representative of the principal threats/practices that endanger critical ecosystems around the CRS, and
- Have favorable enabling conditions for natural resource management and protection.

Given the importance of strong social capital to the success of local-level natural resource management and conservation activities, the design report also considered existing social capital in the process of site selection. In so doing, the design team assessed resource uses and management within these critical environments with respect to the history of success with previous or ongoing initiatives, representation of farming systems and conditions of market access, and examples of CBNRM initiatives.

2.2 INSTITUTIONS AND COMMUNITIES ADDRESSED

This conflict management and dispute resolution process brought together the two principle protected area institutions of the CRS to develop the action plan: the CRNP and the CRSFC. Through discussion in the action planning workshop, however, four principle “actors” were identified to provide leadership to the execution of the plan set forth: the PAPWG, SPACE, CRSFC, and CRNP. Additional government institutions, NGOs, and community-based organizations were identified as potential supporting actors whose support would be solicited during implementation. The PAPWG also identified focal communities and regions that deserve attention on the basis of their understanding of the need and opportunities to resolve these issues and the scale and severity of the conflict. Table 1 identifies the lead and supporting institutions by conflict category as well as focus communities and regions identified by the PAPWG.

Table 1. Conflicts, Focal Communities and Lead Institutions

Conflict Category	Focus Communities/Region	Lead	Supporting
Park/Reserve Boundary Alignment and Demarcation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bomaji/Okwangwo North • Bashu/ Okwangwo Division • SW Flank of Oban • Osemba-Aking, Upper Oban Block 	PAPWG	CRNP, CRSFC, SPACE, Ministry of Lands Survey Dept., Ministry of Justice
Access & Forest Resource Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 villages of Bomaji, • Okwangwo enclaves, • AMWS communities • Bashu 	PAPWG	CRNP, CRSFC, SPACE, DIN, NCF, TOCS
Timber Harvest Regulation Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nsofang/CR South Forest Reserve • Okuni, Abo villages, Owai, Etera, • Bashu, Kanyang, Katabang (Afi Reserve communities) • AMWS communities (16) 	CRSFC	PAPWG, CRNP, SPACE partners, FMCs
Human–Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bamba • Bomaji, Abo-Mkpong/Okwangwo North • AMWS communities 	CRNP CRSFC	PAPWG, SPACE facilitator, Afi Partnership
Enclaves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mkpot; Oban Division CRNP • Okwa I & II 	CRNP	PAPWG, TOCS, WCS
Community Boundaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPACE communities 	SPACE	CRSFC, SPACE communities, local government authorities

2.3 POLICY AND LEGAL PROVISIONS

The CRNP and CRSFC are legally empowered to manage the forests and protected areas of the CRS. Specifically, “The Cross River State Forestry Commission is statutorily empowered it to manage the forests of the state, excluding areas under the control of Cross River National Park” (Annex 1: *An Assessment of Conflicts/ Disputes in Forest Resources Management in Cross River State*, 2005).

According to CRNP and CRSFC reports (Annex A) 6,101.29 km² of forest was originally gazetted in the Forest Reserve Ordinances or Reserve Settlement Orders of the 1930s and 1960s (Table 2). With the creation of the CRNP by the National Park Decree No. 36 of 1991, the Forest Reserves of *Boshi*, *Boshi extension*, *Okwangwo* and *Oban Group* were upgraded and the CRNP boundaries defined by law (Annex 1: *Cross River National Park Conflicts Assessment*, 2005). These forest reserves were taken out of CRSFC man-

agement jurisdiction. Previous hunting and gathering rights that communities enjoyed prior to the creation of a national park were abrogated with the Decree No. 36 and subsequent Act No. 46 of 1999.

Table 2. Forest Reserves and Their Area as Originally Constituted (Agbor, August 2005)

	Name of Forest Reserve	Year Constituted	Area (km²)
1.	Oban Group Forest Reserve	1912	3,742.55
2.	Ikriyon Forest Reserve	1928	5.29
3.	Cross River North F/Reserve	1930	129.50
4.	Cross River South F/Reserve	1930	349.65
5.	Ukpon River Forest Reserve	1930	313.39
6.	Okwangwo Forest Reserve	1930	468.79
7.	Afi River Forest Reserve	1930	383.32
8.	Umon-Ndealichi Forest Reserve	1930	108.78
9.	Uwet-Odot Forest Reserve	1930	284.90
10.	Lower Enyong Forest Reserve	1930	28.49
11.	Yache Forest Reserve	1931	15.54
12.	Agoi Forest Reserve	1940	46.62
13.	Boshi Forest Reserve	1951	41.44
14.	Ekinta Forest Reserve	1953	108.78
15.	Boshi Extension F/Reserve	1958	67.34
16.	Gabu Forest Reserve	1960	5.18
17.	Ikom Fuelwood Plantation	1960	1.06
	TOTAL		6,101.29

Today, the total forest estate available in the CRS for sustainable exploitation and management is 3,960 km², of which 2,150 km² is community or communal forest (i.e., owned and managed by various communities and individuals), which is held in trust and managed by the CRSFC; 1,810 km² is designated as state forest reserve. However, the CRSFC report points out that:

Though the Forestry commission has the mandate to manage the entire forest Estates in Cross River State, her level of influence in the management of the Community forest is not absolute. Communities have significant role to play in managing community forest. The role of the Forestry Commission in this case is more of a facilitator ensuring that management decisions taken by the communities conform with existing Forestry laws and regulations in the State.

A significant portion of the forest reserves have been converted into plantations. Agbor (Ettah and Ogar 1994; Agbor, 2002) clearly substantiates in the CRSFC report that these forest reserves and plantations are under the direct management control of the Forestry Commission.

The CRSFC enforces laws and regulations governing the use and management of the forest and provides for periodic tariff review to conform with socioeconomic conditions and in compliance with CRS laws. “For instance, the Cross River State Forestry tariff was first reviewed in 1974; subsequent reviews were carried out in September 1979, January, 1986, November, 1988, November, 1993 and September, 1999” (Agbor, August 2005). This management mandate of the Forestry Commission requires interaction with communities. The CRSFC report states:

Over the years, Forestry Commission as a way of encouraging community participation had reviewed the forestry tariff in favour of communities. The current royalty ratio stands at:

Forest reserve: 50% Govt. and 50% Community

Community Forest: 30% Govt. and 50% Community

Govt. Forest Plantation: 80% Govt. and 20% Community.

2.4 HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF CONFLICT AND DISPUTES AROUND CRS PROTECTED AREAS

From the community assessment reports, conversations with local actors and the institutional reports a few factors have been mentioned as contributing, over time, to the conflicts around protected area management in the CRS.

Historically, the pressures on the forests by local populations were much reduced from today's demands: "In the early 30s when the Forest Reserves were gazetted, local population within and adjacent to the forest were very low, and there were little conflicts of interest between Forestry and local communities" (Annex 1: CRSFC, 2005).

Today, Nigeria, houses one-fifth of all of Africa's population, the majority of which live along its tropical wet forest coast. The CRS has an estimated population of 2,554,001¹ and a density of approximately 142 people/km². Increasingly, "non-indigenes," or people from neighboring states such as Akwa Ibom, are migrating to the CRS to access forest resources, resources that have disappeared in their homes. (According to CRNP's conflict assessment, 35 of 82 arrests for illegal activity in the park between September 2003 and August 2004 were of non-Cross Riverians.) Demographically, CRS youth (ages of 15–30) make up approximately 30% of the population. Not only is this increase in population creating more demand on natural resources, but segments of society are used to defend communities and sometimes elite interests. Both the institutional and community conflict assessments report that youth groups are increasingly organized to defend community interests sometimes through violent means.

As pressures on the tropical high forests of the CRS increased, along with international recognition of its biodiversity values, the Nigerian government took measures to preserve it through the creation of the CRNP. The change in protected area status from forest reserve to national park by military fiat took away previously held usufruct rights of Cross Riverians without consultation with them.

Failure to define roles of the communities and other stakeholders in the early stages of the implementation of Act 36 of 1991 and further delays in defining the Park boundary areas as well as the suspension of the EU/KFW intervention projects aimed at improving livelihood of the SZCs further exacerbated the conflicts. (Annex 1: CRNP, 2005)

The biodiversity conservation focus of well-intended environmental groups who have intervened in communities around the CRS, as well as Nigerian government's denial of communities' traditional usufruct rights to the forest, has created feelings of distrust of outsiders, both government and non-governmental. Both the CRSFC and the CRNP have experienced difficulty in carrying out their management and enforcement duties with communities and, in many instances, have had to resort to prosecution.

¹ www.crossriverstate.com/facts%20and%20figures_population.htm.

3.0 PAPWG CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION STRATEGY

3.1 CONFLICT CATEGORIES, RANKING, AND STRATEGY SUMMARIES

This conflict management and dispute resolution action plan stems from an analysis of the problems presented in the protected area conflict assessment and community workshop reports. This analysis included identification of affected groups/actors participating in the conflict, the perceived positions and interests of the actors, and the proposed options and perceived needs of the participating institutions and the communities. The PAPWG also assessed the scale and severity of the conflict based on frequency (on average, how often does the protected area institution have to address this conflict type), number of affected groups, geographic scale, potential for violence and impacts on management objectives, livelihoods and institutional resources, and finally the potential for agreement (Annex C). On the basis of this analysis, the PAPWG agreed to the following six categories of conflicts and their respective ranking based on the cumulative scores given by each institution:

1. Park and forest reserve boundary alignment and demarcation
2. Access and forest resource use
3. Timber harvest regulations compliance and royalty payment
4. Human–wildlife conflicts
5. Enclave communities
6. Community boundaries.

The categories of conflicts presented below are presented in the order they were ranked by the PAPWG. Summaries of the PAPWG-recommended conflict-specific strategies are found in this section; specific actions can be found in the following section and Annex D. Within each conflict category examples of disputes or constraints cited in the community assessment reports (Annex B) or by the protected area institutions (Annex A) are given.

Conflict Category I. Park and Forest Reserve Boundary Alignment and Demarcation

The CRNP was established by the National Park Decree No. 36 of 1991, which upgraded *Boshi*, *Boshi extension*, *Okwangwo* and *Oban Group* forest reserves, and limited unauthorized human activity within park boundaries. In 1999, Decree No 36 was repealed and replaced by Act No 46 of 1999, which provides for the absolute protection of the park and its management by the federal government of Nigeria. Some of the land included in the park decree is cultivated with food crops and or planted with exotic species (*Gmelina/Teak*) for pulp wood production, and decreed boundaries are not aligned with traditional village boundaries. Since 1999, requests and plans for boundary realignment have been made; however, still no action has been taken.



On the basis of conversation with the PAPWG and review of the CRNP and CRSFC reports, it is in the interest of both institutions to clearly define and mark protected area boundaries on the ground to best meet their management responsibilities. Park rangers and forest guards have a difficult time enforcing protected area regulations in the field, including monitoring access, when the boundaries of these administrative units are not clearly defined and communicated to neighboring communities and forest users. It is not clear, however, what the interests of the community are relative to boundary alignment and demarcation. Evidence suggests that ambiguity over park and

reserve boundaries works in favor of user groups and loggers who exploit this confusion for personal gain. On the other hand, this confusion does not benefit community leaders and members who are reportedly harassed and sometimes jailed for crossing what to them appear to be arbitrary boundaries. The issue of boundary alignment and demarcation is also a contributing factor to conflicts around access and forest resource use and timber harvest regulation compliance.

The following disputes or problems over boundaries or boundary alignment and demarcation were cited:

- The CRNP boundary includes a gmelina arborea plantation in the southwest Oban Block (CRNP, CRSFC assessment reports) that was planted and managed by the CRSFC.
- Fines and arrests have been made of loggers and community members in communities around the CRNP for illegally harvesting timber; however, defendants claim the boundaries are not clearly marked.
- A non-indigene timber dealer sawing near the AMWS in Ebbakken was fined and his timber was seized.
- The park boundary cuts through community lands of Nsan, Awi, Bashu (CRSFC, CRNP assessment reports) or leads right up to village edges, leaving little room for growth.

Further dialogue and exploration of this issue reveals other associated constraints:

- Village growth and conversion of forest reserve into farmland is difficult to control because boundaries are not clearly marked.
- Current forest reserve designation does not reflect existing land use—much has been converted to farmland.
- The roles, rights, and responsibilities of support zone villages and the buffer zone communities are not widely known.

Affected Groups (7):

- CRS Forestry Commission
- Cross River National Park
- Bordering communities
- NTFP collectors (youth, men, women)

Frequency Rating: 5 (highest)

Geographic Scale:

- Oban Corridor
- Ikpon Block
- Southwest corner of Oban
- Bomaji communities
- Nsan
- Awi
- Bashu communities

Resources at Stake: Forest land, timber, bush mango, afang, wildlife

Rank: I

- The Ikpon forest block, a block of community lands, was proposed as an extension to the eastern Oban Block in 1999; however, it has not been formally annexed, surveyed, or cut. Although the Ikpon communities agreed to the park extension in 1999, would they agree to it today?
- Boundary information (maps, gazettes, demarcation, policy) is not updated nor harmonized with existing use, realignment requires meeting CRNP protocols and approvals, and is expensive.
- Beacons and survey markers are removed by user groups to maintain ambiguity and claim ownership to the resources on the land.

Strategy Summary

Target Regions/Communities: Bashu, Bomaji, and southwest flank of Oban Block, demarcation between Osemba and Aking, upper Oban Block.

A multipronged approach to this conflict category will include:

1. Policy analysis and applied research that will identify incongruence between decreed boundaries and on-the-ground realities, develop the environmental assessment and other required reports in accordance with the approvals process of the National Park Service Act (No. 46), and guide the implementation of activities to be carried out by an inter-institutional boundary task force.
2. Developing an inter-institutional boundary task force that will work together to address boundary alignment and demarcation issues, leverage resources for required actions, and advance the agreement on buffer zone management and information sharing between institutions and communities.
3. Negotiating with communities through participatory mapping and joint boundary demarcation exercises to align decreed boundaries with community realities and sharing the responsibility of maintaining the boundary and compensating communities for their work.
4. Developing maps and signs to publicize agreed upon boundaries, and disseminate information on rights, roles and responsibilities of support zone communities (SZCs) in the park buffer zone.
5. Leveraging financial and technical resources to meet boundary demarcation needs.

Conflict Category 2. Access and Forest Resource Use



Forest reserve access and exploitation, once a usufruct right, was denied to communities and the CRSFC upon creation of the CNRP. Vigilance and enforcement is difficult due to the ambiguous nature of the park boundary. This has led to unregulated and illegal exploitation of forest resources—timber, bushmeat, non-timber forest products (NTFPs) (e.g., afang and bush mango) by community members—and has resulted in direct confrontations between CRNP staff and collectors. Access and forest resource-use conflicts are more relevant to the CRNP than the CRSFC, although similar access and resource use issues arise with communities

bordering the AMWS, which is under the auspices of the CRSFC.

The following disputes or incidences related to access and forest resource use were cited:

- Ebbakken chiefs and hunters were arrested for illegal hunting
- Incidences of women being harassed outside of the CRNP for NTFP collection and their collected items were seized (Ebbakken, Bamba).

- Confrontations in Nsofang over access and forest resource use between Nsofang youth and CRNP rangers.
- Hunting and NTFP exploitation by non-indigenes, Cameroonians, and SZCs (CRNP, 2005).
- Access roads to forest reserves are blocked by communities who do not receive royalties demanding compensation for road maintenance (Agbor, 2005).

Between September 2003 and August 2004, 63 of 82 arrests by the CRNP were for illegal entry into the park; 8 perpetrators were farming, 35 were collecting NTFPs, 9 were suspected of illegal logging, and 28 were caught with firearms or bushmeat (Annex 1: CRNP, 2005).

Further dialogue and exploration of this issue reveals other associated constraints and opportunities:

- According to current park policy, people cannot enter the parks, even with permits, to collect NTFPs.
- According to the CRNP, the internationally accepted concept of a “national park” is not participatory, and CRNP park policy does not include mandates for participation.
- It is unclear to other actors why the park administration does not promote more participatory management; the communities are interested in greater involvement and sharing benefits.
- There is a shared interest among communities and protected area institutions for greater dialogue on this subject.

Affected Groups (7):

- CRS Forestry Commission
- Cross River National Park
- NTFP collectors (youth, men, women)
- Loggers and hunters

Frequency Rating: 4 (medium high)

Geographic Scale: Higher intensity of conflict in upper Okwangwo and along Oban Corridor; Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary

Resources at Stake: Timber, bush mango, afang, wildlife

Rank: 2

Strategy Summary

Target Regions/Communities: The 12 villages of Bomaji, Okwangwo enclaves, and AMWS.

The PAPWG action plan includes activities in five strategic areas:

1. **Policy analysis and applied research:** Analyzing existing park policy and exploring options for different management zones that would facilitate more sustainable management of forests in the park and along its border by resource users. Additionally, applied research will be carried out on SPACE community lands assessing pertinent NTFP availability and sustainable production needs, and the extent of harvesting within protected areas.
2. **Developing dispute resolution mechanisms:** SPACE will meet with SPACE communities and user groups around the targeted areas to develop a community-based conflict management committee to negotiate agreements with protected area institutions on NTFP collection, benefit sharing, and developing mechanisms for peacefully resolving future disputes and managing the conflict.
3. **Training and capacity building:** To support this effort, park and forestry field staff will be trained in public relations and participatory management skills.
4. **Rights, roles, and responsibilities campaign:** The PAPWG will work to raise awareness of the rights, roles, and responsibilities of the protected area institutions and resource use groups, and communicate agreed-on dispute resolution mechanisms.
5. **Leveraging resources:** The PAPWG will develop relationships with other organizations to support alternative livelihoods and community development within targeted communities and explore financing mechanisms.

Conflict Category 3. Timber Harvest Regulations Compliance

Community conflict assessment reports and conversation with the PAPWG members suggest tree inspections, harvesting, and forest reserve management is less than transparent and that the single tree permit guidelines (STPGs), which is designed to regulate wood extraction in Cross River State Forest Reserve, is often violated. Both communities and the PAPWG note that forestry officers who are charged with physically inspecting the trees to be cut are delinquent in their responsibility, sometimes for lack of transportation to this site. In addition, signatures of land owners have been known to be forged. These behaviors often results in extraction of trees without permission or inside protected area boundaries and develop disputes within communities and between communities.



Communities also often complain that they do not receive appropriate compensation for the amount of extraction they observe. For instance, Ebbakken is not aware of activities in the forest reserve or the royalty payments that are due them. Regular reporting of extraction and royalty payments to forest management committees (FMCs) and communities is not carried out by the

CRSFC. In addition, the CRSFC points out in their report that, “some local communities enter into logging agreements with individuals and companies without adequate knowledge of the legal provisions governing such transactions. This leads to poor bargaining power and defrauding by their supposedly business partners” (Annex 1: CRSFC, 2005).

The following disputes or incidences related to timber harvest regulations compliance and royalty payment were cited:

- Timber was seized by the CRSFC on community land claiming it was too close to the AMWS. A logger registered with Ebbakken community found and felled a tree in one of the community member’s farm. The CRSFC fined the logger to pay the sum of ₦60,000.
- A tree is felled in one community forest, but the royalty goes to the bordering community because boundaries and ownership are not clearly defined.
- Some years ago, the Iyami village in Okuni community engaged Fouplant Company to fell wood in their forest in order to reduce the pressure of converting the forest to farmland. However, the enforcement of the agreement reached led to conflicts between the forestry officials on one hand, the local people and the exploiters on the other hand (Annex 1: CRSFC, 2005).

Further dialogue and exploration of this issue reveals other perceived constraints:

- The CRNP and CRSFC had agreed to joint tree inspections in 2002 to ensure that permitted trees were not cut within park boundaries; however, this agreement has not become operational.

Affected Groups (5):

- Forestry Commission
- Cross River National Park
- Loggers
- Forest management committees
- Communities

Frequency Rating: 4 (medium high)

Geographic Scale: Oban Corridor; northwest flank of Oban Block, all forest reserve communities

Resources at Stake: Timber

Rank: 3

- The FMC does not involve CRSFC officers in their meetings; this is linked to the power of the elites in the community and their ability to “capture” resources.
- There is a general lack of consultation and supervision between the FMCs and the CRSFC; FMCs are not well organized or prepared to carry out their roles.
- Forestry uniform field staff are more attentive to the logger’s interests than the communities because they are the paying client.
- Owner consent forms are easily forged.
- Although loggers will pay uniformed forestry staff (UFS) logistic costs to make tree inspections, UFS are not motivated to leave the office to inspect trees and their activities are not well monitored.

Strategy Summary

Target Regions/Communities: FMCs of Okuni, Nsofang, Abo villages, Owai, Bashu, Etara, Kyang, Katabang (Afi Reserve communities), AMWS communities (16)

Central to the strategy developed around the Timber Harvest Regulation Compliance conflict is strengthening current mechanisms for accountability, such as the STPGs, and increasing transparency of forest operations. This can be done through:

1. Policy analysis: An evaluation of STPG compliance and the chain of custody will be carried out to identify actions that can be taken to improve transparency and accountability. In addition, a study will be carried out to identify the next steps toward passage of the draft Forestry Law.
2. Along with actions identified in the STPG chain of custody evaluation, it is recommended that the CRNP and CRSFC return to an original agreement to conduct joint tree inspections near park boundaries.
3. Information sharing and knowledge management activities that focus on improving communications and reporting between the CRSFC and FMCs. Parallel to these activities is
4. Training and capacity building, to strengthen FMC management and accountability, and their ability to do their job.
5. Finally, a rights, roles, and responsibilities campaign will be developed around timber-harvesting regulations and activities to thoroughly communicate timber harvest regulations and rights to all beneficiaries.

Conflict Category 4. Human–Wildlife Conflicts

Periodically, encounters between humans living around protected areas and wildlife living within protected areas create conflicts for the protected area managers. Three types of human-wildlife conflicts have emerged over the past few years. Elephants have entered farms in communities, such as Bamba and have destroyed crops. Hunters have attempted to poach elephants within protected areas and have been killed in the process (see Box 1). Communities perceive that the CRNP is much more worried about the elephants (and other wildlife) than they are about people. Although human–wildlife conflicts are not as fre-

Affected Groups (5):

- Cross River National Park
- Okwangwo North communities and enclaves
- Oban Corridor communities

Frequency Rating: 3 (medium)

Geographic Scale: Okwangwo Block, Oban Corridor

Resources at Stake: Timber, NTFPs, bushmeat, forests

Rank: 3

quent as other-cited conflicts, they are inevitably recurrent, and CNRP field staff and administration need to better prepare for managing the conflicts that ensue.

Currently, the CRNP responds to human–wildlife conflicts by sending teams to investigate and assess damage and reports are filed to the district office and then management decides on follow-up actions. However, in two cases in Bamba, this process was either not followed or the conflict was exacerbated by the actors’ responses. Anecdotes suggest that CRNP’s process and procedures for settling these types of grievances can be inconsistently followed. This has led to litigation between the community and park.

Strategy Summary

Target Regions/Communities:

Okwangwo North, Bomaji, Abo-Mkpang, AMWS communities, and Bamba

To improve the conflict management and dispute resolution processes currently in place, current AMWS and CRNP policy and procedures for mitigating human–wildlife conflict will be the following:

1. Assessed for effectiveness with input from affected communities. To support recommendations for improvements, options will be studied, including lessons learned, from other cases around Africa including compensation schemes.
2. An agreed-on conflict management plan and grievance process will be formalized with affected communities and within the institutions. The conflict management plan will consider initiatives such as a community-based monitoring program to monitor problem animals and events and report them to the appropriate protected area institution.
3. A public awareness campaign and training and capacity-building program will be developed and carried out to teach methods of deterrence and vigilance to communities and communicate the formalized grievance process. In addition, land-use planning options for wildlife management will be considered in SPACE CLUP.

Box 1 Elephant Killing in Bamba (Annex 2: Bamba, 2005)

In November 2003 a poacher from Cameroon killed an elephant in the park. Bamba youth rose up against NP staff, including Dr. Ojong, who came to investigate the matter because the youth thought they were coming to make arrest. In the process the youth damaged their car. The community followed up the issue by sending representatives to Akamkpa with ₦10,000 to plead for peace with the NP; and also offered to repair the damaged car. However, NP insisted on the community taking the people involved to Akamkpa so they could tender a letter of apology. The community later tendered a letter of apology to NP. Thereafter, the park asked the community to repair the damaged car, which the community did with the sum of ₦25000. Yet NP still arrested three members of the community, detained them in Akamkpa and in spite of pleas from the community for dialogue charged the case to court. In the long run, the court ruled in favor of the community and we were not ready to listen to the NP again when they asked for dialogue since they refused to listen in the first place. We spent over N300000 in that casethere has been no dialogue since then. —Chief Vincent Mkpè

The case was not concluded because we had to withdraw the case from the court based on the request of the community. The Lawyer has misled the community. There was never any judgment either in favor of the community or the Park. —Dr I.O Ojong, CRNP

No information was given [to the CRNP about the poaching] but they heard and came. Now when information was given about elephant destroying our farms they have refused to come. If they heard we killed the animal they would have come. —Anthony Ekwo (Community Member)

Conflict Category 5. Community Boundaries

Land boundaries between communities seem to be a common source of conflict. Although natural boundaries are recognized between most communities, such as rivers, the changing “valuation” of timber

resources and land based on opportunities for royalties, farmland, and tourism is leading communities to challenge these implicit boundaries. Although in most of the SPACE communities violent conflict has not broken out, in Boki local government association (LGA) (2004) approximately 60 people died over a boundary dispute. For protected area institutions such as the CRSFC, boundary disputes between communities make it difficult to decide ownership and who receives royalties.

Nsadop and Ebbakken have been disputing over their boundary since 1992. Dispute and trespass issues occur between Abijang/Agbotai, Itaka/Mkpot, Okuni and Nsofang, Bamba and Bokalum (see text boxes). Bamba and Kanyang are fighting over ownership of Gorilla Rock, a growing tourist destination.

When we saw that Akam people were opening up the forest reserve and government was not doing anything, we too entered in order not to be cheated. The forest belongs to both communities. Obara stream forms a natural boundary between us in the reserve but they are now farming across this area. —Okim Samuel Bassey, Okuni Assessment

Further dialogue and exploration of this issue reveal mechanisms in place to assist in resolution of this issue:

- FMCs can choose someone to go with the forest ranger to confirm location, but as noted in Conflict Category 3, this does not regularly occur.
- Communities are allowed to monitor illegal activity on their lands; can ask loggers for permits.
- According to the STPG, the village head, FMC chair and FMC secretary have to sign owners consent. However, this gets abused through forgeries and misrepresentation

Strategy Summary

The principle tool that can be applied to resolve these boundary issues between SPACE communities is the SPACE CLUP. During the follow-on community conflict management meetings in SPACE communities, existing community boundary conflicts and mechanisms within community leadership and local government authorities to resolve these issues will be more closely assessed and a set of actions toward managing this conflict will be developed. Where agreement has been reached on boundaries and land use, maps will be developed and distributed to formalize the agreement. Because this issue can be exacerbated by the CRSFC's and FMC's management of timber harvesting and the application of the STPG process, PAPWG's approach is to address this conflict through the Timber Harvest Regulation Compliance activities. In the long term, activities that help communities develop alternative livelihoods that will decrease their need to expand their land base will contribute to managing this conflict.

Affected Groups (5):

- Forestry Commission
- Okuni
- Nsofang
- Bamba
- Bokalum
- Kanyang
- Akam
- Abijang/Agbotai
- Itaka/Mkpot

Frequency Rating: 2 (medium low)

Geographic Scale: 100% of assessed communities

Resources at Stake: Timber, land

Rank: 5

Our problem with Agbotai is on timber exploitation in our forest. Amua River forms a natural boundary between us but they cross the river to log in our own side of the forest, which they are trying to claim as their own. They feel that they are different from us because they are now in Etung Local Government. —Monday Edim Ofuka, Okuni

Conflict Category 6. Enclave Communities

Six villages in the CRNP are currently surrounded by national park lands and are located completely within the park boundaries. As an island of human settlement in the middle of this protected area, community members are consistently entering the park to hunt and collect NTFPs and timber forest products, despite park regulations. By nature of their location, community members must also traverse the park to access other communities or roads, outside the park boundaries.

This land-use and ownership conflict between the CRNP and the enclave communities has escalated to violent confrontations. Currently, communities threaten that park staff should not come onto their lands. The park has attempted to locate park patrol posts in enclaves, but they were run out. Dialogue is stalled on the options and positions have become intractable. The CRNP wants the communities out and is looking for ways to resettle the communities. Some communities and community members are willing to consider resettlement, while other factions are refusing to leave. Both groups, however, have come to a stand-still in dialogue.

Further dialogue and exploration of this issue reveals various interests of the parties and some alternatives:

- Communities, in general, want better living conditions, to be allowed to access forest resources and to stay on their homelands.
- The CRNP is mandated to protect biodiversity.
- The CRNP has approved the development of a 3-ft-wide path to Okwangwo I to improve their access in and out of the park.
- Several options have been discussed: stay in community or relocate, realign boundaries around enclaves where appropriate, promote sustainable land management practices within enclaves, resettle enclave communities (considered the most costly option), build enclaves into the park management system—give them a role and compensate them for it.

Strategy Summary

Target Regions/Communities: Mkpot enclave

There was great speculation about the current demographic status of the various enclave communities. PAPWG members were not certain whether enclave populations are diminishing or growing and therefore what this means for park management. Therefore, it is recommended that (1) demographic studies/resource impact assessments are carried out to inform decision making and that a review of the park decree and policy be conducted relative to enclave options. However, before these studies can begin, dialogue needs to be reinitiated between the CRNP and the target enclave community. (2) A working group with representation from the institution and enclave community will be developed and moderated by a mutually agreed-on facilitator. The first task of the working group would be to develop a work plan toward reaching a negotiated decision, including providing direction and oversight to the demographic studies and resource assessments. Further actions will stem from decisions made by the enclave working group; however, the PAPWG also noted the need to:

Affected Groups (5):

- Cross River National Park
- Okwangwo and Oban divisions
- Villages of Okwangwo, Okwa I & II, Mkpot, Abung, and Iku

Frequency Rating: 2.5 (medium)

Geographic Scale: Okwangwo Block, upper and lower Oban Block

Resources at Stake: Timber, NTFPs, bushmeat, forests

Rank: 6

- Provide training and capacity building in alternative livelihoods.
- Develop a rights, roles, and responsibilities communications campaign to targeted enclave communities.
- Study the socioeconomic and cultural feasibility, costs, and benefits of enclave management options that arise from the enclave working group. The feasibility studies will support the enclave working group's campaign to leverage funds to support agreed-on management options.

3.2 WHY ADDRESS CONFLICTS AND DISPUTES THROUGH THE PAPWG?

In section 1 of this report we noted that the CRNP and CRSFC are interested in finding ways to manage the conflicts with the relevant actors around protected areas. The institutional will exists, and community assessment reports attest to similar interests in resolving issues. The strategies and actions outlined in this report will require long-term commitment and investment by these institutions. Cumulatively, the conflicts identified here are almost all recurring; their frequency has been increasing over time. Geographically they affect a large area and many actors, and they impact the success of both protected area institutions to carry out their management mandates as well as the success of community members to meet their livelihood needs. The ranking exercise attests to the shared impacts of conflict on CRNP and CRSFC management objectives; timber harvest regulation compliance affects park management as much if not more than forest reserves. Although each institution and community has individual actions they need to take to prepare themselves to manage conflicts internally and reach negotiated agreements externally, economies of scale can be gained through a coordinated effort.

Through the SPACE-supported PAPWPG the two principal protected area institutions, the CRNP and CRSFC, have a forum for promoting dialogue and action between them and between their institutions and communities. The PAPWG is a committed inter-institutional body that can provide guidance to many of the activities described in this action plan as well as advocate for those actions outside of PAPWG purview within their member institutions. A natural extension of the PAPWG is its development into the proposed inter-institutional conflict management working group that will provide overall leadership and guidance to this action plan. Additionally, through inter-institutional coordination, technical resources for training, applied research and policy review, and communications campaigns can be applied to meet the needs of both institutions. For example, the CRSFC can provide leadership to human-wildlife conflicts in affected communities around the AMWS, but PAPWG can provide guidance on the development of vigilance and deterrence training and technical assistance that will benefit the CRNP, CRSFC, and the communities in question.

Currently, as an initiative supported by SPACE, PAPWG also can access SPACE communities and SPACE interventions to meet conflict management and dispute resolution needs. SPACE and its partners have gained the trust of local communities and can provide a foundation of good will from which the CRNP and CRSFC, through the PAPWG, can further their relationships with affected communities.

3.3 INSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

During the action planning workshop the PAPWG identified appropriate institutions to provide leadership to the six conflict categories. As shown in Table 1, these are:

- Park/reserve boundary alignment and demarcation, PAPWG
- Access and forest resource use, PAPWG
- Timber harvest regulation compliance, CRSFC
- Human-wildlife conflict, CRNP and CRSFC (depending on geographic focus)
- Land boundaries between communities, SPACE

- Enclaves, CRNP.

Certain issues such as park/reserve boundary alignment and demarcation and access and forest resource use will require greater inter-institutional and multi-stakeholder coordination, dialogue, and agreement than other conflicts. The PAPWG is well positioned to develop inter-institutional bodies such as the boundary task force. Although other conflicts also require targeted attention and assistance from the PAPWG and other institutions, they are best “owned” by one particular institution. For example, the enclave issue needs to be addressed through the leadership of the CRNP. (The CRSFC does not experience enclave conflicts; there are no enclave communities in forest reserves.)

The PAPWG also identified actions that build on existing opportunities through SPACE CBNRM and SAN component activities. The first is to include CRNP and Forestry Commission field staff in bush mango and farmer field school training and to build sustainable agriculture and NTFP collection outreach knowledge and skills within protected area institution staff who interface with SZCs. Also, the CRNP and CRSFC would like to coordinate with the SPACE CLUP component to integrate consideration of problem wildlife management and land boundary conflict management within the land-use plans of affected communities such as Bamba and Bashu.

To adequately provide leadership to these conflicts and this action plan, these lead institutions will be required to provide human resources as well as some financial resources to support proposed assessments, trainings, policy analysis, and applied research. Table 3 highlights some general requirements of participating lead institutions as derived from Table 4, which details technical requirements by proposed action.

Table 3. Institutional Requirements

Institution	Illustrative Requirements
Cross River National Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One committed official to be an active member of the inter-institutional conflict management working group to provide institutional leadership and coordination to the action plan (continued participation in the PAPWG). • One committed official to be an active member of the boundary task force and provide institutional coordination. • One committed official to provide leadership and coordination to execution of enclave actions. • Short-term technical assistance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Problem wildlife management specialist — Enclave researcher(s) • Designated staff to participate in planned assessments, trainings, and assist with applied research, as required. • Data collection for conflict monitoring program.
Cross River State Forestry Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One committed official to be an active member of the inter-institutional conflict management working group to provide institutional leadership and coordination to the action plan (continued participation in the PAPWG). • One committed official to be an active member of the boundary task force and provide institutional coordination. • At least one committed official to provide leadership and coordination to execution of timber harvest regulation compliance actions. • Short-term technical assistance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Independent evaluator of STPG (chain of custody specialist) — Forestry operations management specialist • Designated staff to participate in planned assessments, trainings, and assist with applied research, as required. • Data collection for conflict monitoring program.
SPACE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued coordination and support to the PAPWG. • Short-term technical assistance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Facilitation/conflict management specialist to lead community conflict manage-

Institution	Illustrative Requirements
	<p>ment meetings, conflict training, and develop training manual, as defined under immediate actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — SPACE facilitator for select community meetings — NTFP specialist, legal specialists, • Development of a training needs assessment tool. • Communications specialist. • Integration and coordination of SANS activities with action plan. • Coordination of CLUP activities with human–wildlife and community boundaries actions.

4.0 CONFLICT MANAGEMENT AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION ACTION PLAN

4.1 ACTION PLAN SUMMARY

The PAPWG conflict management and dispute resolution action plan was originally developed to be carried out over a year and a half—the duration of the SPACE Project—with the expectation of continued action by PAPWG members after the project closes out. Immediate actions, which are described in this section, were brainstormed by the PAPWG and activities were detailed for each conflict category. A preliminary partial budget of proposed SPACE sponsored activities was developed (Annex E).

In the PAPWG action planning workshop, participants brainstormed actions that can be taken to address the identified conflicts. Six mutually reinforcing strategies were identified, and are the framework of this action plan:

- Policy analysis and applied research.
- Develop conflict management and dispute resolution mechanisms.
- Strengthen institutional capacity to manage conflict.
- Rights, roles, and responsibilities public awareness campaign.
- Information sharing and management.
- Leveraging resources for agreements.

These strategies provide an approach for a short- and long-term action plan across the six categories of conflict and for achieving the conflict management objectives identified by the PAPWG. The schedule of activities can be found in Table 5.

The purpose of *policy analysis and applied research* activities is to support institutional and community capacity to manage conflict and negotiate wise agreements based on objective and trusted information. To build that trust in information and its sources, the PAPWG has recognized the need, in most cases, for independent policy analysis or evaluation, as well as applied research. Table 4 shows the gaps in knowledge or areas of ambiguity were raised by the PAPWG per conflict area.

Objectives of the PAPWG Conflict Management and Dispute Resolution Strategy:

1. Develop institutional capacity to manage conflict.
2. Develop conflict resolution mechanisms appropriate to affected parties to address the prioritized conflict areas.
3. Develop a system of managing and sharing information to reduce conflict.
4. Raise awareness of all stakeholders about the conflict.

Table 4. Gaps in Knowledge or Areas of Ambiguity

Conflict Type	Information Gap/Question	Policy/Applied Research Action
Park/reserve boundary (re)alignment and demarcation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the discrepancies between the decreed boundaries and on-the-ground reality? 2. What are the environmental impacts of boundary realignment in target regions? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review of park decree, gazetted boundaries and existing conditions. 2. Environmental assessment in compliance with CRNP policy.
Access and forest resource use	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What NTFPs are still available on community lands, how much is being extracted from park lands? 2. What's CRNP and AMWS policy on benefit sharing and participatory management? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NTFP/resource availability study 2. Policy review and recommendations relative to improved benefit sharing and participatory management.
Timber harvest regulation compliance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where are the weaknesses and gaps in compliance with the STPG and along the chain of custody? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. STPG compliance and chain of custody evaluation.
Enclaves	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the current socioeconomic and resource availability condition of enclaves? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applied research on enclaves demographics, socioeconomic conditions and resource availability on community lands.
Human-wildlife conflict	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where are the gaps/weaknesses in park and AMWS policy and procedure relative to managing human-wildlife conflicts. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Self-evaluation of institutions policy and procedures with recommendations for improvements

Activities under the second strategy, *developing conflict management and dispute resolution mechanisms* address ineffective conflict management practices or the absence of formally recognized dispute resolution processes. It will build on existing traditional methods of managing conflict within communities that have proven to be successful. Conflict management workshops, inter-institutional working groups (conflict management working group, boundary task force), and community-based conflict management committees will be convened to provide formal venues for protected area institutions and target communities to dialogue about priority conflicts, search for alternatives, and negotiate agreements. This strategy will also result in clear and well-communicated processes and procedures for resolving conflicts, such as human-wildlife conflict grievance procedures.

Strengthening institutional capacity to manage conflict will focus on two needs: (1) improving protected area institutions capacity to manage conflict and (2) improving institution and community capacity to meet agreements. As mentioned, training and capacity building will be carried out with protected area institution staff within the first three months of this plan to address the first need. Additionally, a conflict management and dispute resolution training manual will be developed to support continued capacity building within the institutions. Other capacity-building efforts, include improving FMCs' capacity to manage forestry operations and carry out their responsibilities as defined by the STPGs, training farmers and CRNP staff to deter and manage problem wildlife, NTFP propagation/domestication techniques, and general participatory management principles and practices.

The *rights, roles, and responsibilities public awareness* campaign focuses on communicating to a wider audience the mandate of the protected area institutions as well as the rights, roles, and responsibilities of all actors relative to protected area and forest management. This campaign will focus on communicating messages such as the official boundaries of the national park; timber harvest guidelines and regulations; protected area policy on issues such as poaching, NTFP collection, and buffer zone management; and official dispute resolution/grievance procedures as adopted by the protected area institutions.

Information sharing and management focuses on bridging the communications gap between the protected area institutions, and between these institutions and their community-based counterparts, such as the FMCs to develop greater accountability, transparency, and trust between these institutions. Examples of the activities proposed under this strategy include implementing agreements between the CRNP and CRSFC to

conduct joint-tree inspections; publishing and disseminating quarterly reports on timber extraction, logging operations, timber market value, and royalties sharing institution reports and newsletters; and instituting regularly scheduled meetings between institutions and FMCs. Also included in this strategy is developing a protected area conflict monitoring program to evaluate the impact of conflict management strategies and identify further needed action.

State capacity to manage conflict is often hampered by an under-allocation of resources to address their root causes, such as poverty and greed. Consequentially, an agreement is only as good as the parties' capacity to carry it out and sustain it. In this action plan, protected area institutions will develop strategies and relationships to *leverage resources for agreements* and improve their capacity to manage conflicts. The costs and benefits associated with conflict management options will be assessed (e.g., cost-benefit analysis of enclaves option), agreements will be developed on cost-sharing between institutions and relevant NGOs (e.g., boundary alignment and demarcation, alternative livelihoods development) and technical assistance will be leveraged from existing programs, such as SPACE and SPACE partners, to carry out conflict management objectives (e.g., training and capacity building in NTFP propagation/domestication, sustainable land-use management planning, and microcredit programs).

Integrated and cross-cutting to these strategies is the issue and principle of *community involvement*. Community involvement was identified in community assessments as a grievance (they are not included in management) and by the institutions as a weakness in their approach to protected area management. The strategies outlined in this action plan build on the interests of community members to engage in conflict management, to integrate traditional and accepted dispute resolution mechanisms and natural resource knowledge into the conflict management approach, and to increase the good will communities show protected area institutions through improved public relations and participatory approaches.

4.2 IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

A set of “immediate actions” are recommended in this action plan as a way to launch the conflict management and dispute resolution action plan. These activities include (1) consulting with CRSFC and CRNP officers to finalize the proposed action plan and receive approvals to move ahead, (2) meet with targeted communities to prepare them for negotiation: prioritizing the conflicts that affect them, identifying their interests and potential options, and assessing current mechanisms for dispute resolution, and (3) analyzing targeted policies and conducting applied research to inform affected parties about the legal framework and resource base in question. A summary of these recommended immediate actions follows, and Table 5 outlines the immediate, near-term, and long-term actions more thoroughly.

Prior to the action planning workshop with the SPACE PAPWG, conflict assessment meetings were held in four SPACE communities: Okuni, Nsofang, Ebakken, and Bamba. During these meetings community members expressed to the SPACE and PAPWG members their perceptions of the conflicts that affect them, their underlying interests, and perceived solutions. The results of these meetings were reviewed during the action planning workshop and taken into account when considering interventions. However, the communities have not yet been given the opportunity to develop their own action plans, and this PAPWG action plan has not been validated with affected communities. The next step is to return to communities to prioritize the conflicts in their lives, further define their interests, and identify potential dispute resolution options and mechanisms for future conflict management and dispute resolution, including next steps. These meetings also have the aim of keeping dialogue open, or in cases such as with enclave communities, reinitiating dialogue between the community and the CRNP.

A second set of immediate actions focuses on building protected area staff and PAPWG capacity to manage conflicts and resolve disputes. Two types of training workshops will be carried out within the first three months of the launch of this conflict management action plan: (1) a facilitation/mediation workshop that will prepare appropriate PAPWG and SPACE partner staff to design and facilitate community meetings and dialogue between affected actors toward shared agreement and (2) conflict management and dispute resolution training open to a larger body of protected areas institution staff that will develop their skills in conflict management so as to improve field staff public relations and dispute resolution skills. A

training needs assessment will be carried out to further define these objectives. A training manual will be developed to provide guidance to future conflict management training events.

A third immediate action is formation of an inter-institutional working group for conflict management to provide decision-making support to protected area institutions. We recommend that this group be expanded from PAPWG membership to include representation from local government authority, developing links with its conflict management panels, and representation from a civil society group such as NGOCE. This group would be tasked with advising on conflict issues that require coordinated response by the CRNP, CRSFC, and state and local government and affected communities. They would be tasked with monitoring and evaluating the progress of the conflict management action plan, recommending policy and procedure to their respective institutions based on results of action plan activities, advocating for needed inter-institutional agreements, and developing a conflicts/disputes monitoring plan. The boundary task force is a logical extension of this group's mission.

Table 5. Conflict Management and Dispute Resolution Action Plan

PAPWG Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management Action Plan			2005				2006				2007		
	Lead	Support	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Results/Deliverables	Technical Needs
Immediate Actions													
Finalize conflict management and dispute resolution action plan with protected area (PA) institutions	PAPWG	SPACE										Agreement on action plan	
Conflict management workshops with target communities to prioritize conflicts, assess current dispute resolution mechanisms, and develop action plans	SPACE											Interests and potential options pertaining to prioritized conflicts; recommended dispute resolution mechanism	Workshop design
Training needs assessment of PA institution field staff and SPACE partners in dispute resolution/conflict management	CRSFC CRNP	SPACE										Training design & curriculum defined	Needs assessment survey
Conflict management and dispute resolution training with selected PA institution field staff, officers and SPACE staff	SPACE	CRSFC CRNP										One five-day training workshop	Conflict mgmt/facilitation trainers
Write terms of reference (TOR) and establish an inter-institutional conflict management working group, including a boundary realignment task force	PAPWG	CRNP CRSFC										Inter-institutional body to guide conflict mgmt. decision making, policy development,	

Table 5. Conflict Management and Dispute Resolution Action Plan

PAPWG Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management Action Plan			2005				2006				2007		
	Lead	Support	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Results/Deliverables	Technical Needs
												& activities	
Develop an adaptive conflict management and dispute resolution manual	SPACE											Dispute resolution/conflict mgmt. manual	Conflict mgmt./ facilitation trainers
Policy Analysis and Applied Research													
Write TOR STPG/chain of custody compliance evaluation and recruit independent evaluator to carry it out in consultation with FMCs and UFS	CRSFC	PAPWG										Identification of gaps in accountability and recommendations for strengthening STPG	External evaluator/chain of custody specialist
Review of park boundaries along Oban Corridor; spatial analysis of decree and on-the-ground alignment, & recommendations for further action	PAPWG	CRSFC Ministry of Justice										Identification of incongruent land-use designations, existing conditions, & recommended actions	Independent legal expert

Table 5. Conflict Management and Dispute Resolution Action Plan

PAPWG Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management Action Plan			2005				2006				2007			
	Lead	Support	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Results/Deliverables	Technical Needs	
Environmental impact assessment of proposed boundary realignment along Oban Corridor	CRNP											Environmental assessment (EA) report as required by Part iv, Section 19 of NPS Act, No. 46, 1999	EA specialist	
Carry out series of forest user group/community meetings to conduct participatory research on extent and impacts of NTFP extraction in PAs and community lands; identify sustained yield rules and enforcement in collaboration with PA institutions. A6A6	SPACE CLUP	CRNP CRSFC										Recommendations for dispute resolution mechanism & NTFP sustainable mgmt. zones	Facilitator/mediator	
Assess existing park and Afi Partnership policy and procedures for addressing human-wildlife conflict; including compensation mechanisms, identify gaps and make recommendations	CRNP CRSFC	SPACE										Grievance procedures recommendations		
Review CRNP and AMWS policy on benefit sharing, participatory management and participatory monitoring	PAPWG	SPACE CRNP										Recommendations for improving community involvement and benefits in		

Table 5. Conflict Management and Dispute Resolution Action Plan

PAPWG Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management Action Plan			2005				2006				2007			
	Lead	Support	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Results/Deliverables	Technical Needs	
												PA mgmt.		
Study CNRP decree and clarify policy on enclave communities	PAPWG	SPACE CRNP											Legal expert to study decree and policy on enclaves	
Carry out study on enclaves demography, land-use, & resource availability evaluation, assessing management options, including case studies of other enclaves & their management	Enclave working group CRNP	PAPWG										Decisive policy position & recommended options to address enclaves in park mgmt.	Legal/legislation expert	
Study status of draft CRS Forestry Law	PAPWG	SPACE										Actions identifies to advocate for passage		
Strengthen Institutional Capacity to Manage Conflict														
Include CRSFC and CRNP field staff in SANS FFS and bush mango propagation training	SPACE SAN	CRSFC CRNP										CRSFC, CRNP staff trained		

Table 5. Conflict Management and Dispute Resolution Action Plan

PAPWG Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management Action Plan			2005				2006				2007		
	Lead	Support	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Results/Deliverables	Technical Needs
Training needs assessment and capacity building of FMCs or community-based forestry body; including reorientation to the STPG workshop, record-keeping, accountability and transparency, chain of custody administration, valuation of timber resources; and financial management. A36	CRSFC	PAPWG										Increase transparency and accountability, close "shadow revenue gaps"	Forestry operation mgmt./ chain of custody specialist
Train park staff and farmers on elephant and primate deterrence methodologies; vigilance, passive and active methods	CRNP	CRSFC										Training workshops in communities	Human-wildlife conflicts mgmt. specialist
Establish/train community "pararangers" to monitor problem wildlife and effectiveness of deterrents; to maintain park boundaries and to monitor NTFP/timber sustained yield Train institution staff in participatory assessment and management	CRNP SPACE	SPACE CRNP CRSFC										Two parabiologists trained per community Participatory mgmt. workshops	Monitoring plan and tools Participatory mgmt. trainers
Develop Conflict Management and Dispute Resolution Mechanisms													

Table 5. Conflict Management and Dispute Resolution Action Plan

PAPWG Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management Action Plan			2005				2006				2007			
	Lead	Support	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Results/Deliverables	Technical Needs	
Meet with affected communities and institutions to develop human-wildlife conflict grievance procedures	CRNP CRSFC	SPACE Afi Partnership										Draft procedure for reporting & responding to human-wildlife conflict	Facilitator	
Develop a working group on enclaves and park management; including representation from TOCS, PAPWG, and affected communities	CRNP	PAPWG										Working group TORs & action plan developed	Facilitator/mediator	
Develop community-based conflict management committee to negotiate agreements on managing NTFPs, sharing benefits, and managing future disputes with PA institutions	SPACE	SPACE communities C23 CRNP CRSFC										Community group organized to participate in conflict mgmt./dispute resolution activities with PA institutions	Facilitator/mediator	
Information Sharing and Management														
Facilitate the exchange of newsletters and reports between institutions	CRNP CRSFC											Institutionalized, recurrent mechanisms for sharing information		

Table 5. Conflict Management and Dispute Resolution Action Plan

PAPWG Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management Action Plan			2005				2006				2007			
	Lead	Support	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Results/Deliverables	Technical Needs	
Coordinate & institutionalize exchange visits & joint inspections with institution staff	CRNP CRSFC											Strengthen STPG		
Formalize and institutionalize regular meetings between FMCs, UFS, and other appropriate CRSFC staff	CRSFC	FMCs										Schedule meetings		
Publish regular advisories on market value of timber; distribute to FMCs	CRSFC											Quarterly reports published & distributed		
Publish quarterly reports of logging operators, timber extraction, community royalties and other pertinent information; distribute to participating communities/FMCs	CRSFC											Quarterly reports published & distributed		
Develop regular "visitation" schedules and post in communities	CRNP CRSFC											PA/CRSFC bulletin board or public notice center		
Establish conflict management baseline (# arrests, # reports of violence, # grievances reported, etc.) and monitoring plan	PAPWG	CRNP CRSFC										Monitoring plan		

Table 5. Conflict Management and Dispute Resolution Action Plan

PAPWG Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management Action Plan			2005				2006				2007		
	Lead	Support	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Results/Deliverables	Technical Needs
Rights, Roles and Responsibilities of Public Awareness Campaign													
Design rights, roles, and responsibilities public awareness campaign on buffer zone management, logging and timber harvest regulations, park access and forest resource use, human-wildlife deterrence and grievance protocols	CRNP CRSFC	SPACE										Targeted communications campaigns	Communications specialist
Identify target groups and assess communications needs	CRNP CRSFC	SPACE										Target audience identified	Communications expert
Develop messages and communications strategy, including responsible institutions and relevant cost sharing	CRNP CRSFC	SPACE										Communications strategies developed (e.g., radio jingles, newsletters); curriculum developed for support zone schools	Communications expert
Attitudinal/behavior survey/ pre- and post-testing	CRNP CRSFC	SPACE										Evaluation of public awareness campaign impact	Communications expert

Table 5. Conflict Management and Dispute Resolution Action Plan

PAPWG Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management Action Plan			2005				2006				2007			
	Lead	Support	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Results/Deliverables	Technical Needs	
Develop and publish maps of ground-truthed park/reserve boundaries	CRNP CRSFC											Maps, posters		
Leveraging Resources for Agreements														
Allocate resources to logistically support FMCs based on completed needs assessment	CRSFC Targeted FMCs	PAPGW										FMC training budget & financing plan		
Include land-use planning for problem wildlife management in SPACE CLUP	SPACE											SPACE CLUP methodology reflects problem wildlife considerations		
Develop financial commitment for joint boundary demarcation	Boundary task force CRNP CRSFC	PAPWG										Boundary realignment budget & financing plan		
Identify and contact relevant NGOs, GOs, and CBOs for activities such as NTFP domestication, animal husbandry, microcredit and to establish tree nurseries	PAPWG Enclaves working group	SPACE CRNP CRSFC										Preliminary agreements for technical assistance & cost sharing		
Feasibility studies of identified enclave livelihood alternatives and resettlement options; cost-benefit analysis	CRNP	Enclaves working group										C:B analysis & financing options		

5.0 HUMAN–WILDLIFE CONFLICT MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN—A PILOT APPROACH

As evident in this report, this conflict management and dispute resolution action plan is comprehensive, addressing short- and long-term investments. On the basis of the ranking tool, the more complex and politically difficult conflicts as well as those requiring longer term investments are at the top of the priority list. However, when PAPWG members were asked to assess which conflicts have the greatest potential to reach agreement based on shared interests, human–wildlife conflict, timber harvest regulation compliance, and communities boundaries were identified (Annex C). We recommend that the PAPWG start by addressing a series of actions that are focused on human–wildlife conflict in the community of Bamba and with the CRNP. These activities can be addressed through shorter term investments of time and resources, can provide experiences and lessons to be applied in other communities and by the CRSFC with the AMWS communities and managers, and can build good will between all actors in a short time frame and lay the foundation for dialogue and negotiating agreement over the more complex conflict management issues such as access and forest resource use.

Addressing human–wildlife conflict through the proposed actions in this plan will serve as both a pilot initiatives as well as a launch to of the action plan. Therefore, the immediate actions identified in Table 6 will also be carried out.

Target Communities and Institutions: Bamba, Cross River National Park Okwangwo Division, SPACE protected areas management specialist, and DIN.

Strategy Summary:

To improve the conflict management and dispute resolution processes currently in place, current CRNP policy and procedures for mitigating human–wildlife conflict will be (1) assessed for effectiveness with input from affected communities. To support recommendations for improvements, options will be studied, including lessons learned, from other cases around Africa, including compensation schemes. (2) An agreed-on conflict management plan and grievance process will be formalized with affected communities and within the institutions. The conflict management plan will consider initiatives such as a community-based monitoring program to monitor problem animals and events and report them to the appropriate protected area institution. (3) A rights, roles, and responsibilities campaign and training and capacity-building program will be developed and carried out to teach methods of deterrence and vigilance to communities and communicate the formalized grievance process. In addition, land-use planning options for wildlife management will be considered in the SPACE CLUP process.

Table 6. Human–Wildlife Actions and Actors

Recommended Actions	Responsible Institutions	Timing	Description
Prepare SPACE partners to design community conflict management workshops with Bamba	SPACE	Month 1	SPACE APM/mediation specialist will work with SPACE partners and PA institution staff to design conflict management and dispute resolution workshops to be carried out with communities, with special attention paid to human–wildlife conflicts.
Meet with Bamba community members to prioritize the conflicts that affect them, assess current conflict management/dispute resolution mechanisms, and develop an action plan; identify next steps specific to human–wildlife conflict	SPACE	Month 1	In follow-up to the original conflict assessment meetings, carry out a three-day workshop with communities to further assess conflict management and dispute resolution. Special attention will be paid to human–wildlife conflict management; the effectiveness of dispute resolution between communities and the CRNP, grievance procedure options, and effectiveness of farmer’s practices in deterring problem wildlife. Result will be an action plan and designated community group (established or newly established) responsible for oversight and guidance of action plan.
Carry out a conflict management training needs assessment of field staff and select officers of the respective protected area institutions	CRSFC, CRNP, SPACE	Month 1	SPACE will develop a survey that can be applied by CRNP and CRSFC officers to select staff (Okwangwo Division) to assess overall conflict management and dispute resolution needs and those relative to the human–wildlife related conflicts in Bamba.
Assess existing park policy and procedures for addressing human–wildlife conflicts, including response to grievances, compensation mechanisms, and field staff capacity	CRNP, CRSFC	Month 1-2	The CRNP will work with appropriate staff to self-assess current policy, mechanism, and capacity to respond to human–wildlife conflict, incorporating feedback from the conflict management workshops in Bamba and Bashu and literature review of other experiences around Africa, identifying gaps and needs, and making policy and management recommendations. We recommend that SPACE support this effort by drafting a self-evaluation instrument for application by the protected area institutions.
Conflict management/dispute resolution training for selected protected area field staff and officers	SPACE	Month 3	SPACE will design and facilitate this training based on the training needs assessment, policy assessment, and community workshops. The CRSFC and CRNP will identify staff to attend a SPACE-sponsored five-day conflict management/ dispute resolution workshop to improve protected area institutions on-the-ground response to hostility, grievances, and general public relations challenges, with special emphasis on human–wildlife conflict management. Potential members of the inter-institutional conflict management working group will be invited to attend the training.

Recommended Actions	Responsible Institutions	Timing	Description
CRNP and selected community representatives meet to negotiate dispute resolution mechanisms & future conflict management actions.	CRNP, Bamba/Bashu representatives	Month 4-6	On the basis of the community conflict management action plan, and the results of the CRNP self-assessment, these actors will meet to discuss their interests and review options and develop agreement on human-wildlife conflict management including actions to be taken to deter problem wildlife, grievance protocols to be followed, and potential compensation or restitution policy. These meetings will result in negotiated draft human-wildlife conflict management guidelines and protocols.
Carry out wildlife deterrence and vigilance training with affected farmers in target communities	CRNP, SPACE	Month 4	As determined in the community conflict management workshops, training sessions will be carried out between farmers and CRNP Okwangwo Division park rangers to share best practices in problem wildlife vigilance and deterrence. Land use planning strategies for wildlife management will also be addressed through SPACE CLUP.
Design a public awareness campaign to communicate (1) measures that can be taken to prevent and deter problematic wildlife and (2) the negotiated human-wildlife conflict management guidelines and protocols.	SPACE	Month 4-6	The CRNP and CRSFC will hire specialists to design communications tools, such as radio announcements, pamphlets and posters, and school curriculum materials. Pre- and post-surveys will be carried out to evaluate the effectiveness of the communications campaign.

ANNEXES

ANNEX AI: CRSFC CONFLICT ASSESMENT REPORT

**AN ASSESSMENT OF CONFLICTS/DISPUTES
IN FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
IN CROSS RIVER STATE**

**Perspectives of the
CROSS RIVER STATE FORESTRY COMMISSION**

Edited by

The Permanent Secretary, Cross River State Forestry Commission – Dr. Chris. O. Agbor.

For

**SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES OF AGRICULTURE IN
CRITICAL ENVIRONMENT (SPACE) – ARD PROJECT
CROSS RIVER STATE**

AUGUST 2005

AUTHORSHIP

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INTRODUCTION

Conflicts do not just happen to people. People are active participants in creating situations and interactions they experience as conflict. Conflict is an integral part of human condition.

In the Forestry sector of Cross River State, there is pressure on forest land to be released for farming and other contending uses. The removal of two third of the hitherto state constituted forest reserves for Cross River National Park, and the inability of the forestry Commission to adequately control forest exploitation chiefly because of under funding is creating a critical situation that needs to be examined carefully.

Managing the remaining part of the forest to meet conflicting interests has been a source of great concern to the commission. Conflict is therefore inevitable. Thus our worry now is rather on how the various conflicts could be managed.

The approach we have adopted is that which makes use of alternative conflict management mechanism. Such an approach to conflict resolution recognizes that the parties in a dispute have different and frequently opposing views about the proper solution to a problem. It also acknowledges that each group views, from its perspective, may be both rational and legitimate (FAO, 1994).

Generally, conflicts arise due to a multiplicity of factors.

PROTECTED AREAS ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

The Cross River State Forestry Commission is statutorily empowered it to manage the forests of the state, excluding areas under the control of Cross River National Park. The total land area of Cross River State is 21265 km². 34 percent of the land area is covered by Tropical High Forest while 5 percent is swamp and mangrove forest. Out of the Tropical High Forest area, 3307 km² was designated as Cross River National Park by the Federal Government of Nigeria in 1991, with a support zone area covering 1290km² approximately. The total forest estate available in Cross River State as at 1991, for sustainable exploitation and management, is 3960 km². 2,150km² of this forest area is community or communal forest (i.e. owned and managed by various communities and individuals) while 1810 km² is designated as Forest Reserve. A significant portion of the forest reserves have been converted into plantations. The forest reserves and plantations are under the direct management control of the Forestry Commission (Ettah and Ogar 1994; Agbor, 2002).

Cross River State is presently reputed to have the largest chunk of the remaining vestiges of the tropical Rain Forest left in Nigeria. The Tropical High Forest in the State has been acknowledged internationally as a biodiversity 'hot spot' as it is a home to several endangered species like the Cross River gorilla, chimpanzees and a host of drill monkeys. Plants and animal species that are new to science are also being discovered in Cross River State.

The forest resources base of Cross River State cuts across the four ecological zones. (Mangrove in the South, swamp forest, Tropical High Forest and derive savanna woodland in the north). It covers a total area of 21,265 square kilometers. Of this, the Tropical High Forest including Cross River National Park covers 7,290km². (Table 1).

Table 1. Vegetation Distribution and Their Areas in Cross River State

Vegetation	Area (km²)
Tropical High Forest	7,290
Swamp forest	520
Mangrove	480
Plantations	460
Other forest	216
Other land uses	12,299
Tropical High Forest	7,290
Swamp forest	520
Mangrove	480

Source: Cross River State Forestry Strategy 1994

Most of the Forest Reserves estates of Cross River State (including the Cross River National Park) were constituted during the period as shown on Table 2.

Table 2. Forest Reserves and Their Areas as Originally Constituted

Name of Forest Reserve	Year Constituted	Area (km²)
Oban Group Forest Reserve	1912	3,742.55
Ikriyon Forest Reserve	1928	5.29
Cross River North F/Reserve	1930	129.50
Cross River South F/Reserve	1930	349.65
Ukpon River Forest Reserve	1930	313.39
Okwangwo Forest Reserve	1930	468.79
Afi River Forest Reserve	1930	383.32
Umon-Ndealichi Forest Reserve	1930	108.78
Uwet-Odot Forest Reserve	1930	284.90
Lower Enyong Forest Reserve	1930	28.49
Yache Forest Reserve	1931	15.54
Agoi Forest Reserve	1940	46.62
Boshi Forest Reserve	1951	41.44
Ekinta Forest Reserve	1953	108.78

Boshi Extension F/Reserve	1958	67.34
Gabu Forest Reserve	1960	5.18
Ikom Fuelwood Plantation	1960	1.06
Total		6,101.29

A total of 6,101.29sq. km. of Topical High Forest area was constituted into forest reserve between 1930 and 1960 by the colonial masters. In the early 30s when the Forest Reserves were gazetted, local population within and adjacent to the forest were very low, and there were little conflicts of interest between Forestry and local communities.

ORGANISATIONAL ROLE AND MANDATE IN CRS;

The Forestry Commission is mandated by law to hold and manage the forest in trust for the people from whom the forests were originally taken away from. Management of forest in Cross River State falls under three categories.

1. The Forest Reserves and government plantation
2. The community Forest Areas
3. The Cross River National Park area.

The State government through the Forestry commission has the mandate to make policy, regulations and ensure implementation of same for the sake of managing the forest Estates. Management of the Forest Reserves is the responsibilities of the Forestry Commission with the involvement of other stakeholders particularly the local communities. However, policy decisions are made by the government. The Forest plantations which are mostly of exotic species are raised by government within existing degraded forest reserve areas. Government determines the management regime for these plantations and benefit sharing ratio.

2. Though the Forestry commission has the mandate to manage the entire forest Estates in Cross River State, her level of influence in the management of the Community forest is not absolute. Communities have significant role to play in managing community forest. The role of the Forestry Commission in this case is more of a facilitator ensuring that management decisions taken by the communities conform with existing Forestry laws and regulations in the State.
3. The Cross River National Park which was constituted by degree 36 of 1991 is composed of 2/3 of the hitherto constituted forest reserve area in the Cross River State. Management of the CRN Park is entirely in the hands of the Federal Government of Nigeria. It is a protected area, basically for in-situ preservation.

The National Park Decree specifically and deliberately provides for the absolute protection of the National Parks by excluding all unauthorized human activities from within the Park area. Thus prohibition of hunting, habitat destruction of any form, e.g. bush burning, forestry, agriculture, grazing, mining, drilling etc that affects the fauna and flora.

SUPPORTING LEGISLATION/REGULATIONS

The Forest Reserves were gazetted in the Forest Reserve Ordinance or Reserve Settlement Orders at the time of their constitution in the 30s and 60s. Management of the forest then followed regulations like the former Eastern Region of Nigeria Forest Laws and Regulations as well as the tariff. The tariff has been revised in order to conform with contemporary socio economic conditions and embedded in the Cross River State laws. The reviews of tariff are carried out occasionally. For instance, the Cross River State Forestry tariff was first reviewed in 1974; subsequent reviews were carried out in September 1979, January 1986, November 1988, November 1993, and September 1999.

FOREST ADMINISTRATION

The Cross River State Forestry Commission has a Board with a Chairman and members to make policies which guide the activities of Management. The Permanent Secretary is the Chief Executive Officer of the Commission and oversees its day to day running. He reports to the Board.

The Commission has five (5) Departments namely – Wildlife and Eco-tourism, Operations and Technical, Planning, Research and Statistics, Afforestation Regeneration and NTFPs and Medicinal Plants and Administration and Finance. There are two (2) Zonal Offices: Northern Zone and Southern Zones; 13 Forestry Charges and 10 Sub-charges (Field Offices). There is also the Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary gazetted on 4th May 2000 and located at Boje.

In the zones we have the Zonal Forest Officers while we have the Charge or Forest Officers and Assistant Forest Officers at the Charge and Sub-Charge level respectively.

There are special units that report directly to the Chief Executive of the Commission. These are the Audit, cartographic, Information and Community Forestry Support Unit (CFSU).

NATURE OF DISPUTES/CONFLICTS BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS

In the early 30s and 60s when the forest reserves were created, local population within and adjacent to the forest were low and there were little conflict of interest between Forestry and Local institutions. At that time, the administration of Nigeria was in the hands of the colonial masters and the management policy of the forest was to satisfy the interest of the colonialists. Hence, with abundant forest resource, and low stakeholders interest, conflicts were not an issue at all.

However, today, management of the forest is shrouded with conflicts arising from:

1. Competing objectives and priorities at national, state and community level.
2. Competition for land use options
3. Different perceptions on the issue of legitimacy over the control of the forest and right of access to the resource (Mazambani, 1999).

Through Decree (now Act) 36 of 1991, the Federal Government of Nigeria created the Cross River National Park as part of her strategy to create series of National Parks based on the international criteria used to specify such protected areas. The decree creating the CRNP lifted partially or wholly the boundaries of four former forests reserves and constituted them into a National. Park. These reserves were:

1. Oban Group Forest Reserve (Oban West)
2. Okwangwo Forest Reserve
3. Boshi Forest Reserve
4. Boshi Extension Forest Reserve

5. Part of Cross River South Forest reserve.

The creation of CRNP with absolute protection status raised a huge problem of managing the remaining one-third of the forest reserves to meet stakeholder's diverse competing needs. There was absolute pressure on the forest outside the national Park Area, resulting in different conflicts of interest. Some of these include:

(a) BOUNDARY

From 1991, when the CRNP was created to date, the exact boundary of a large portion of Park area has not been demarcated on the ground. Thus, there are a lot of conflicts as to the exact boundary of the Park. This has resulted in series of conflicts between the Park and the Forestry Commission on one hand and the neighboring communities on the other. These uncertainties call for clarification. For instance, part of the Oban West Forest Reserve which ought to be part of the National Park going by the provisions of the decree, is indeed a Gmelina arborea plantation, established before the creation of the National Park.

When a large chunk of forest reserve was excised to form the Cross River National Park and its adjoining SZCs, efforts were not made to demarcate the areas on ground. The Cross River National Park boundaries are mostly imaginary to the key stakeholders including the communities. There is apparently a state of confusion and uncertainty. Conflicts/disputes thrive under such circumstances. The situation has been exploited by the communities to claim large portions of the forest. This situation could have been avoided if the boundaries were negotiated, agreed to and adjusted earlier to accommodate the various interests of the Forestry Commission and the communities.

In parts of the Cross River South Forest reserve due to the inability to easily assess the boundaries between the community forest and forest reserve, the Etara Eyeyeng, Odonget and Isabang communities leased out large portion of the forest reserve to a private developer in 2002 for cultivation of oil palm. The area was surveyed and beacons were to be planted before the activity was discontinued due to the intervention of the Forestry Commission. It took a prolong negotiations and consultations, which entailed retrieving old documents from the archives, for the matter to be tackled. Also Iyमितet and Agoi Ekpo communities are both laying claims on a portion of the Ukpon River Forest Reserve. This is due partly to the fact that the boundaries of the reserve are not discernible. Apart from using the portion for farming activities, there are conflicts/disputes between these two communities.

In the same vein, communities like Awi, Nsan, Bashu etc which were on the edge of the Forest Reserve boundary as at the time they were constituted are now inside the reserve. These are the same reserves which constitute part of the National Park. In these communities, the areas of expansion today constitute part of the National Park even though the park boundary from the decree establishing the CRNP excluded such areas.

(b) ACCESS TO FOREST RESERVES

Over the years, communities within and beside the reserves had had certain rights to collect some non-timber forest produce from the reserves. However with the creation of the CR National Park, such rights were denied them. Enforcement of this policy by the National Park Authority has become very difficult as neither the National Park, the Forestry Commission, nor the communities could with certainty identify the boundary on ground.

This situation has led to unauthorized entry and collection/exploitation of various forest products including timber from areas designated by the decree to be part of the National Park. Timber dealers would go into the National Park area, exploit timber and evacuate them away from the point of extraction and fern ignorance of the status of such area. They will go ahead to tell lies to the Forestry stall and obtain forestry

license for evacuation of such timbers. Such act when discovered is capable of bringing conflict over jurisdiction between the Forestry Commission and the National Park.

Hunting for bush meat, which is a delicacy in Nigeria, has been a continuous source of conflict between communities and the National Park authority. While the park prohibits hunting of bush meat, the communities look at it as a total infringement on their right of access to the forest. Poaching, though on the decrease, will remain a disturbing source of conflict because of the high value attached to bush meat consumption in the Nigerian society.

The incidents of direct confrontation abound and often National Park staff had confiscated product such as bush mangos, *Gnetum africanum* (Afang) etc. from individual/communities. These products are valued source of income for the communities. While the collections of some of these NTFPs are allowed by law in the forest reserve, but not permitted in the National Park particularly in the core areas. The local people are not adequately aware of the provision of the National Park Decree, and this complicates management problems.

(c) NON-PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION

The annexation of about two-thirds of the hitherto forest reserve area and constitution into CRNP undoubtedly robbed the State Governments control and substantial revenue source as well as area for forestry practice, research and development and further cessation of other economic returns from a hitherto viable resource base. Since the decree was promulgated by military fiat, no room was given for negotiation between the stakeholders especially the local communities and the Forestry Commission. This gave room for people to agitate for compensation to be paid to both the State Government and the communities. None of these agitations had been properly addressed. This angered the communities whose right to a resource that traditionally belonged to them was flagrantly and with impunity infringed upon. The then Forestry Department (now Forestry Commission) also frowns at such development.

CONFLICT BETWEEN FORESTRY COMMISSION AND COMMUNITIES

The management of the entire forest estates outside the Cross River National Park is in the hands of the Forestry Commission. The Commission enforces laws and regulations governing the use and management of the forest. Hence the Forestry commission is closer to the local people as the law gives them a responsibility as stakeholder in the forest. They are various levels of interactions between the Forestry Commission and communities in the discharge of this mandate. This has also led to various degrees of conflicts as competing interests abound.

Conflicts often arise between communities, which are located near or on the routes through which forest products are transported. These communities even though not the source of the products often imposed high levies on resource users for passing cross their communities. The operators and the Forestry Commission often resist such acts because it is considered illegal and often double taxation. In such situations, the communities mobilize her citizens, especially the restless youths, to stop evacuation of such products or set up obstacles which slow down the movements of such products. These obstacles include stringent conditions for the maintenance of roads, culverts, drainages and even construction of Town Halls. Furthermore, Forestry Commission personnel are stopped or prevented from entering the forests through such communities. Occasionally the personnel are physically assaulted. The consequences of all these are that unsustainable utilization of the forest estate increases as illegal operators thrive in such circumstances.

DISTRUST

Local communities feels that the process of forest reservation did not from the on set inform them that their rights to the forest was to be forfeited. When this was later discovered, the communities felt betrayed and misled. Up till now, they still think that they have been deceived into giving their forest to government for reservation. Thus even today, any attempt by government officials to carry out survey in

community forest is often greeted with suspicion. Communities generally do not trust staff of the Forestry Commission as having the capacity to represent and speak for their interest.

BOUNDARY DISPUTES

Conflict arising from the boundary of the forest reserve has become a turbulent issue in forestry practice in the state. This is made worse because the communities desire to claim back their forestland, which according to them was fraudulently taken away from them. Some community members have gone as far as removing some of the reserve beacons and defacing the boundary of any traceable landmark. In many cases since the Forestry Commission is not able to maintain the forest reserve boundaries, the boundaries close up, making it difficult to distinguish it from the community forest. This has led to claims and counter claims.

In some cases, due to village growth and expansion, and where the earlier location of these forests reserves boundaries are no longer realistic, as they are now inside the community settlement areas. For example the Forest reserve boundary at Nsan and Awi communities are right inside the community settlement areas. Similarly some reserve boundaries are now within the community farmland. In many places, the local have on their own adjusted the boundaries further away from their original position and taken over the land. The issue of forest reserve boundaries is a serious one that demands urgent attention.

In view of the fact that forest reserve boundaries are not adequately maintained/demarcated on the ground, there are problems/conflicts whenever there is the need by the FC or CRNP to enforce laws which regulate the use of the forest resources. Often communities, based on the uncertainty of the boundaries, resist attempt by either the Forestry Commission or CRNP to enforce the laws/regulations. They claim that their operations are within their communal forest. All entreaties to the contrary are never accepted. This situation affects particularly the National Park in her attempts to check unauthorized entry into the core area of the park.

FARMING IN FOREST RESERVES

Given the increased demand for land by local communities for their agricultural and allied purposes, the land hunger, population pressure in some localities, the general poverty and apparent injustice, the mass encroachment on the forest appears inevitable (Mazambani, 1999).

In some communities, their perception of the forestland is that of agricultural land in waiting. Hence, the slightest opportunity they have to actualize this is often pursued with vigor. Their anger and frustrations in some communities are very obvious as they do feel displaced from lands of their birthrights and the meager royalties paid to them cannot compensate for the loss of their forestland. The resulting tenure and land use conflicts abound in many communities. This has become so disturbing. Thus without appropriate policy measures to address the conflicts, the chances of promoting sustainable development generally and forest conservation in particular are doubtful. This situation often leads to serious loss of forest cover to illegal farming in the reserves.

MIGRANT FARMERS FROM NEIGHBOURING STATE OF AKWA IBOM

The local people connive and rent out portions of the forest reserves, which are cleared for farming by migrant farmers. These farmers often remain 'weekend farmers' as they work only on weekends, when it is difficult for government officials to approach them. For example, Ekinta Forest Reserve is now completely deforested due to activities of migrant farmers. The Awi *Gmelina arborea* plantation is almost completely destroyed due to the activities of these farmers.

CONIVANCE WITH ILLEGAL EXPLOITERS

In some cases, local communities connive with illegal exploiters who encroach on the forest. They do this because they claim the unofficial 'royalty' collected from these illegal exploiters is better than the official one, which is now even paid once in a year.

While forestry officials accuse local people of connivance with illegal exploiters, local people accuse them of inefficiency in policing the forest and providing cover for the illegal exploiters to operate. In many cases, the illegal exploiters would deceive the local people to believing that they have permits from forestry office to enter the forest. According to Marshall, (1990), there could be no doubt that the timber industry, by its very nature is conducive to acts of criminal nature contrary to law and proper government administrations.

The capacity of FC and CRNP staff in terms of managing conflicts especially in vulnerable forest areas is still limited.

IGNORANCE OF THE LAW

Some local communities enter into logging agreement with individuals and companies without adequate knowledge of the legal provisions governing such transactions. This leads to poor bargaining power and defrauded by their supposedly business partners. Some years ago, the Iyami village in Okuni community engaged Fouplant Company to fell wood in their forest in order to reduce the pressure of converting the forest to farmland. However, the enforcement of the agreement reached led to conflicts between the Forestry officials on one hand, the local people and the exploiters on the other hand. This action of the local people may not be intentional but due to ignorance of the law.

In some cases, we observe that the local people do not just care about what happen to their forest. They feel that the forest is so large, that it cannot finish. They also feel that if the big trees are cut down, it will reduce their labour cost in converting the area into farmland. In some cases, they invite exploiters to cut the trees for mere 'peanuts'. This too brings management conflict.

CREATION OF AFI MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE SANCTUARY (AMWS)

Communities like Ebakkan feel that they were not consulted before the creation of AMWS. They also feel that the name does not appear to suit them and would like a change of name. They are equally aggrieved that the sanctuary's boundary lines are too close to the community and advocate for an adjustment. They also complain of the unfriendly attitude of the Rangers who seize items from illegal farmers in the sanctuary.

However, they acknowledge the fact that the AMWS has a great potential for tourism, which they hope, would attract tourist to their community. They also have concern on how the benefits from the tourism project would be shared.

ROYALTY PAYMENT

For the past four years the Forestry Commission decided to pay royalties to communities, through cross cheques on annual basis. This was in response to earlier complains from communities when royalties were paid in cash and every 2-3 months by respective Forest Officers/Assistant Forest Officers.

Over the years, Forestry Commission as a way of encouraging community participation had reviewed the forestry tariff in favour of communities. The current royalty ratio stands at:

- Forest reserve: 50% Govt. and 50% Community
- Community Forest: 30% Govt. and 50% Community
- Govt. Forest Plantation: 80% Govt. and 20% Community

Table 3. Revenue and Royalty Generated by Forestry Commission 2000–July 2005

YEAR	REVENUE	COMMUNITY ROYALTY
2000	41,616,796.93	14,440,980.60
2001	57,170,320.80	18,530,446.00
2002	73,439,884.01	20,076,877.75
2003	64,632,723.91	16,880,235.00
2004	48,724,077.50	15,482,272.50
Up to July 2005	27,964,813.00	10,062,227.50

Source: CRSFC Annual Reports

To further encourage community participation in forest management and reduce conflict, Single Tree Permit Guidelines were developed and distributed to many communities to explain the procedures for obtaining permits for exploitation of forest in the state.

DISPUTES RESOLUTION MECHANISM

Understanding conflicts and developing appropriate strategy model of handling it will necessarily respect, be rooted in, and draw from the cultural knowledge of a people. No two conflicts are the same. Thus it is important to understand the difficulty, complexity and variety of conflicts which occur in protected areas and the particular dynamics. (Lewis 1996).

However, a good conflict resolution process is one in which stakeholders (those individuals or groups who are directly involved in the conflicts or who may be affected by how the conflict is resolved) have the opportunity to really understand each others needs, develop a range of alternatives on how to address these needs and reach a mutually agreeable solution.

INTER INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM

The nature of the conflict stems basically from ownership status, right of access to forest resource use and management, benefit sharing and alternative uses of forest land, the conflict resolutions mechanism employed over the years has been a combination of alternative conflict management strategies and recourse to legal measures.

Principally, all cases of perceived and actual conflict between the Forestry Commission, the CRNP as well as the communities had been resolved through consultation and dialogue. At no time had legal measures been taken. It has always involved a variety of collaborative approaches that seek to reach a mutually acceptable resolution of conflict through a voluntary process.

Often, the Forestry Commission would convene meetings either in the community or in the nearest Forestry office or the Head Office for a dialogue with the local people until an acceptable solution is agreed upon. At the inception of the Park, series of meetings were held with the National Park authority to resolve areas of conflict.

Over the years, the Forestry Commission embarked on public enlightenment campaigns on the value of the forest resources and the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders especially the local people. This strategy gave opportunity for more interactions, created room for understanding appreciation of roles, responsibilities and benefits with a view to reducing pending and potential conflicts.

As a strategy to reduce conflicts, communities were encouraged to form Forest Management Committees (FMC) and to create good work relationship with the Forestry commission. The capacities of these FMCs were developed through various trainings.

A total of 71 FMCs had been formed by various communities across the state.

The aim of the FMC is to improve the quality of life of the community members by deriving maximum benefit from sustainable management of the forest devoid of conflicts or at least reduced to its barest level.

Table 4. List of functional FMCs and LGAs as of August 2005

FMC	LGA
*1. Okorshie	Obudu
*2. Gabu	Yala
*3. Igwo	Obudu
*4 Bebuabie	Obudu
5. Yache	Yala
*6. Njua Bano	Boki
*7. Etayip/Bokomo	Ikom
*8. Etara/Eyeyeng	Etung
*9. Okuni	Ikom
*10. Bashu	Boki
*11. Abo Mainland	Boki
*12. Abo inland	Boki
*13. Tekowa	Yakurr
14. Akam	Ikom
15. Abia Clan	Etung
16. Okokori	Obubra
17. Abo Ebam	Boki
*18. Nselle	Ikom
19. Owai	Akamkpa
20. Iko Esai	Akamkpa
21. Iko Ekperem	Akamkpa
*22. Biase west - Ikun	Biase
23. Odot Uyi	Odukpani
24. Omin Ankiong	Odukpani
25. Ayomkpa Eniwu	Biase

* Government Certificated FMCS

There are cases where individuals who contravene the laws have been taken to law courts. For example, somebody had been jailed for burning Forestry Commission plantations. There are also some pending cases in court in court of illegal exploitation of forest resources. For more than one year now, one Emeka Ofochie has been standing trial over illegal exploitation of the forest.

Table 5. Forest Offences Detected by Forestry Commission 2003–2004

Year	No. of Offences Detected	Offences Taken to Court	Revenue Realized (₦)
2002	111	-	1,693,600
2003	230	1	4,686,720
2004	273	15	4,369,400

Source: CRSFC Annual Reports

COMMUNITY CONFLICTS/DISPUTES

Many communities bordering the Forest Reserves across the state at various times have had one form of conflict or the other amongst themselves.

Most of the conflicts centers on absence of clear cut/easily identifiable boundary between one community and the other. This could either be internal boundaries between communities inside the forest reserves or between one community forest and the other.

On the other hand, communities do experience conflicts amongst members of the communities. Some of these conflicts emanate from claims and counter claims on the exact boundary between of one family land and the other. In some cases, even when the boundary had been observed over the years, one family suddenly decides to expand its land at the expense of the other, bringing about conflict. A case study of inters and intra community conflicts of Okuni and Ebakken communities respectively reveal that communities have learnt to live with conflicts on a daily basis.

INTRACOMMUNITY CONFLICTS

In Okuni community internal conflict currently exist within the community. For instance the family, whose land was used for building the Community Secondary School, Okuni, still feel dissatisfied with the procedure for acquisition of the land by the community. This has brought some confrontation between the family and the school authority over access to use of the undeveloped portion of the school land.

Between the Emmorow and Iyami villages in Okuni there is an ongoing conflict over illegal entry and exploitation of timber by the Iyami Youths in Emmorow community forest. This led to confrontation and assault. The matter is being investigated by the Police Command at Ikom and Okuni.

The problem of intra community conflicts is the same in Ebakkan community. Ebakken is an acronym for four villages that make up the community. Before now, each village had had its own name. But due to conflict/disputes arising from access and ownership of a generating set donated to the four villages, trouble was ignited in the community. The four villages made trouble amongst themselves and the case was taken to court. After spending much money, they resolved the matter and decided to adopt a common name for the four villages and live as one community.

Other internal disputes have to do with land boundaries between one family and the other. This is a common problem and the communities have developed internal conflict resolution mechanism.

INTERNAL COMMUNITY CONFLICTS

The Okuni community has had frequent conflict with the Akam community, their nearest neighbour. Often the source of this conflict has been on boundary between the two communities. The boundary problem stretches from the community settlement area into the community forest and inside the Cross River South Forest Reserve and farmland. These disputes had led to a couple of arrests and confrontations between the two communities. Fortunately, this has not escalated into loss of lives. Sometimes, a committee was set up with members from the two communities to resolve the matter.

OKUNI VS AGBORTAI

The conflict between Okuni and Agbortai started when Etung Local Government Area was created out of the then Ikom Local government Area. This exercise now put Agbortai in Etung LGA and Okuni in Ikom LGA. The Okuni community claim to have boundary with the Agbortai and Nsofang communities and not with the Abijang village. According to them, Abijang community is squatting on Agbortai land. However, Abijang has grown to a full-fledged community of its own and are now considered a major threat to Okuni community. They lay claim to the forest and enter to exploit without reference to Okuni people. This has continued to be a source of conflict between the two communities. It escalated at a point to machete cuts and severe beating of some Okuni Youths by Abijang people.

The people of Ebakken community have had a long history of conflict between them and the Nsadop community over boundary. A court judgment had been passed at the customary court, magistrate court and now the case is pending at the high court. This matter is a big problem in the community as the Ebakken people claim that Nsadop community often destroys their crops, or outright harvest them, harass and chase them out of their farms. There is imminent threat of war in the area, if the matter is not resolved.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Conflicts/disputes when they exist impair development and inhibit the sustainable management of the forest resources. Consequently, the following recommendations are made to address conflicts/disputes within Forestry Commission, CRNP and Communities.

INTERNAL CONFLICT/DISPUTES

1. Mechanism to enhance free information flow among staff of the Commission has to be developed.
2. Strategies for prompt response to looming conflicts should be developed.
3. More staff should be trained on conflict resolution skills.

CONFLICTS/DISPUTES BETWEEN STAKEHOLDER INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

1. The principle of constant dialogue and information sharing between institutions should be promoted.
2. Joint field activities should be initiated.
3. Relationship at personal and official levels among staff of the institutions to be developed as this will help to reduce conflict.

CONFLICTS/DISPUTES BETWEEN FORESTRY COMMISSION AND COMMUNITIES

1. FC should build more rapport with communities

2. Information on government policies and programme on forest management should be shared with the communities.
3. Clear channels of communication need to be established and maintained.
4. Efforts need to be engendered for more community participation in forest management.
5. Communities should be treated as partners - Their rights, privileges, roles and responsibilities respected and guaranteed.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATION

1. A conflict resolution unit should be created, adequately staffed with trained personnel
2. An inter-agency committee comprising representatives from the different stakeholder groups to be set up and made functional in order to respond promptly to conflicts and disputes that may arise.
3. Staff should be assured of job security as this will build confidence, reduce fears and enhance relationship among other stakeholders.

CONCLUSION

Finally it is pertinent to mention here that addressing conflicts is a prerequisite for sustainable natural resource management (Ibor, 2004c). Consequently, any approach adopted for conflict resolution should endeavour to carry every stakeholder along to ensure sustainability. Furthermore, the strategies for conflict resolution should be subject to periodic reviews.

The customary and national legal system (i.e. negotiation, mediation, arbitration and adjudication) could be considered vital approaches to conflict management and resolution. However, it is important to explore the adoption of a multidisciplinary approach in resolving the conflicts within/between Forestry Commission and other bodies. The multi disciplinary approach offers innovative strategy for understanding, analyzing and managing conflicts before and after they occur. It promotes joint decision making through negotiation, arbitration, mediation and help parties to reach a consensus. It also seeks to develop participatory, consensus building strategies and builds upon existing formal and informal conflict management's mechanisms. It strengthens the capacity of local institutions and communities to manage and promote sustainable resource management.

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**ASSESSMENT OF CONFLICTS IN THE
MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS WITH
PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO CROSS RIVER
NATIONAL PARK AND THE ROLES PLAYED BY
THE CROSS RIVER STATE FORESTRY
COMMISSION AND SUPPORT ZONE
COMMUNITIES OF THE PARK.**

PREPARED BY

CROSS RIVER NATIONAL PARK

for

SPACE PROJECT



SEPTEMBER, 2005

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1.0 INTRODUCTION:

Cross River National Park (CRNP) is one of the eight National Parks in the Nigeria. The Park was established by the National Park Decree No. 36 of 1991 by the upgrading of *Boshi*, *Boshi extension*, *Okwangwo* and *Oban Group* Forest Reserves. In 1999, Decree No 36 was repealed and replaced by Act No 46 of 1999. This is the legal instrument establishing the CRNP today.

The Park is situated in the South East of Cross River State, within the Guineo-congolian forest ecosystem and consists of two non-contiguous divisions; the Oban and the Okwangwo. The Oban division, in the south of Cross River State covers an area of about 3000km², within the Cross River loop and shares a common boundary with Korup National Park in the Republic of Cameroon. The Okwangwo division, located in the North of Cross River State occupies an area of about 1000km² and is contiguous with Takamanda Forest Reserve (Now proposed as Takamanda National Park) also found in the Republic of Cameroon. The Park is biogeographically highly distinctive with high species richness in many taxonomic groups and high endemism (Oates et al. 2001).

About one hundred and fifty thousand (150,000) people in about ONE hundred and ten (110) villages live in the areas flanking the Park. In addition, 6 officially recognized enclaves villages are found inside the Park. For many of these people, hunting and gathering of forest resources have traditionally been an important source of subsistence livelihood and income before the establishment of the Forest Reserves. About 2/3 of their income was derived from such activities (Schmidt-Soltau et al. 2001) like NTFP gathering, hunting, logging, poisoning of rivers and streams for fish and aquatic resources.

However, before the creation of the Park, the forest reserves were amended by series of legislation intended to provide protection to these forests while also granting certain rights to the local inhabitants to hunt, fish and also collect minor forest produce, a condition that was later abused by the communities to the extent that these activities became commercialized.

The pressure on these protected areas was quite enormous and began to impact on the resources. This led the Federal government and the Government of Cross River State to take a more decisive step to salvage the situation by upgrading the forest reserves to a National Park in 1991. All rights and privileges for hunting, gathering and entry were abrogated. Management's enforcement of the Park rules resulted in protests arising from conflict of interest

Population growth and necessity to feed more mouths further increased the demand for more land and scramble for private land ownership. More pressure was therefore exerted on protected areas in CRS and particularly the CRNP. Failure to define roles of the communities and other stakeholders in the early stages of the implementation of Act 36 of 1991 and further delays in defining the Park boundary areas as well as the suspension of the EU/KFW intervention projects aimed at improving livelihood of the SZCs further exacerbated the conflicts.

This report in general, is an assessment of conflicts in the Management of protected areas with particular reference to CRNP and the roles played by the CRS Forestry Commission and Support Zone communities of the Park.

1.1 Methodology:

Review of available reports and literature.

Interview of key staff of CRNP.

Focus Group Discussion with SPACE Natural Resource Management Team in Nsofang (SNRMT) and Bamba Villages.

2.0 CROSS RIVER NATIONAL PARK ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT:

Decree No. 46 of 1999 proclaimed the Park as a Service.

2.1 Boundaries of Cross River National Park

The external boundaries of the park are clearly defined in Decree 36 of 1991 (as shown by the red lines in Fig. 1) and they comprise:

(a) Okwangwo Forest Reserve

Comprising all that piece of land containing 468.79km² or thereabout situated in the S. E. part of the Obudu district of Ogoja Division and the east part of the Ikom division of Ogoja province from which the boundaries of (1) Okwangwo enclave and (2) Okwa enclaves are described.

(b) Boshi and Boshi Extension Forest Reserves

Comprising all that piece of land containing 67.34km² or thereabout situated in the south part of Obudu district of Ogoja province

(c) Oban Group Forest Reserves:

Comprising all that piece of land containing 3742.55km² or thereabout situated in the northern and central parts of the Calabar division of the Calabar province from which the boundaries of:

(1) Mkpote village (2) Ekong Anaku village (3) Mkpote Akpa village (4) Nkpote Akpa beach (5) Ikot Ewa village (6) Okoroba village (7) Njagasang village (8) Isong Inyang village (9) Etiokumi village (10) Nkonayo village are described.

2.2 Organizational Role and Mandate:

- (i) Preservation of outstanding scenic, natural, scientific, recreational and other values of the park.
- (ii) Protection and maintenance of crucial wetlands and watershed and hence ensure continuous water supply to the state and the entire eco-region.
- (iii) Promotion of conservation education and Extension services
- (iv) Promotion of eco-tourism, cultural and historical values of the people
- (v) Implementation of relevant international treaties, conventions and obligations.
- (vi) Improvement of socioeconomic life of the support zone communities.

General Administration and Organizational Structure:

The Park is managed by the Nigerian National Parks Service (NNPS), a Parastatal under the Federal Ministry of Environment (FME). It is headed by a Director who reports to the Conservator General who in turn reports to the Minister of Environment.

The Director is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Park. Controls and co-ordinate the general administration from the Park head office located in Akamkpa, Akamkpa Local Government Area. He reports to the C.G NPS headquarters Abuja.

Oban Division:

The division is headed by a Principal Park Officer addressed as Officer – In- Charge. He plans, coordinate and directs the activities of the division from the divisional head office located at Aking. He is responsible to the Head of Department, Park Conservation. The division consists of (8) eight Ranger Stations located strategically around the division for effective management and surveillance. The Ranger Stations includes Nsofang, Okokori/Ekuri, Ifumkpa, Nkunaya, Aking, Ekong Anaku, Erokut Park Entry gate and Etara. Each ranger station is headed by a station officer (SO).

Okwangwo Division:

The Okwangwo Division is headed by an Assistant Chief Park Officer also addressed as Officer –in-charge, responsible to the Head of Department Park Conservation. He plans, coordinates and directs the activities of the division from Butatong, the Divisional Head Office. The Division consists of four (4) ranger Stations namely; Mbuli, Abu Obisu, Anape and Butatong. More stations are envisaged.

Communication:

Communications between the stations, the divisions and the head office is carried out by means of radio network (with only four of the radios presently in good working condition). Management has installed GSM - MTN at Butatong, Head office/Akamkpa and Erokut Gate. Plans to provide for Oban and Aking are underway. This newly installed GSM facilitate information and communication with the Head office and the outside world easily and quicker.

Management Structure:

Management of CRNP is structured into four main departments and three units. The departments include:

- Park protection and conservation – responsible for enforcement, conservation education and extension services, research and habitat management.
- Eco-tourism – responsible for promotion and marketing of ecological tourism and management of recreation and tourist lodges including facilities.
- Park Engineering & Maintenance – responsible for design, construction, installation and maintenance of all physical developments, including structures, facilities, machinery and equipment.
- Finance and Administration – responsible for management of financial, human and material resources of the Park and for general administration.

The units include:

- Internal Audit – responsible for internal Audit of funds, assets and operations of the Park.
- Public Relation - responsible for Publicity and public awareness on conservation matters.
- Management Information - responsible for collating, processing and storage of park information/data and for preparing and defending budget proposals as well as planning and monitoring park resources.

Staff Strength:

The staff strength of the park is 323 as at 22nd September 2005. Of this number $\frac{3}{4}$ are rangers involved in protection and other field activities while $\frac{1}{4}$ are supporting staff. The present management undertook restructuring of the Park workforce giving emphasis to Park protection and conservation.

3.0 ROLES OF THE CROSS RIVER STATE GOVERNMENT IN THE CREATION OF CROSS RIVER NATIONAL PARK

The Cross River State Government, hereinafter referred to as Host, played major lead-roles in the establishment of CRNP. Official consent of the Host for the Creation of the Park was given in May 1988. Prior to the establishment of the Park, the Host cancelled all forest concession inside the Forest reserves proposed for inclusion in CRNP Project. Following the establishment of the Park in 1991, several meetings were held between the Host and the CRNP on several issues that would best protect the forest resources of the Park. As a result of these collaborative meetings, the Host also provided initial logistics including vehicle, an office accommodation and a sum of one million Naira for the take off of the Park project in 1992.

3.1 CRNP – NGO COLLABORATION

With the inception of the Park, collaboration between CRNP and NGOs such as WWF, NCF, WCS etc. has been going on in the area of funding, research, manpower development etc. (see Appendix 1.)

4.0 AREAS OF CONFLICTS

4.1 Park Boundaries

The Park was created by the upgrading of the former OKWANGWO, BOSHI & BOSHI Extension Forest Reserves and the Oban Groups Forest Reserves gazetted in 1930 and 1933 respectively. These Reserves were managed by the Host through the CRS Forestry Development Department until 1991 when the Reserves were officially converted to Cross River National Park.

As a Forest reserve, under the management of the Host, some portion of forests in Oban Division, for example, around Oban – Ekang corridor in (MCC High Way), S.W. Ikpan Block, Mkpot, New Netim, Awi, Etiokome, Nsan etc. were cultivated with food crops and or planted with exotic species (Gmelina/Teak) for pulp wood production (see figure 1). In Okwangwo Division for example Balegette, Okwa I and II, Okwangwo, Bashu etc. were cultivated with food crops (see figure 2) some of these communities such as Otchakwai, Bashu, and Balegette, in Okwangwo division, and Nsan, Awi etc in Oban Division, the reserve boundaries were limited to the periphery of the villages. For example the forest reserve boundary line at Awi was kept at the Village Square. Thus when the Park took off in 1991, several questions were raised and several complains were received requesting for boundary realignment. Reasons for such request were highlighted in the early chapter.

4.2 The Proposed Park Boundary Realignment

In 1989, a proposal was submitted by Oversea Development and Natural Resource Institution (ODNRI) and World Wide Funds for Nature (WWF), to the Federal Government, through the supervising ministry of the National Park, (the then Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Rural Development), calling for boundary realignment in the Oban Division of the park, to exclude areas of the park that have already been degraded by cooperate and other private holdings.

The proposal for Park boundary realignment in Oban Division (shown in blue lines in figure 1) was endorsed by KFW, the NCF, WWF, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Host. However, the parties did not follow up the proposed boundary realignment to a logical conclusion till today.

According to part iv section 19 of the National Park Service Act number 46 of 1999, a proposal to alter the boundary of a National Park shall be accompanied by:

- a.. A positive environmental impact assessment report.
- b. A recommendation base on the report of a comprehensive study of the matter by or under the direction of the service approved by the minister.
- c. The consent to the proposed alteration by the governor or administrator of the state (s) where the National Park is located and of the legislative, and an
- d. Order for gazetting the alteration by the president and commander in chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

In essence, until the proposed boundary realignment line of CRNP is effected (demarcated, approved and gazetted), it is illegal for any one or cooperate body to encroach into any portion of the land constituted as CRNP under Act 46 of 1999. It is important to put into perspective the present management efforts along with the support and cooperation of the Host and its organ (FC)'s attempts to look into the aspect of Park boundary and conflicts of interest, as observed in proposal for boundaries adjustment, maintenance of old boundaries where applicable, and/or consultation with the State Assembly, National Assembly and other stakeholder in the final resolution of boundary conflicts.

Collaboration between the CRNP and the CRSFC in Law Enforcement

Following the creation of the Park, several meetings and workshop were held between the National Park and the Forestry Commission; for example, in a two day workshop held between FD/CRNP (10-5-93 to 11-5-93) some of the agreed action point for both the FD and the CRNP were that:

- Both FDD and the CRNP should evolved an effective regular communication system for the free flow of information through the organization of regular meetings, workshops and conferences
- There should be a joint programme on data collection survey and research.
- There should be joint tree inspection before a tree is cut for timber or log, Etc.

In a follow up workshop held on 22nd June 1993 the objectives among others were:

- To create a forum for discussing and understanding the perception of forestry department and CRNP activities.
- To build a consensus over the role of both institutions and also synthesized high level of management with concrete frame work for future Cooperation.

However, following complains of some irregularities in enforcing the law levelled again some field staff, a meeting of CRNP/FD joint committee was held on 17th October 1997, at the conference room of Forestry Department Headquarter, Calabar, it was collectively resolved that:

- The Park should assign a very experience Ranger to permanently represent the park in the joint inspection of trees exploited in areas close to CRNP to confirm that the trees are located outside the park.
- That the CRNP check point at Aking station, as well as the CRNP mobile patrol unit, should intercept any timber being conveyed within the area if consignment are not backed by relevant tree inspection reports jointly endorsed by the two establishment.
- The committee endorsed the following areas as the joint inspection operation zones; Ikpai block, Ekong Anaku, Neghe, Oban, Mangor, Ekang, Mfanmosing etc.

With such collaborations a cordial relationship between FC and CRNP was fostered especially as some salient issues such as: lack of law enforcement by some field staff, permittees exploiting timber in the Park

and the issue of establishing the exact location of the tree to be harvested were resolved. However, the Park is in receipt of some isolated cases of irregularities by some field staff and is working with FC to develop a mechanism to check the occurrences. These collaborative effort designed to improve the relationship between CRNP and FC and foster good cooperation was short lived until the present management rekindle the spirit and collaborative steps in 2003. The present rapport and cooperation between the FC and CRNP on common issues on Mbe Mountain, Afi Wildlife Sanctuary and CRNP/SPACE conservation matters in general has helped the two establishments to forge ahead conservation and environmental matters in Cross River State. more can be achieve with better understanding of all stakeholders in Cross River State.

5.0 ENFORCEMENT OF PARK LAWS ON ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

Disputes and resultant conflicts sometimes arise from enforcement of park laws on illegal activities (farming, hunting, logging, fires, collection of NTFP) carried out within the park. Such enforcement are often viewed by some support zone communities as an infringement on their hitherto rights and freedom to exploit forest resources just like when the area was a forest reserve. Cases of molestation and threat to life of park staff while carrying out their legitimate duties are rampant. For example, in November 2003, over 20 people were arrested for illegal farming inside the Park in the Okwangwo division. See appendix attached for arrest/prosecution on Park offences.

In one of such arrest, the entire youths of the villages involved came out with machete and guns and surrounded the park staff. It took the wisdom of the park team leader to avoid blood shed by handing the culprits over to their chief on bail before the park rangers were allowed to depart. This is not to say that Rangers are not capable of reacting to enforce the law but the present management view the conflict as a temporary one that require improvement in understanding of the objectives of the project, while efforts is underway to provide alternative livelihood to divert attention from unsustainable agricultural practices in the SZ. This notwithstanding, SZ communities can not enter the Park illegally. The Park resource must be sustainably managed to ensure future availability and continuity. Supportive and genuine interventions/programme by Donors could play vital roles in uplifting the hope of the hopeless and divert attention/pressure on protected areas particularly from CRNP.

5.1 Hunting and trapping in the Park

Hunting, trapping and sale of animals products is one of the major sources of income and livelihood in SZ communities. Most of the hunters in the park are stranger elements from neighboring Akwa Ibom State and Cameroon.

Their hunting activities greatly threaten the survival of animal species in the Park.

A good number of hunters are from neighbouring Republic of Cameroon with close socio-cultural affinity with Nigerian villages. A case in point is the killing of an elephant by a notorious elephant hunter from Obonyi in Republic of Cameroon in 2003, who was aided by the Bamba community in Nigeria. He was assisted in the harvest and escape. The chief of Bamba shared in the harvest as culture demands.

Arrest of hunters inside the Park sometimes lead to physical attack on park staff by community members. Engaging stranger element to harvest wildlife for profit sharing as well as cultural demand such as their having to contribute part of the poached wildlife to satisfy certain customs of the people, have continue to encourage poaching and participation of local communities irrespective of interventive legislations etc.

Preference to hunt in the park is brought about by the availability of animals in the Park, which have been drastically reduced in community forest, due to unsustainable hunting and deforestation. Hunting is the greatest threat to the park integrity and is more than any other factor responsible for low density of anthropoid ape and other large animals. (Oates et-al 2001).

5.2 Farming in the Park:

Farming inside the parkland dates back to the era when the area was still a forest reserve and, continued on a larger scale in the enclaves and around the Park boundary adjacent to most of the SZ villages after the park was created. The major crops cultivated include cocoa, banana, cassava and cocoyam. Cocoa cultivation is relatively new compared to other crops. Record showed that between 1988/89, when it was obvious that the reserve would be converted to the status of a National Park, the villagers took advantage to clear several hectares of forestland for farming in the two divisions (Okwangwo and Oban) to compel the government to reduce the size of the protected area. (see Okwankwo for example figure 2).

The primitive farming and land Tenure system practiced in Nigeria worsened the plight of the SZC. It calls for “first to deforest virgins forest” becomes the owner for posterity and gave rise to the scramble for rich/virgin forest.

In 2004, studies were carried out by the CRNP management to document farms inside the Park and defaulters. In the attempts to collect information in some communities, responses such as “we don’t know, the farms are owned by the entire village” were received. The idea of “I do not know the boundary of the Park” arose simply because these people have already committed trespass and encroached into the park land and were avoiding arrests. This situation further increased the tension and widened the conflicts.

Several efforts and strategies embarked upon in the past by CRNP management to demand for the immediate evacuation of farms encroached into the CRNP by SZV have proved abortive. The strategies range from invitation of defaulters for discussions on the way forward to dislodge the farm, to outright application and enforcement of Park legal instrument by park officials. Though the tension is slowing down through prosecution embarked upon by the Park, some stubborn villagers still sneak into the Park to collect NTFPs. Park management sees farming as illegal activity that must be rid of the Park.

Conflicts also arise between farm crops and wildlife. Reports of marauding wildlife into farmlands have been reported in Bamba areas by farmers. These constitute Management problems and sooner or later may result in legal tussle/problems between SZC/farmers and the Park where meager resources will be expanded in law courts.

Another glaring aspect of conflict in farming is the present expansion of farmland by Enclave communities in Okwa I & II as well as in Okwangwo where large chunks of the gorilla habitat has been destroyed to pave way for large cocoa farms. The implication is reduction in the home range/space, food, shelter and other habitats requirement of these important and highly threatened endemic species. This is a serious conflict in Park Management and a threat to the survival of the Cross River Gorilla in CRNP, Afi and Mbe Mountains.

Recent studies by CRNP/NCF/WCS Biodiversity Research Programme have shown that the above situation have forced the Gorilla population into groups and have made them unstable, creating constant movement up and down the escarpments.

5.3 Timber Exploitation in the Park

Timber exploitation for local use by SZVs, does not affect the Park directly as the quantity required is often obtained from community forest, except when some community members who are loggers infiltrate into the Park to exploit economic trees such as Ebony, Iroko for commercial purpose and connive with timber dealers (mostly non Cross Riverian) under the pretext that the area is a community forest. In communities, timber dealers are seen as very influential and powerful and often control the polities of their communities. Timber exploitation is also prevalent where the area is accessible by road. Park Management has always tried to intensify Park Protection efforts in these areas amidst confrontation sometimes by the community youths/elders/ or delegation of elders from the community to appeal to park management for the release of defaulters. The situation has changed positively even though more consultations and supports is required from all.

5.4 Fires in the Park:

Fire is used together with slashing to clear virgin forest in the southern (Oban Division) and the northern (Okwangwo Division) portions of the park where it is a common practice for Fulani Cattle rearers to set

fire at the periphery of the Park in order to stimulate growth to provide fresh grass for their cattle. Uncontrolled fires extend into the Park resulting in the destruction of the Park ecosystem. Conflict also arise where arrested Fulani herdsmen claimed that burnt areas were allocated to them by their host communities, insisting that the areas are not Park land.

Management of conflict associated with fire, in the past was partially solved through collaboration efforts of stakeholders for fire tracing exercise, which involve CRNP, Becheve Nature Reserve (BNR), Development in Nigeria (DIN) and Ranch communities. Though this effort has reduced drastically, enforcement efforts are being made to convene stakeholders meeting to sensitize the public on benefits derivable from the Park and the need to support the Park to conserve these resources and manage them sustainably.

5.5 Collection (Gathering) of NTFP in the Park

Collection of NTFP has been a long-standing tradition and economic activities of the SZC against CRNP policy. The NTFP commonly collected include: bush mango (*Irvingia Gabonensis*) Afang (*Gnetum Africana*), etc.

Methods adopted by management, to solve the problems of NTFP collection include providing improved variety of bush mango seedling to community members and training some SZC on domestication of Afang. This was not sustained between 2001 to 2003 because of lack of funding until 2004, when Management resumed on raising of bush mango seedlings preparatory for sale at subsidized rates to communities.

5.6 Movement Across the Park Territory:

Some support zone communities along international boundaries serve as entry points into Nigeria from neighbouring Republic of Cameroon. Through these villages, forest resources (bush meat, *Randia*, *Capolobia*, etc) are smuggled from Cameroon into Nigeria. Smuggling is common along the boundaries of the two countries. Trading and trafficking in endangered species is common, but the CRNP checkpoint mounted at Aking had helped to check such illegal activities and movement of bush meat along MCC/

Oban corridor. Recently another conflict of interest arose and the Host (House of Assembly and the highest legislative body in the State) giving orders for dismantling of the checkpoint. Though the CRNP is not bounded by such order, it was necessary to withdraw for now to safeguard the relationship. This is an unnecessary conflict that can be avoided. The Park's legal instrument provides for search and arrest without warrant, searching automobiles, caravans, buildings that may be suspected to harbor wildlife harvested from the Park and or in transit.

This therefore provides a window of opportunity to still make substantial arrest of culprits along the same corridor regardless of dismantling the checkpoint. Today, we have achieved better rapport with the state legislature and we expect our understanding to propagate conservation ethics and sustainable practices through sound legislations.

6.0 RESETTLEMENT OF ENCLAVE COMMUNITIES

There exist 6 officially recognized enclave communities within the Park. They include Okwangwo, Okwa I & Okwa II in the Okwangwo division and Mkpot, Abung and Iku in the Oban division, out of which 5 of the enclave communities existed before the creation of the Park. Only Iku came into existence after the creation of the Park.

From a Park management perspectives, these villagers shouldn't have been allowed to stay in the Park, instead they ought to have been relocated before the Park project took off in 1987. This would have resolved the issue of farm expansion and general encroachment witnessed today. The Park would have been at peace with little or no conflicts.

Different levels of discussion have been held with enclave communities in both Divisions to chart a way forward and find lasting solution to “enclave resettlement”.

The discussions revealed a majority view by the enclaves in favor of resettlement. However, the area identified as provisional resettlement area was viewed by the villages as too small compared to their existing land.

In Oban division, villages were in favor of resettlement being fully aware of mounting constraints caused by isolation.

Records show that high-level encroachment by enclaves of the Okwangwo Division began following the resettlement conference in 1996. As a result of perceived compensation from the government many new farms were hurriedly opened by the enclaves. There are two options facing enclave communities and they include:

Enclave Villages to remain where they are; operating under a specific participatory management and development plan to be drawn up by the Park.

Resettlement of enclave villages outside the park where basic amenities such as hospitals, schools etc can be provided for them.

From the Parks stand point and survival of the Park; the second option (option b) is preferred.

7.0 UNFULFILLED PROMISES MADE TO SZ COMMUNITIES

Promises made to SZ communities by EU/WWF were not fulfilled partly because of sanctions placed on Nigeria by EU and partly because of over expectations by SZ villages resulting from the lofty promises made to them. Several promises regarding development assistance were made by WWF/EU/KFW to the SZC. But, only a few of them were carried out by the Park (see pix. 1) Part of the reasons were that EU/KFW fundings for the projects were suspended in 1996 when preliminary structures were being put on ground.

Field investigation confirmed that SZCs embraced CRNP, but lost confidence and support for the Park, when it became clear that promises of improved living condition made to them by the foreign NGOs such as WWF/EU could not be fulfilled.

Management of conflicts resulting from perceived deceit of SZ

There are no established formal dispute resolution mechanisms, but strategies such as persuasion for patience to find sponsors for the projects promised them were adopted through discussion, letters, meetings, joint management committee. This helped matters to a certain extent.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:

Park and SZ communities

1. Complete demarcation of Park boundary line and regular maintenance is required.
2. Legislation of proposed amendment of Park boundaries, if applicable, needs to be justified by the Host (House of Assembly) and National Assembly because National Park Service are on Federal Exclusive legislative list in the constitution.
3. Immediate relocation of all enclave villages by Local, State and Federal Government should be pursued urgently to checked destruction of park resources due to increasing population.
4. Dislodgment of farms already established in the Park by the SZVs and re-afforestation of same through a special afforestation programme to involve FC /Host.
5. Conservation education and extension services to be extended to all the SZC with the aim of educating the villagers and the public at large on conservation, environmental protection and Park Laws as

well as the need for sustainable utilization of resources in communities. Presently, SPACE and CRNP are collaborating in the aspect of publicity and enlightenment for which proposals have been submitted to SPACE for consideration

6. General capacity building to handle disputes/conflicts between CRNP and local communities should be facilitated by SPACE and other NGO's particularly in the area of assistance to source for funds for constructing a befitting auditorium in Oban for the purpose of capacity development in Cross River State and Nigeria at large such as what is obtainable at Limbe and Kribi in the Republic of Cameroon.
7. Production of Management plan for CRNP with detail socio-economic survey including land use mapping, resource survey and other parameters to provide vital information to be used in Park Management and Support Zone Community Development (SZCD). Support from SPACE, WCS and other NGOs and donors are required for these important projects.
8. Establishment of a revolving credit scheme or micro loan scheme to empower SZ communities. These can be a collaborative effort from the NGOs donor countries, local, state and federal government, individuals and corporate bodies benefiting from Cross River State.
9. SZ communities should embrace the park whole heartedly and desist from carrying out illegal activities and violating park laws.

Park and State Forestry Commission:

1. Forestry Commission and National Park staff should strengthen collaboration and continue to see one another as colleagues, and their jobs complimentary.
2. Both the Forestry Commission and the Cross River National Park should evolve an effective, regular communication system for the free flow of information through regular meetings, workshop and conferences.
3. The areas of jurisdiction (operation, roles and function) of Forestry Commission and National Park should be clarified.
4. There should be information exchange and joint action of FC and CRNP to curb illegal logging activities.
5. The problems of deforestation should be addressed by FC with efforts geared towards the reforestation of cutover areas.

NOTE: We owe our gratitude to Sustainable Practice In Agriculture for Critical Environment (SPACE) for supporting this research with the sum of N182,000.00 only leading to the production of this document.

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Appendix Table of Arrest, September 2003–August 2004

S/NO.	NAME OF ACCUSED	DATE OF ARREST	TRIBE	STATE OF ORIGIN	OFFENCE COMMITTED	LOCATION	VERDICT	REMARKS
1	Utibe Amos	5/11/2003	Ibibio	Akwa Ibom	Illegal entry, cutting of Randia species	Mangor axis, Oban Division	Nil	Charged to court, later withdrawn. Case was administratively handled by Management.
2	Emmanuel E. Nyong	15/11/2003	Ibibio	Akwa Ibom	Illegal entry, logging	Mangor axis, Oban Division		Case still pending in Court though in advance state.
3	Clement Afor	19/11/2003	Boki	Cross River	Aiding and abetting, elephant killer	Bamba Village Okwangwo Division		
4	Akwo Ajah	19/11/2003	Boki	Cross River	Aiding an abetting, elephant killer	Bamba Village Okwangwo Division		
5	Bello Yusuf	21/11/2003	Yoruba	Oyo State	Trafficking on African Grey Parrot	Aking check point. Oban Division	Sentence to One (1) year imprisonment with option of fine of N1,000.00 ordered to pay compensation of N12,000.00 to CRNP	The convict has paid the compensation of N12,000.00, & N1,000.00 fine
6	Uchenna Eze	29/11/2003	Igbo	Ebonyi	Trafficking on endangered species	Aking check point Oban Division	Sentenced to 2 years imprisonment with option of fine of N10,000.00	The convict has paid N10,000.00 to CRNP
7	Dennis wowo	5/12/2003	Becheve	Cross River	Illegal entry, possession of fire arms		Balegete, Okw/Div.	Forcefully released by Okwa 1 youths
8	Ernest Abu	9/12/2003	Boki	-do-	Illegal entry, picking of salad	Bumaji, Okw/Division	Fined N12,000.00	Case compounded. Paid N5,000.00 at the Head Office. To pay balance at Butatong office.
9	Daniel Uchu	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	Fined N12,000.00	Case compounded. Paid N2,500.00 at the Head Office to pay balance at Butatong.

10	Felix Ugumba	12/12/2003	Igbo	Ebonyi	Illegal entry, Aiding and abetting	-do-	Fined N20,000.00	
11	Abraham Okara	12/12/2003	Boki	Cross River	Illegal entry, picking of salad, illegal possession of monkey carcass	-do-		Case withdrawn from court. To be compounded at the Head Office of CRNP.
12	Francis Ijow	12/12/2003	Boki	Cross River	Illegal entry, picking of salad, illegal possession of monkey carcass	Bumaji, Okw/Division		-do-
13	Kyrien Anabe	12/12/2003	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-		-do-
14	Utibe Kenneth	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-		-do-
15	Beatrice John	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-		-do-
16	Juliet Ecshin	-do-	-do-	-do-	Illegal entry, picking of salad, illegal possession of monkey carcass	-do-		Case withdrawn from court. To be compounded at the Head Office of CRNP.
17	Grace Ajah	-do-	Boki	Cross River	-do-	-do-		-do-
18	Happiness Anaman	-do-	Boki	Cross River	-do-	-do-		-do-
19	Beatrice Aju	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-		-do-
20	Beatrice Clement	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-		-do-
21	Rose Ariah	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-		-do-
22	Nichodemus Ofre	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-		-do-
23	Livinus Osor	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-		-do-
24	Glory Out	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-		-do-
25	Rita Ogbavabo	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-		Juvenile (8 years old) released
26	Blessing Nenn	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-		Juvenile (9 years old) released
27	Joy Clement	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-		Juvenile (10 years old) released
28	Loveth Sima	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-		-do-

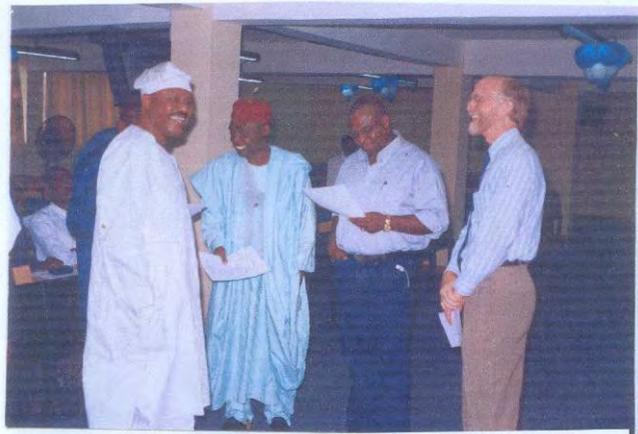
29	Esther Ajara	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-		-do-
30	Juliet Ojupa	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-		-do-
31	Eunice Okoh	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-		Sentenced to 1-year imprisonment. with option of N4,000.00 fine, Paid
32	Edet Orok	18/12/2003	Efik	Cross River	Illegal entry	Obung axis, Oban Division		
33	Sunday Bassey	23/12/2003	Boki	-do-	Illegal entry, picking of salad possession of weapon	Okwangwo Division		Sentenced to 1 year imprisonment for each count (Sentence to run concurrently) with option of N5,000.00 fine, Paid.
34	Frederick Etim Agbor	-do-	-do-	-do-	Illegal entry, hunting possession of firearms	Bumaji Okw/Division	Sentenced to 2 years without option of fine.	Presently serving Jail term in Obudu
35	Ime Etim Udo	29/12/2003	Ibibio	Akwa Ibom	Illegal entry, cutting of chewing stick	Ojor axis, Oban Division	Fined N10,000.00	Case compounded. Has paid N10,000.00
36	Umar Jahe	-do-	Fulani	Kaduna	Illegal entry. Illegal grazing of cattle within the Park	Baker's camp Okw/Division	Fined N40,000.00	Offence compounded at Divisional Office, Butatong
37	Ferdinand Atteh	23/01/04	Boki	Cross River	Illegal entry, farming in the Park	Okwa II, Okw/Division		Case not charged to Court.
38	Santos Labua	-do-	Boki	-do-	-do-	-do-		-do-
39	Nyang Thomas	-do-	Boki	-do-	-do-	-do-		-do-
40	Aniefiok A. Umoren	03/02/04	Ibibio	Akwa Ibom	Possession of skulls of monkeys and duikers, incisors teeth of red river leg and its tail.	Aking check point, Oban Division	Sentenced to 2 years imprisonment with option of fine of N15,000.00	The convict has since paid the fine.
41	Magdalene Aju	17/2/04	Boki	Cross River	Illegal entry, farming in the Park	Bnumaji Okw. Div.	Nil	Granted bail from the Butatong office
42	Beatrice Aju	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	Nil	-do-
43	Mary Ajuor	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	Nil	-do-

44	Victor Okey Akamo	27/2/04	Nkukoli	-do-	Aiding and abetting	New Ekuri Village Oban Division	Nil	Case still pending in Court
45	Okoro Nwangwo	17/3/04	Igbo	-do-	Possession of endangered species	Aking Check point	Nil	Order to be released by the Magistrate after spending 3 months in prison custody
46	Victor Okon Monty	-do-	Ejagham	-do-	-do-	-do-	Nil	Case still pending in court
47	Nyame Oliver	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	Nil	Case still pending in court. Accused jumped court bail. A bench warrant has been applied for to effect his arrest
48	Mbusa Etim Tasum	16/3/04	-do-			Ntebachot, Oban Div.	Nil	Case still pending in court.
49	Isong Udofia	18/3/04	Ibibio	Akwa Ibom	Illegal entry, Logging	Owom axis, Oban Div.	Find collectively with others arrested at Owom	N50,000.00 was paid out of N250,000.00 fine. Case compounded after withdrawal from Court.
50	Okon A. Udofia	18/3/04	Ibibio	-do-	Illegal entry, Logging	Owom axis Oban axis	-do-	-do-
51	Otobong Dominic Moses	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
52	Mfon Etim Akpan	20/3/04	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
53	Edoma Etim	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
54	Daniel Monday	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
55	Denis Friday	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
56	Ufot Sunday	-do-	-do-	-do-	Illegal entry, Picking of salad	-do-	-do-	-do-
57	Inyang Ufot Sunday	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
58	Glory Francis Ukpong	3/4/04	-do-	-do-	Possession of endangered species, Aiding and Abetting	Calabar Municipality	Discharged. Carcasses & and other exhibits to be	Nil

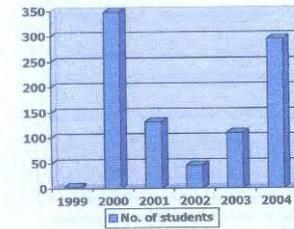
							destroyed by court.	
59	Sunday Edet Okum	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	Nil
60	Festus Apra	5/4/04	Boki	Cross River	Illegal entry, possession of chemical (Gamaline)	Bashukaku Okw. Div.	Sentenced to 1 year imprisonment with out option of fine	Convict is presently serving jail term at Obudu Prison.
61	Festus Ayi	14/04/04-	-do-	-do-	Illegal entry, cutting of cane rope possession of weapon	Okwangwo Division	Sentence to 6 months imprisonment on two counts with option of fine. Discharged and acquitted in 1 count.	Fine. Paid N1,000.00
62	David Obi	28/04/04	-do-	-do-	Illegal entry, Hunting, brush tail porcupine, possession of Dane gun and matchet	Wula, Ekmo, Abo-Obos axis Okw. Division		Case still pending in Court. Imprisoned on Bench warrant for jumping bail.
63	Akwo Godfrey	4/5/04	-do-	-do-	Illegal entry, possession of firearms (70 cartridges), Aiding and Abetting.	Divisional office, Butatong, Okw. Div.		Offence to be compound
64	Emmanuel John	28/5/04	Ibibio	Akwa Ibom	Illegal entry	Ifumkpa, Oban Div.		Accused granted bail. Case not yet charged to Court
65	Emmanuel David	-do-	-do-	-do-	Illegal entry	Ifumkpa Oban Div.		-do-
66	Bassey Sunday Jackson	4/8/04	-do-	-do-	Illegal Entry, possession of endangered species	Abung Iku Road, Oban Division	Ordered to be released by court	Accused was released from prison custody after one month
67	Okom Nna	14/7/04	-do-	-do-	Illegal entry, possession of weapon (Power chain saw)	Akor Oban Div.		Granted bail. Applied for compoundment of his offence. Yet to come for compoundment.
68	Cletus Eba	24/7/04	Ejagham	-do-	Aiding and Abetting, Hunter	Aking check point	Fined N2,500.00	Case compounded. Fine has been paid.
69	Manfred Nyane	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	Fined N5,000.00	Case compounded. The offender has paid N5,000.00

70	Bernard Ndu	-do-	Igbo	Abia State	-do-	-do-	-do-	Case compounded. Fine not paid.
71	Mercy Etim	-do-	Ibibio	Akwa Ibom	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
72	Eno Sunday	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
73	Etim Udom	3/08/04	-do-	-do-	Trapping 2 monkeys, 21 pangolin	-do-	-do-	Case compounded. Pay first installment of N2,000.00
74	John Ofor	12/8/04	Igbo	Abia	Trading and trafficking on endangered species	Okwabang Okw. Div.	Fined N15,000.00	Case compounded. N10,000.00 paid
75	Nse Okon Udo	11/8/04	Ibibio	Akwa Ibom	Illegal entry, exploitation of the flora of CRNP	Achiarum Oban Div.	Fined N6,000.00	Case compounded. Fine to be paid on 27 th August, 2004
76	Uduak Umana	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
77	Henshaw Akpan Umoren	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
78	Mbosowo Akpan Etukudo	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
79	Thankgod Cosmos Essien	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-
80	Su,vamis Akpoka	-do-	Boki	Cross River	Illegal entry, possession of restricted weapon within CRNP	Okoroba axis, Oban Div.	Find N10,000.00	Case compounded. Offender has paid the sum of N5,000.00
81	Cletus Eba	12/8/04	Ejagham	-do-	Trading on endangered species and trafficking.	Aking check point Oban div.	Fined N4,000.00	It should be noted that the offender is not a first offender. He was earlier arrested on the 24/7/04. H was entered into a second under taking.
82	Sunday Ojua	28/4/04	Boki	-do-	Illegal entry, farming	Bumaji Okw. Div.	Fined N12,000.00	Case compounded. Culprit has paid N3,000.00

Appendix I (Photos)



Collaboration Between Cross River National Park, SPACE and NGOs



Annual number of students on Excursion to the Park from 1999 to 2004



The Director of CRNP addressing students of Zenith High School Calabar



School Children on Research in CRNP.



Conservation Talks (Manpower Development).

ANNEX B: ASSESMENTS OF CONFLICTS IN COMMUNITIES

B1: REPORT ON CONFLICT ASSESSMENT MEETING IN BAMBA, BOKI LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CROSS RIVER STATE

Facilitated by Tony Atah, Development in Nigeria (DIN)

1.0 Introduction:

This report outlines the results of a conflict assessment exercise that was held in Bamba (Boki Local Government Area) on 8th August 2005. Development in Nigeria (DIN) facilitated the meeting. The meeting was aimed at understanding the nature and extent of conflicts in Bamba, one of SPACE Project communities, bordering the Okwango Division of the Cross River National Park. The result of the conflict assessment will inform the design of a conflict mitigation strategy to foster understanding between the community and neighbouring communities, on the one hand, and Cross River National Park on the other hand.

1.1 How the meeting was conducted:

Project staff made contact with the community before the meeting to enlighten community members on the purpose of the meeting. The meeting was held in group and plenary sessions. Sources of conflict were identified in plenary. The meeting then broke up into three groups, each group discussing one of the issues raised. Each group then reported at plenary for other participants to make their inputs. There was a facilitator and a rapporteur.

2.0 Sources of Conflict:

The community identified the sources of conflict to be surrounded on

- **Land boundary dispute** in the context of use and ownership between community members, and boundary demarcation between them and their neighboring communities of Bokalum and Kanyang.
- **Forest Resource use, accessibility and management:** This concerns the community and the Cross River National Park. They claim the NP stopped them from ‘entering the park to do anything’ and that the NP ‘took the forest without consulting us and without compensation’. They also claim the NP had made promises, which were not kept. Such promises included scholarships and employment for indigenes, road construction to the community, and establishing alternative for protein in the community.

Box 1:

There was no agreement with the National Park before they took the forest.

Considering the issues and the perspectives of people at the meeting, the following summarizes underlying issues that cause conflicts between the community and NP.

- **Community perception of the NP:** Looking at the park as an outsider that has come to seize what is theirs; and that is not sensitive to their needs for survival.
- **Community expectation from the NP,** partly influenced by their perception: The NP has taken what they want from us so they should give us something in return. They sited oil exploration in the Niger Delta as example.

- **Communication gap** between the NP and community. According to Dr. Ojong of the NP who was also present at the meeting, ‘what I see as the problem here is that the community was not properly enlightened.’

2.1 Nature/Extent of Conflict

2.1.1 Community and NP:

Local participants at the meeting highlighted the following as the nature and extent of conflict between them and the NP.

- Harassment: Community members claim that NP rangers those when they go to hunt, log, and/or extract bush mango and salad from forest outside the park.
- On 4/4/2003 NP rangers on patrol burnt some hurts and randia belonging to community members outside the park.
- On July 11, 1997 elephant killed a community member. When the issue was reported to the NP, John Barker of the NP said ‘*the man went to meet the elephant in its home*’. The park did nothing.
- Between June and July 2005, elephant crossed from the park into farms and destroyed crops. The case has been reported to NP but nothing has been done. The park has not even sent their staff to investigate the matter.

Box 2 Elephant Killing

In November 2003 a poacher from Cameroon killed an elephant in the park. Bamba youth rose up against NP staff, including Dr. Ojong who came to investigate the matter because the youth thought they were coming to make arrest. In the process the youth damaged their car. The community followed up the issue by sending representatives to Akamkpa with ₦10000 to plead for peace with the NP; and also offered to repair the damaged car.

However NP insisted on the community taking the people involved to Akamkpa so they could tender a letter of apology. The community later tendered a letter of apology to NP. Thereafter, the park asked the community to repair the damaged car, which the community did with the sum of ₦25000. Yet NP still arrested three members of the community, detained them in Akamkpa and in spite of pleas from the community for dialogue still charged the case to court. In the long run, the court ruled in favour of the community and we were not ready to listen to the NP again when they asked for dialogue since they refused to listen in the first place. We spent over N300000 in that casethere has been no dialogue since then.—*Chief Vincent Mkpé*

The case was not concluded because we had to withdraw the case from the court based on the request of the community. The Lawyer has misled the community. There was never any judgment either in favor of the community or the Park.—*Dr I.O Ojong, CRNP*

No information was given but they heard and came. Now when information was given about elephant destroying our farms they have refused to come. If they heard we killed the animal they would have come.—*Anthony Ekwo (Community Member)*

2.1.2 Between Bamba and Bokalum:

Local participants at the meeting reported that land boundary disputes between them and Bokalum Community began between 1960s and 1970s. The nature and extent of conflict between Bamba and Bokalum is in the following ways.

- Bokalum indigenes encroach to farm in Bamba land. Local participants at the meeting claim that a rock outcrop (locally called *Olo-Avaobu* meaning god of Avaobu) along the road linking both communities forms the boundary between them. But Bokalum community is claiming ownership beyond this point. This problem started when the priest serving *Olo-Avaobu* died and there was no one to take over, especially with the advent of Christianity.
- Bokalum exploits timber and NTFP like bush mango and afang from Bokalum forest without consultation

Community members at the meeting feel that the higher population in Bokalum is partly responsible for them encroaching into Bamba land.

2.1.3 Kanyang:

The dispute between Bamba and Kanyang is related to resource ownership and land use. Community members at the meeting reported that the major area of dispute between both communities is on an area they call Gorilla Rock (*Mbujuo* in the local language), located on the Mbe Mountain. They claim that Gorillas are usually seen around this site thus the name Gorilla Rock. They claim that because Kanyang is closer to the road, tourists usually stop there to pass to Mbe. Near confrontation between the two communities arose in 2004 and 2005 when Kanyang took tourists to the rock. On hearing of this, Bamba youth mobilized but before they got to the rock, the tourists had left. The participants at the meeting further stated that although Kanyang does not farm on land belonging to Bamba, they however hunt, log and exploit NTFP in Bamba forest.

2.1.4 Conflict within the community

Conflicts between community members arise from land use and ownership for farming and building, and picking bush mango on other people's farms. Other areas of dispute are in contributing levies for community development, and what local participants call 'taking sides in a village related matter by the relatives of the person involved.

3.0 Attempts at Mitigation

3.1 National Park:

The community and NP have not been able to meet over the differences existing between them. The NP is not happy that the community continues to enter into the reserve in spite of frequent warnings, while the community is not happy that the NP has not been sensitive to their plights. Both sides agree to the need for dialogue.

3.2 Bokalum:

Both communities have held dialogue meetings, which had helped to resolve some issues in the past. The Progressive Union of Eastern Boki also stepped in to intervene. But the problem still persists. At the height of the tension between 2003 and 2004 when both communities almost went to war, the chairman of Boki Local Government Council stepped in to mediate between the two communities, and in 2005 set up a panel (on-going), headed by the Paramount Ruler of Boki, to investigate and advice on the situation.

3.3 Kanyang:

Community members at the meeting said both Bamba and Kanyang Communities have not met to discuss their differences or claim. So far they have also not witnessed what they call ‘serious clashes’.

3.4 Within the Community:

Farm disputes are reported to the Town Council. Members of the community are later delegated to investigate the issue and report back to the Council. The Council later takes decisions, which is binding to both parties. They report that they have frequent (farm) land disputes in the community, which is the reason for them calling on the CRNP to extend the boundary lines between the community and the park. When land is contested for building, the case is reported to the Town Planning Sub-Committee who investigates and takes decisions. According to the people, ‘all land here belongs to the community’. In general, the community has mechanisms of settling disputes or handling conflicts within the community. The Town Council is participates in Community administration and rule enforcement. Offenders are fined. In the case of picking bush mango from other people’s farms, an offender is either fined to pay N5000 or ostracized from the community for three years.

Annex Table. List of Attendance

S/No	Name	Position in Community/Institution represented
1	Anthony Ekwo	NRM Team member
2	Bebia Victor O.	Member
3	Jerry B. Abang	Member
4	Moses Ajah	Member
5	Ch. Wilson Abung	Chief
6	James Obun	
7	Ushie Sylvester A.	DIN/SPACE
8	Gabriel Agba	National Park
9	I.O. Ojong	CRNP
10	Theresa A. Achua	Bamba
11	Doris Oleah	Bamaba
12	Ch. Pius Abang	Village Head
13	Ch. Vincent O. Mkpe	Village Head
14	Romanus O. Osang	Member
15	Ubu, Kingsley Ajah	
16	Paul Abang (Jnr.)	Community Chairman
17	Ignatius Obi	
18	Anthony Afor Itorror	Member
19	Denis Afor Kiche	Market Committee
20	Ekwo Rasmus Obi	
21	Juliana Otu	

22	Cletus Obi	
23	Bebia Violet	
24	Ch. Bebia	Village Head
25	Mesha Osor	Member
26	Bebia Daniel Out	Member
27	Raymond A. Abang	Member
28	Offre D. Osang	Member
29	Raymong Osor	Member
30	Tony Atah	DIN/SPACE

B2: REPORT ON CONFLICT ASSESSMENT IN EBBAKEN, BOKI LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CROSS RIVER STATE

Facilitated by Tony Atah, Development in Nigeria (DIN)

1.0 Introduction

On 2nd June 2005, DIN facilitated SPACE Project conflict assessment in Ebbaken, one of the target communities of the SPACE Project in Boki Local Government Area. The objective of the assessment was to identify sources and extent of dispute and/or conflict between the community and FC, neighbors, internally etc. This assessment is to contribute to designing a conflict mitigation mechanism so as to improve relationship between the community and affected institutions; and thus promote effective natural resources management in the community.

1.1 Methodology

The meeting was held in the house of the Head Chief in the Community with a cross section of the community, including women, youth, men and community leaders. Previous contact was made to prepare the community for the meeting. A Natural Resources Management Team was formed, comprising community members to work with the community and identify conflict issues prior to the meeting. The purpose was to have the voices of the entire community heard. Representatives at the meeting discussed in the local dialect before a spokesman then translated into English. The meeting was attended by 16 community members (instead of 8 as was expected), a staff of FC and 2 DIN staff, one of which is also a member of the community. The facilitator stated clearly from the start that this was not a conflict mitigation meeting, but to identify conflict issues in the community that would form a part of a mitigation forum SPACE is planning.

Discussions were participatory at plenary. The community people were encouraged to narrate stories of events where possible.

1.2 Limitations

The following are limitations encountered while carrying out the assessment.

- **Time:** the meeting could not start early for logistic reasons. A two day meeting would have provided the opportunity to probe deeper into the nature of conflicts in the community. A one-to-one interview would have been useful as well. However, earlier information passed on to the community, and with the work of the NRM Team, community people had on their own held discussions to identify conflicts issues even before the day of the meeting. This help to reduce time pressure.
- **Presence of FC Staff:** the presence of the FC Staff almost turned the meeting into a conflict mitigation forum. The facilitator helped by narrowing the people's attention to identifying conflict issues, though it was not always easy.
- **The use of local dialect** by community members before translating to the general meeting encouraged participation between them, but it limited the opportunity to listen in between the lines. Information might have been sifted before passing on. The facilitator helped to reduce this by encouraging the use of Pidgin English, and to ask probing questions. Sometimes a community member answers directly without prior consultation.

2.0 Conflict with Cross River State Forestry Commission

The community identified the following issues affecting their relationship with the Cross River State Forestry Commission, and the Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary

2.1 Source of Conflict

As expressed by Ebbaken community, the major sources of conflict in the community are between them and the Forestry Commission, and between them and Nsadop community, which is one of their neighbors.

2.1.1 Conflict with Forestry Commission

Ebbaken community highlighted the following as issues affecting their relationship with the FC.

- Consultation and
- Natural resource use and management

The community highlighted the following issues

- FC did not negotiate with community to establish cut-line
- FC did not compensate the community on cut-line
- FC forces indigenes to pay fees before extracting cam wood. This is no longer happening as indigenes no longer have value for cam wood, and so have stopped extracting it.
- FC forces indigenes to obtain permits before entering forest for NTFP collection
- FC Gazette hills and forests without consulting community
- The community claims the entire reserve is in the sanctuary. Consequently, the community is denied access to collect even NTFPs.
- The government created the sanctuary without consulting the community. However, accepted that government had held meetings in some communities, one of which was held in Asuben, one of Boje communities, with selected chiefs. Many communities, including Ebbaken refused to sign a MOU the government produced at the end of that meeting because they did not know when and/or how it came by. They claim the clan head later forced chiefs from some communities to sign.
- Name of sanctuary (Afi Mountain) does not suit community. The community suggests the name of the sanctuary should be changed to *Nyang Etang* Mountain Wild Life Sanctuary.
- FC does not inform community of what it does in the forest or when it is working in the forest.
- FC is not accessible. According to the community, “Forestry Commission ‘high pass us’”

Example 1

The community claim that in early January 2005, FC seized wood from a timber dealer who was sawing more than 100m from the reserve, and fined him the sum of ₦60000. The community claims the dealer (non indigene) had duly registered with the community, and obtained permit from the FC to saw wood. They also claim that the seizure of the wood was necessitated by the visit of some visitors who were likely to pass along the area where the wood was sawn. According to them, the FC needed to give the impression of being effective.—(Incidence narrated by Chief Brian Osang and Osong Lawrence Enu)

2.1.2 Extent of Conflict with the FC

The extent of conflict of conflict between Ebbaken Community and FC are presented below, as highlighted by community members.

- FC Rangers harass and intimidate community people, including women. They seize forest products and in turn sell same for their own gain. For instance, between May and June 2004, FC rangers seized about 10 samples of broken bush mango, 4 bunches of salad, and a cutlass among other things from the wife of one of the chiefs, Boniface Ofre. This incidence occurred across the Nwup River, beyond the limits of the reserve. The woman complained to the village authority.
- FC seizes sawing engines and wood from indigenes ‘even on our farms just behind us here’ e.g. on Chief Brian Osang’s farm.
- FC does not respect the traditional leadership

The community expressed strong feelings against the FC for not recognizing their right to the forest, which they feel is their natural endowment. They are angry that the government through the FC has failed to consider their needs for survival and only played on their ignorance to acquire the reserve. According to Osong Lawrence (one of the community Youth), ‘they value the animals more than we that is why they treat us like that’. Worst still, the community feels humiliated that the FC through their field officers do not respect the traditional leadership. They narrated example 2 (in text box) as one of many cases of harassment and humiliation the FC subjects the community to.

They accuse the FC of not even monitoring the activities of loggers and feel that the community is better positioned to manage the forest. According to the Community Chairman, ‘we can manage the forest better than the government because we are here and we know the importance. The government cannot do without us’. They say they are willing to collaborate with government to manage the forest.

Example 2

At the instance of the Forestry Commission, Chief Francis Ebum (Head Chief of Ebbaken) and Chief Simon Dibang were put in custody by the police on the allegation of setting traps in the reserve. They claim what happened was that two Ibibio men after having duly registered with the community were allowed into the community forest to hunt by trapping. There they were arrested by FC rangers, led by one Mr. Owan, who later brought in the police from Okunde to arrest the chiefs. The chiefs were later moved to Ikom and threatened to be transferred to Calabar. However, they were later granted bail in Ikom.—*Chief Francis Ebum*

2.1.3 Issues Needing Clarification

The community request that the following issues would need clarification so as to avoid future conflict.

Creation of a buffer zone: The community claim that the sanctuary is demanding for a buffer zone of about 100m between the community and the sanctuary. The community request for clarification on this.

Core Communities and Buffer (or Support) Communities on the AWS: the community further claims that Buffer communities (communities who are not part of the Afi Mountain but are benefiting from the sanctuary because they are access routes to the Sanctuary) benefit more from the sanctuary than the Core Communities (which they also call real owners or landlord communities) especially in terms of employment.

2.2 Land Boundary dispute with Nsadop Community

Source: The community claims to have a land boundary dispute with the neighboring community of Nsadop. The dispute, according to them, has lasted since 1992 (see example 3 in the text box below).

2.2.1 Nature and Extent of Conflict:

Example 3

‘The problem between Ebbaken and Nsadop started in 1992 when they saw that development was coming to Ebbaken because of visitors coming in for conservation work. One of the chiefs from Nsadop, Chief Nelson Takon, wrote to Ebranta, one of the four villages that make up Ebbaken, requesting for cooperation to clear a track linking both communities.

In the course of clearing the track, Nsadop community went to report to the police, claiming damages to their crops by Ebranta community. It was a plan. The problem has not stopped since then.—*Donald E. Asu (Community Chairman of Ebbaken)*

The community narrates the nature and extent of conflict to be as follows:

- Nsadop contests land boundary with Ebbaken up to Nwup River, close to Ebbaken.
- Nsadop saws wood in Ebbaken land (even in farms). They even saw very close to the community, in the farm of one of the chiefs, Chief Brian Osang in Ebbaken
- Nsadop destroys cocoa and banana farms belonging to Ebbaken farmers, and sometimes harvest the mature crops
- Nsadop lay claim to Ebbaken farms
- Ebbaken people are harassed by Nsadop in the forest, and sometimes their properties seized. For instance, between June and July 2004 an indigene of Ebbaken, Tony Dibang, was harassed in the bush by Nsadop on his way from gathering bush mango and hunting in Ebbaken forest. He was forced to lie prostrate while the Nsadop people seized from him some quantity of bush mango, a duiker, and his knife. They claim this is only one of many occurrences

2.2.2 Attempts at Mitigation

The following attempts have been made to reconcile the two communities of Ebbaken and Nsadop.

- The case has been in court since 1992. It has been heard in the customary court, magistrate court and is now in the court of appeal in Calabar
- The local government has set up panel of investigation on two occasions, and also organized a peace talk between the two communities all to no avail.
- The chiefs of old (former) Boje Clan (made up of six communities) have stepped in to settle out of court.

The community feels that one of the reasons why mitigation has not been successful is that Nsadop community enjoys more political support from the local government and police because they have more elites and people in government. Instances abound when an Nsadop indigene is left unpunished even when they are wrong, as in example 4 in text box to the right.

Example 4

In April 2005, Ebranta (one of the four villages in Ebbaken) seized a sawing engine from an Nsadop indigene sawing in Ebbaken forest, and deposited it with the police. However, the Vice Chairman of the Local Government Council went to the police to retrieve the engine and returned back to Nsadop, without consulting Ebbaken people. He only mentioned it in a meeting they had sometime after, claiming his action was 'for the sake of peace.—Brian Mkpè (Chairman, Boje Community)

3.0 Intra-community disputes

3.1 Source:

The community identified land boundary dispute between community members as another source of conflict. They claim that disputes occur as a result of land shortage in the community.

3.2 Extent

Land boundary disputes occur between families and individuals in the community.

3.3 Attempts at Mitigation

The Community said they have a Land Use/Allocation Committee, which is also responsible for settling land-related disputes at the community level. But according to one of the chiefs, 'the Committee is not very functional so the council of chiefs or the Town Council does the work'. Settlement involves hearing

from the parties involved, sending a fact-finding team to the site of dispute to investigate the issue, and taking decisions based on information from the fact-finding team. According to the community chairman, ‘since we’re all one it is very easy to settle our problems’.

List of participants

S/No	Name	Position in Community
1	Donald O. Abang	Community Secretary
2	Ch. Mkpe Matthew	Village Head
3	Mkpe Brian O.	Chairman, Boje Community
4	Ch. John Osang	Village Head
5	Ch. Simon Dibang	Village Head
6	Mr. William Osang	Village Head
7	Donald E. Asu	Ebbaken Community Chairman
8	Osong Lawrence Enu	Secretary, Natural Resources Management Team
9	Rose O. Ochang	Member, Natural Resources Management Team
10	Ch. Brian Osang	Chairman, Natural Resources Management Team
11	Alphonsus O. Bankong	Member, Natural Resources Management Team
12	Tony Atah	DIN/SPACE
13	Juliana K. Dibang	Member, NRMTeam
14	Regina O. Oban	Member, NRMTeam
15	Ch. Francis D. Ebu	Senior Chief
16	Francis Bankong	
17	F. A. Anukwa	FC
18	Cletus Osang	NRMTeam
19	John Oned	DIN

B3: REPORT ON CONFLICT ASSESMENT MEETING IN NSOFANG, ETUNG LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CROSS RIVER STATE,

Facilitated by Grassroots Development Organization (GRADO)

Introduction

The meeting was an open debate on the understanding of nature, sources and community perspectives on conflicts in Nsofang. Understanding the meaning of conflicts and its impacts, effects on natural resource use and governance formed the preliminary exercise of the meeting with an exercise that created oppor-

tunities for identification of sources of conflicts, why it arises, who are the actors and the people impacted on or affected etc.

The meeting and the exercises explored individual conflict issues with specific illustrations, examples and stories associated with the identified conflict issues.

As an open dialogue meeting, it provided an opportunity for non-community members including SPACE staff and staff of Protected Area institutions mainly the National Park staff in attendance to understand the nature of conflicts and its implications on conservation, natural resource use and management in Nsofang and the adjoining communities.

Nsofang presented a case of a community confronted with a number of issues ranging from intra community governance, through inter-community relationship and PA-community relationship.

Twelve participants attended the conflict mitigation meeting. Eight of them were members of the Natural Resources Management Team set up by the community to address issues of land use planning and protected area management relationships. Membership cut across the leadership (chiefs), administrative arm of the community (town council), women and youth. Two staff members of the Cross River National Park were in attendance. The conduct of the staff of the CRNP was normal through out the meeting without any cause for confrontation with community members. Questions raised by community members to the staff were carefully answered.

Methodology

A combination of group work and story line methods were adopted. The meeting started by setting objectives and identifying the role playing in the dialogue session.

An opening exercise was conducted using “the black bag owners” exercise. (see box 1)

The lessons from the exercise was discussed and the messages identified by members of the community. Two groups were formed to share their thoughts about the lessons from the black bag exercise and use the reflections to identify sources of conflicts and their nature as it related to Nsofang and its environment.

Each group reported back to the plenary after the exercise and each conflict issue was then used by the plenary to analyze what happened, how it happened, who was involved, how was it resolved if resolved, what has happened since then and what was the extent of the conflict.

A final plenary session was conducted on potential solutions to some of the identified conflicts from the perspectives of the community members.

Because the exercise was a one-day program, not enough time was available to have individual semi-structured interview most particularly on specific issues concerning certain individuals.

Issues of conflicts in Nsofang

“Intra –community conflicts : Our community governance is weak, anything can happen to anybody here now, anybody do whatever he likes and nobody queries them” –Timothy , NRM member, Nsofang

Box 1: The black bag exercise

Three community members were called upon by the facilitator to hold a piece of black bag on different ends. A person held the hand of the bag, one person holds the zip and another holds the main body of the bag. The three persons were asked three questions

Who owns the bag ?

What is your interest on the bag ?

How can we secure the bag?

In a plenary, answers given by the three people were analyzed and lessons learnt were discussed.

At the end of the day, the main lesson learnt by the Nsofang community is that securing the bag in good shape for now and future depends on sharing of common concerns between the three people. It also reflects that because the three people are concerned, there should be dialogue among them to agree on a common way of handling the bag.

The black bag exercise is based on the principle of managing “common property.”

“In Nsofang all animals are not equal, so some people think they are bigger than the community, that is why rules are not enforced” - Daniel Okey, Chairman Natural Resources Management Committee, Nsofang

1. The issue: Timber Extraction and Administration – Tearing the community structures apart and denying Nsofang of the appropriate royalties from timber extraction from Nsofang forests

Those involved: The Forest Management Committee, Wood loggers – 18 in number and all of them natives of Nsofang, Uniformed staff of the Cross River State Forestry Commission and the leadership of the community.

Source of conflict: Timber from community forests, deprivation of community of proceeds from timber extraction and distrust among community members most especially wood loggers who are also natives of the community.

Extent of conflict: Has caused serious distrust among community members and further erodes the statutory powers and governance structures of community institutions. Increase the level of youth restiveness and affect the total community governance system.

Local level mechanism put in place to resolve conflict: A meeting called by the Nsofang FMC to address the issue was not attended by the wood loggers. The uniformed forestry staff promised to improve the situation by ensuring normal stamping of timber extracted from Nsofang and even collecting owners consent permits from the community. All promises were however not fulfilled as the community does not have records of owners consent permits and wood continue to be floated out of Nsofang forests.

The FMC is making a fresh plan to call another meeting before taking it up with the higher authorities of the Forestry Commission.

Area and people affected: The entire Nsofang community forest and the people of Nsofang.

2. The Issue: Boundary problems and trespass by neighboring communities of Abijang/Agbotai, Itaka/ Mkpote and Okuni.

“The boundary between Nsofang and Abijang/ Agbotai is unclear” – Charles; Daniel Okey - Nsofang

Those involved: The Agbotai and Abijang community to the north of Nsofang and Itaka/Mkpote community to the south of Nsofang. The problem of trespass from Okuni community to the west is not too serious.

Sources of conflict: Harvesting of timber and non-timber forest products in Nsofang community forests without following Nsofang’s community rules and even owner’s consent. Farm encroachment into Nsofang community land. Unclear boundary settlement between Nsofang and neighboring communities was referred to as a causative agent. While Nsofang lay claims to a particular boundary. Neighboring communities does not honor such claims.

Extent of conflict: Has resulted in open confrontation twice in 2002 and 2004 and nearly broke out into a civil war between the people of Abijang and Nsofang in 2004. An attempt by Nsofang to trace the community boundaries in 2004 attracted a petition to the Etung Local Government and the Cross River State Government.

Local mechanism put in place by the traditional authority: Issue of conflict still pending. Both parties have been cautious but the problem is far from being resolved Etung Local Government has bro-

Box 2 : Timber extraction management and administration in Nsofang
FMC, Nsofang Loggers and the Forestry Commission Uniformed Staff locks head with the Forest Management Committee on royalty and forestry procedures on timber extraction.

FMC Chairman claimed that timber extracted are being treated illegally. The FMC accused the uniformed FC staff of being corrupt and that their connivance with the loggers is robbing Nsofang her of the appropriate amounts that is due from royalties. This is because timber harvested are not harvested and thus do not pass through normal official records.

Wood loggers are benefiting from the illegal deal and because they are also indigenes of Nsofang, the matter is treated too personal without recourse to community interests.

FC uniformed staff are not helping matters as they rarely show up in Nsofang. Timber are thus been floated to other communities to be stamped and the communities around are having better royalty payment as a result.

kered a peace meeting in the past but the meeting has not achieved much in terms of respect of the agreements. The matter is before the State Government.

Suggested solutions by the community: Need for a mediator to consult the communities affected and the conveyance of a meeting of each pair of communities to agree on common boundaries. Signing of such agreement through an arrangement that could be organized by the Etung Local Government.

3. The Issue: Resistance of arrest and occasional physical confrontation between Nsofang Community Youth and the Cross River National Park Rangers

“It is not enough for us to be denied of entry into our own forests without involving us in how the place is managed. Moreover, there are too many unfulfilled promises” – Timothy – a Youth and member of the Nsofang Natural Resources Management Team.

Those involved: Staff of the Cross River National Park most particularly Park Rangers and the Youth of Nsofang in most cases, especially when the Rangers attempt arrest over breaking of Park regulations.

Sources of conflict: Access into the CRNP mostly for harvesting of NTFPs. Illegal logging within the Park and occasional cases of poaching. Community members claim arbitrary arrest and terrorizing of indigenes as a problem of relationship between the community and the CRNP.

Extent of conflict: Few cases of open assault between Youth and Patrol team. Early 2005, a team of CRNP Rangers from the “Special Squad “ of the CRNP Headquarters came to the community shooting into the air, creating fear on women and changing the peaceful environment in the community. No consultation was made to the community on their coming and the Park is not located inside the community. The confusion created caused the Youth to meet and rise against the patrol team. The patrol team leader was rough handled and slapped in the process.

Community leaders intervened and calmed down the fracas between the rangers and the community Youth..

Local mechanism put in place: The relationship between CRNP and the Community is a bit better now as the current management seems to be interested in the community’s interest. One of the promises fulfilled is the building of a Rangers Post in Nsofang and provision of #5000 scholarship award each to two students of Nsofang origin. Community people feel the relationship can be improved if the CRNP involves them in dialogue and discussion on the protection of the Park.

Community members also suggest that CRNP should involve the Nsofang Forest Management Committee on information sharing to improve the patrol techniques. They should keep in touch with community leadership on their activities around the area.

4. The Issue: River Poisoning

“Our Youth are not respecting the constituted authority. Three people were found poisoning the river that all of us drinks, only one put himself up for penalty and community discipline. The other two young people refused to respect the elders summon, yet they still live in the community” – Charles... FMC Chairman and member of the Nsofang Natural Resource Management Committee.

“The chiefs are not helping matter. There is double standard in the land. I could remember the time that a chief’s son poison the river, everybody expect the case to be fairly treated by the elders and chiefs but instead, the matter was swept under the carpet. Some people are above the law in Nsofang and that is why we are divided. Our neighboring communities are only exploiting our weak governance to poison the river as well” – Timothy.. – a Youth and member of the Nsofang Natural Resource Management Team.

Source of Conflict: Poisoning of water-bodies for the purpose of fish harvesting. The resultant effect of depletion of fish population in water bodies and the danger of eaten poisoned fish. Conflicts is aggravated because certain community members disrespect the community law against water poisoning. Community leadership has failed to place control due to double standard approach in treating cases by some members of the elder's council. Neighboring communities of Mkpot and Itaka also poisons river and it affects Nsofang.

Extent of Conflict: Unresolved cases caused by water poisoning continue to cause distrust between community members and elders. It is having impact on community governance system and has affected the effectiveness of the community law against water poisoning.

Local level mechanism for conflict resolution: Promises were made by the FMC and the clan Head to consult with the families of the two affected Youth. Nothing has been done on the case till now. The community does not know what impact this will cause during the dry season of 2005. Water poisoning is more carried out during the dry seasons.

Suggested was forward: The issue of river poisoning is a general problem in the area. The Etung Local Government legislature needs be informed to deliberate on a law banning river poisoning in the Local Government area.

The Local Government authority also needs be informed to embark on awareness campaign on the dangers of water poisoning to health and life of the people. In this way, the offenders will not only be disciplined by community law but can be handled over to the local government for prosecution.

5. The issue—not regarded as a conflict but may cause future conflict if issue is not addressed:

Boundary of the CRNP too close to the community and as population of the community grows, Nsofang may not have any choice than to encroach into the Park for farming and forest resource use reasons.

While this was not analyzed as a conflict, Nsofang people feel that thinking about measure to approach to avoid future confrontation is needed. Can the boundary be adjusted or not. Dialogue is required. Nsofang community people demand explanations and clarifications.

Appendix 1: Table Showing Nature of Conflicts in Nsofang

Nsofang : Conflict Mitigation – 1st meeting 3rd Aug.2005

s/n	Nature	Who	What
1.	National park boundary	National park	We feel the boundary should be adjusted(It is too close to the community to the community)
2.	Timber exploitation	Mkpot/2004	Timber
3.	Boundaries with neighboring communities and trespass	Abijang/Mkpot/Itaka Trespass in the case of Okuni	Timber/NTFPS/farming and encroachment into Nsofang Community forests
4.	NTFPS	Abijang/2003	NTFPS
5.	The national park unfulfilled promises	National park/ Nsofang Community	It does not allow dangers to perform effectively. Occasional open confrontation between patrol team and Youth.
6.	Water poisoning	Neighboring communities Mkpot/Itaka	Water poisoning
7.	Inappropriate treatment of timber exploitation	CRFC/FMC/ Wood loggers	Timber extraction
8	Youth disagreement with constituted authority	Youth	Non – participation in community development activities

Appendix 2: Attendance List at the Nsofang Conflict Mitigation Meeting

- Mr Daniel Okey – Chairman NRM Team Nsofang
- Mr Charles Ogar
- Mrs Bridget Okon
- Mrs Nancy Abung
- Mrs Caroline Achi
- Mr John Ogun
- HRH Benjamin Ojisi – Clan Head and Community Head of Nsofang
- Mr Timothy Erim
- Mr Joe Ekpe
- Mrs Patience Obaji
- Mr Alade Adeleke
- Mr Gabriel Agba – Park Warden , Oban Division, Cross River National Park
- Mr Daniel Ogar – Park Ranger, Nsofang Beat.
- Mr Alade Adeleke – SPACE Project

C4: REPORT ON CONFLICT ASSESSMENT MEETING HELD IN OKUNI, IKOM LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Facilitated by Grass Root Development Organization (GRADO)

Introduction:

The conflict assessment meeting was held in Okuni on the 4th of August, 2005 to identify conflict issues affecting the community either between themselves or with neighbors and other institutions working with them.

Methodology:

The meeting was held at plenary adopting a participatory approach. The meeting used a facilitator and a recorder to take note of proceedings.

Limitations:

It is feared that a one day meeting held in plenary has not given a clear picture of conflict issues affecting the community especially with Protected Area Institution. A follow up personal interview in the community is recommended. The presence of a Forestry Commission Staff who has worked in the community and is familiar with many of the indigenes might have influenced their willingness to divulge information on their relationship with the FC. As the reader would observe, nothing on FC has been reported on. The community shied away from making comments. They claim to be working well with the commission, except that their FMC is weak.

Sources of Conflict

The people identified the following sources of conflict:

- Land conflict
- Inter-group conflict
- Community conflict
- Inter-personal conflict
- Forest use conflict
- Water conflict
- Inheritance conflict
- Inter community conflict like Akam and Okuni as regards forest reserve

Conflict with Neighbors

Nature and Extent of Conflict

Land

Okuni community claims to have conflicts on land use and land boundary with their neighbors in Akam, Abijang and Agbotai.

Okuni explained that their major conflict with Akam community is based on the forest reserve, which is created from forests from both communities. Okuni claim that Obara Stream in the reserve forms a natural boundary between the two communities. But when the government created the reserve they did not indicate a boundary. Okuni claims that the Akam people are 'now farming into our own land. They farm across the Obara stream, which forms a natural boundary between us'. Because they, the Okuni people, saw that the government was not reacting to Akam people farming in the reserve, they too decided to enter into the reserve so as to protect their land. According to them, 'we started farming in the reserve in order not to be cheated'.

When we saw that Akam people were opening up the forest reserve and government was not doing anything, we too entered in order not to be cheated. The forest belongs to both communities. Obara stream forms a natural boundary between us in the reserve but they are now farming across this area. —Okim Samuel Bassey

The Okuni people claim that the problem between them and Akam is expanding beyond the reserve. They claim that the Akam people sometimes physical harass the Okuni on their farms outside the reserve. For instance, in the last week of July 2005 Akam people arrested some farm hands who were working in the farm of an Okuni indigene and held them hostage in Akam. The Okuni farm owner had to report the matter to the police who have been handling the case since then. There are many other cases like this e.g. between the Clan Head of Effi in Okuni and the Akam people.

Attempts at Mitigation

The following attempts have been taken to resolve the conflict between the two communities.

Dialogue between the two communities: In 1998 Okuni and Akam communities formed a committee to look into the conflicts affecting both communities and bring out solutions. The committee limited their discussions to the areas bordering both communities on either side of the reserve, leaving the issue inside the reserve. They came out with a white paper, recommending that both communities should only farm on their individual land which borders the reserve without entering into the reserve. The chiefs of both communities signed this agreement. Consequently, Okuni people like Dr. Iyambi who had farms in the reserve respected this agreement and stopped farming there. However, the Akam people failed to respect the agreement and not only continued farming in the reserve, but also took over some of the farms the Okuni people left.

Local Government Intervention: From May this year till date, both communities have witness frequent cases of land disputes between them. The Vice Chairman of Ikom Local Government stepped in to broker peace between both communities, advising them to stop farming in the reserve as it now belongs to the government. But according to Okim Christopher Oyong, one of the chiefs in Okuni, 'Akam people do not see their farming in the reserve as a problem. They claim that they have smaller population and their farm sizes are usually small and so will not affect the forest, compared to Okuni farms, which are usually large'.

Cross River State Commission: The Cross River Forestry Commission has also stepped into the matter to advice people willing to farm in the reserve to register with the commission.

Boundary and forest use dispute with Abijang and Agbotai Communities

Okuni also allege existing conflict between them and their neighbors in Abijang and Agbotai, over timber exploitation which both communities carry out in Okuni Community Forest without consultation. Mrs. Mary Nyambi described this as 'illegal logging activity in our forest'. Okuni claims that Amua River forms a natural boundary between Okuni and Agbotai, yet Agbotai fails to respect this boundary. The people claim that the conflict began since the creation of Etung Local Government from the present Ikom Local Government where both communities now fall into different local government areas. The Okni people feel that Agbotai is now attempting to claim more land into Etung Local Government Area. The problem did not exist before the local government creation.

Our problem with Agbotai is on timber exploitation in our forest. Amua River forms a natural boundary between us but they cross the river to log in our own side of the forest, which they are trying to claim as their own. They feel that they are different from us because they are now in Etung Local Government.—*Monday Edim Ofuka*

According to Okim Christopher Oyong, the disputed area was inspected by the State governor when he came to inspect the on-going Okuni-Okoroba road construction. 'When he asked, he saw that the only (farm) settlements going all the way to Amua River belong to Okuni people, and he warned our neighbors in Agbotai not to cause trouble'.

Okuni people view more seriously the encroachment from Agbotai. They claim that Abijang acquired land from Okuni for settlement on the 4th of December 1922 and as such considered as strangers.

Dispute between Family, Institutions, and the Community

Mrs. Mary Nyambi reported an existing conflict between Ayebe Etini's family on one side, and the Community secondary school on the other side.

The community negotiated and acquired a very large expanse of land from her illiterate mother many years ago to establish a school. Agreement was written and signed between the parties involved. Part of that agreement was that the family will be allowed to farm on the land. But now the school is not keeping to that agreement. The family has reported to the community but the community is supporting the school.

The school and the community are suppressing the family because they are big. We are hungry and we need land to farm. How can the community acquire such a large expanse of land from one family, and there is no compensation or consideration for anything like reallocation? It is not fair. Here in this town hall when we met with the community, they seized the original copy of the agreement and burnt it. But we had a photocopy, which we continued using to support our claim...no single member of the family was there when the land was surveyed.—*Mrs. Mary Nyambi*

One of the Chiefs present at the meeting said the community is in a difficult situation to take decision on the matter as the school has been handed over to the government, and the land in question has also been surveyed in the name of the school. According to him, 'we seem to be on the side of the school because we need to protect outside institutions and development coming to us'. The land in question was not acquired for the school alone but in anticipation of other developments.

Someone from the community said the family planted economic trees on the said plot, which made the school authority to force them out of it.

Other areas of dispute in Okuni are between the four communities that make up the community e.g. between Iyami and Omon; Effi and Emorrow; Emorrow and Iyami.

Conflict from Natural Disaster

In 2003 the community experienced flood that destroyed properties in many homes. When the government tried to compensate the affected families, those with influence politicized it such that the people

that were not affected benefited more from the compensation. An example was given of an affected family that was given only a mat, and another that was not affected but got bags of cement.

Conflict on Natural Resource Management

Another source of conflict the community identified is on timber extraction, which they called illegal as no permits are obtained. They say that the Forest Management Committee in the community is not active and so cannot manage the situation. They have reported to the forestry commission but the activity has not stopped.

Illegal exploitation of timber in the forest reserve or with no stamps

List of Attendance:

S/No	Name	Position in Community or Institution representing
1	Okim Christopher A. Oyong	A chief
2	Monday Edim Ofuka	Member, Effi Youth Exco
3	Okim Samuel Bassey	Chief
4	Mary A. Nyambi	Women Leader
5	Nyambi Godwin	Omon
6	Lawrence A. Nyambi	Omon-Okuni
7	Mary Okem	
8	Mr. Stephen Bassey	Omon
9	Tony Atah	DIN/SPACE
10	Nsor, Ngon	GRADO/SPACE
11	Fidelis Anukwa	FC

ANNEX C: CONFLICT RANKING BY INSTITUTIONS

Conflict Ranking by Institution Conflict Type	Park/reserve boundary (re) alignment and demarcation	Acces and Forest Resource Use	Timber Harvest Regulation Compliance	Community Involvement*	Human- wildlife conflict	Community Boundaries	Enclave communities	Timber Royalties**	
Ranking based on scale of 1-5, low - high (0 = Not applicable to that institution)									
Scale of conflict									
Frequency	5,5	5,3	5,3	3,3	3,3	1,3	5,0	0,5	
# of affected people/groups/institutions	5,5	5,4	4,3	5,2	2,2	1,3	3,0	0,5	
Geographic coverage or amount of natural resource affected	5,4	5,2	4,3	5,3	2,1	1,4	3,0	0,5	
<i>Combined Subtotal</i>		29	24	22	21	13	13	11	15
Severity of conflict									
Impact on management objectives	5,4	4,4	5,2	3,1	2,3	1,4	5,0	0,4	
Impact on community livelihoods, especially women	5,4	4,4	3,3	2,2	3,3	1,3	4,0	0,4	
Impact on resources & time enforcing and litigating	3,3	4,4	5,3	4,2	3,3	1,3	5,0	0,2	
Potential/existing violence	4,3	5,5	4,1	3,3	3,3	1,4	5,0	0,1	
<i>Combined Subtotal</i>		31	34	26	20	23	18	19	11
Potential for Agreement-Shared Interests	3,3	1,4	4,4	1,3	4,3	0,4	2,0	0,3	
Total by PA Institution (CRNP, FC)	35,31	33,30	34,22	26,19	22,21	7,28	32,0	0,29	
Combined Totals	66	63	56	45	43	35	32	29	

* Upon discussion of actions to take to address each conflict category it became obvious that Community Involvement was relevant to all categories and provided cross-cutting solutions as well as problems.

** Timber Royalties was integrated into Timber Harvest Compliance Regulation

ANNEX D: ACTION PLAN

PAPWG Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management Action Plan

Strategy/Activity	INSTITUTION(S)		2005				2006				2007	Results	Technical Needs
	Lead	Support	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1		
Conflict Category: Park/reserve boundary (re) alignment and demarcation. Focus areas: Bashu, Bumaji, and the southwest flank of CRNP around Nsan													
Policy review/Applied research													
Policy review and assessment; spatial analysis of policy and on-the-ground alignment	PAPWG	SPACE										Identification of incongruent policy and existing conditions	Independent legal and geospatial information experts
Environmental assessment of proposed boundary realignment	CRNP											Recommendations to CRNP and state and national assemblies	EA specialist
Develop conflict management and dispute resolution mechanisms													
Establish boundary task force to provide leadership to following actions:	PAPWG	CRNP FC										Boundary task force and TOR written	Invite the CRS Survey Dept. in collaboration with the FC
Buffer zone management agreements developed outlining purpose of zone, rights/responsibilities.	CRNP FC	Communities										Buffer zone management memorandum of understanding (MOU)	
Participatory mapping with affected communities to identify proposed boundary realignment	CRNP FC	Communities										Community/PA institution agreement of proposed boundary realignments	Spatial analysis reports, community facilitators
Leveraging resources													
Needs assessment and develop financial commitment for boundary	Boundary task force	SPACE										Needs assessment	

PAPWG Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management Action Plan

Strategy/Activity	INSTITUTION(S)		2005				2006				2007	Results	Technical Needs
	Lead	Support	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1		
alignment activities													
Assess availability of external support and seek financing	Boundary task force											Financing plan	
Rights, roles, and responsibilities campaign													
Develop maps to post in relevant communities	CRNP FC											Negotiated agreements on boundary locations widely communicated	Communications specialist
Design and implement buffer zone management communications strategy	CRNP											Rights, roles, and responsibilities of support zone communities widely communicated	Communications specialist
Information sharing and management													
Joint boundary maintenance system developed with communities and institutions	CRNP FC	Communities										MOU on boundary maintenance and monitoring	
Conflict Category: Access and forest resource use: Focus regions/communities: Northwest Okwangwo (Bomaji communities & Okwangwo enclaves); Bashu; Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary (AMWS) communities													
Policy analysis													
Participatory research on extent and impacts of NTFP extraction on protected area and resource availability on community lands.	SPACE	SPACE communities										Resource analysis and 'balance sheet'; NTFPs, bush meat and timber harvesting in PAs and community lands	NTFP technical expert
Review park and AMWS policy and recommend policy improvements relevant to benefit sharing, management zoning, participatory management and monitoring	PAPWG	SPACE										Policy recommendations	

PAPWG Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management Action Plan

Strategy/Activity	INSTITUTION(S)		2005				2006				2007	Results	Technical Needs
	Lead	Support	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1		
Develop dispute resolution mechanism													
Develop community-based conflict management committee to develop agreement on managing NTFPs, sharing benefits and managing future disputes with protected area institutions	SPACE	SPACE communities CRNP FC										Recommendations for dispute resolution mechanism	Mediator/facilitator
Training and capacity building													
Carry out NTFP domestication/tree nursery training with community members and CRNP/CRSFC staff	SPACE partners	CRNP CRSFC										Communities developing alternatives to resource extraction from park	NTFP propagation; reforestation specialists
Train CRNP and CRSFC forest rangers and guards in participatory management & outreach	SPACE partners	CRNP CRSFC										CRNP field staff prepared to work with community members	Participatory management training
Rights, roles, and responsibilities campaign													
Identify target groups and assess communications needs	PAPWG	SPACE Communications specialist										Target audience identified	Communications expert
Develop messages and communications strategies, including responsible institutions and relevant cost-sharing	PAPWG	SPACE Communications specialist										Communications strategies developed (e.g., radio jingles, newsletters); curriculum developed for support zone schools	Communications expert
Attitudinal/behavior survey/pre- and post-testing	PAPWG	SPACE Communications specialist										Evaluation of public awareness campaign impact	Communications expert

PAPWG Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management Action Plan

Strategy/Activity	INSTITUTION(S)		2005				2006				2007	Results	Technical Needs
	Lead	Support	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1		
Leveraging resources for livelihood alternatives for targeted SZVs													
Identify and contact relevant NGOs, GOs, and CBOs for activities such as NTFP domestication, animal husbandry, microcredit, and to establish tree nurseries	PAPWG	SPACE CRNP CRSFC										Preliminary agreements for technical assistance and cost sharing	
Coordinate with SPACE SAN (& ICRAF) to assess opportunities for NTFP domestication in targeted communities	PAPWG	SPACE CRNP CRSFC											
Assess community needs based on resource analysis (see above)	PAPWG	SPACE CRNP CRSFC											
Information sharing and management													
Develop regular "visitation" schedules and post in communities	CRNP CRSFC	SPACE										PA/CRSFC bulletin board or public notice	
Conflict Category: Timber harvest regulation compliance: Geographic focus: All areas of the CRSFC													
Policy analysis													
Write TOR STPG/chain of custody compliance evaluation and recruit independent evaluator to carry it out in consultation with FMCs and UFS	CRSFC	SPACE										Identification of gaps in accountability and recommendations for strengthening STPG	External evaluator (chain of custody specialist)
Study status of draft forestry law and make recommendations for actions to advocate for passage	PAPWG	CRSFC										Actions identified to "lobby" for passage of new forestry law	Legal expert

PAPWG Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management Action Plan

Strategy/Activity	INSTITUTION(S)		2005				2006				2007	Results	Technical Needs	
	Lead	Support	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1			
Develop dispute resolution mechanisms														
In inter-institutional conflict management working group, provide leadership and institutional coordination to the recommended actions of the STPG evaluation, and re-initiate agreement on joint tree inspection between CRSFC and CRNP field staff	PAPWG	CRSFC CRNP											MOU between PA institutions to jointly inspect trees near park boundaries; directive given to field staff	
Information sharing and management														
Formalize and institutionalize regular meetings between FMCs, UFS, and other appropriate CRSFC staff	CRSFC	PAPWG FMCs											Schedule of meetings	
Publish quarterly advisories on market value of timber; distribute to FMCs	CRSFC	PAPWG											Quarterly reports published and distributed	
Publish quarterly reports of logging operators, timber extraction, community royalties and other pertinent information; distribute to participating communities/FMCs	CRSFC	PAPWG											Quarterly report published and distributed	
Training and capacity building														
Training needs assessment and capacity building of FMCs or community-based forestry body; including reorientation to the STPG workshop, record-keeping, accountability and transparency, chain of custody administration, valuation of timber resources	CRSFC	SPACE											Increase transparency and accountability, close "shadow revenue gaps"	Forestry operation management
Identify need & leverage resources to logistically support FMCs	CRSFC	PAPWG											Improved response of FMC and UFS to forestry management	

PAPWG Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management Action Plan

Strategy/Activity	INSTITUTION(S)		2005				2006				2007	Results	Technical Needs
	Lead	Support	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1		
Rights, roles, and responsibilities awareness campaign													
Design rights, roles, and responsibilities communications strategy on logging and timber extraction; target audiences include FMCs, communities, and UFS	PAPWG	CRSFC											
Conflict Category: Human-wildlife conflict: Geographic focus: Bamba													
Policy analysis/Applied research													
Assess existing park & Afi partnership policy/procedures for addressing human-wildlife conflict; including compensation mechanisms, identify gaps, review other African experiences, & make recommendations	CRNP CRSFC	SPACE										Policy recommendations	
Develop dispute resolution mechanism													
Meet with affected communities and institutions to develop human-wildlife conflict grievance procedures	CRNP CRSFC	SPACE										Draft procedure for reporting and responding to human-wildlife conflict	Meet with affected communities and institutions to develop human-wildlife conflict grievance procedures
Formalize dispute resolution procedure in CRNP and Afi partnership management	CRNP CRSFC	SPACE										Policy and procedure in place	Formalize dispute resolution procedure in CRNP and Afi partnership management

PAPWG Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management Action Plan

Strategy/Activity	INSTITUTION(S)		2005				2006				2007	Results	Technical Needs	
	Lead	Support	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1			
Rights, roles, and responsibilities campaign														
Develop and implement campaign on preventing/deterring wildlife; communicating grievance process	CRNP CRSFC	PAPWG Afi partnership											Educational materials developed and disseminated	Communications specialist
Training/Capacity building														
Include land use planning for wildlife management in SPACE CBNRM component													Inclusion of human-wildlife conflict in SPACE land use planning with appropriate communities	
Train park staff and farmers on elephant and primate deterrence methodologies; vigilance, passive, and active methods													Training workshops in communities	Human-wildlife conflicts mgmt specialist
Establish & train community "pararangers" to monitor problem wildlife and effectiveness of deterrents													Four para-biologists trained per community	Monitoring plan and tools
Conflict Category: Enclaves: Mpot as a focus area														
Policy analysis/Applied research														
Study park decree and clarify policy on enclave communities	CRNP	SPACE PAPWG TOCS											Position paper develop with policy options defined	
Carry out study on enclaves—demography, resource use issues (inventing options for management, including case studies of other enclaves and how they are managed)	Enclave Working Group	SPACE PAPWG TOCS											Enclave "profile" with management recommendations	Neutral researcher(s)

PAPWG Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management Action Plan

Strategy/Activity	INSTITUTION(S)		2005				2006				2007	Results	Technical Needs	
	Lead	Support	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1			
Develop dispute resolution mechanism														
Formation of enclaves conflict management working group with institutions and community representation	TOCS CRNP	SPACE PAPWG											Working group established devoted to resolving enclave issues	Facilitator/mediator
Enclave working group work plan developed	Enclave working group	SPACE PAPWG											Work plan and MOU between members	
Training and capacity building														
Assess training needs for alternative livelihoods options	Enclave working group												Training objectives and curriculum	Needs assessment
Facilitate training of identified groups on selected alternative livelihood systems	Enclave working group	SPACE PAPWG											Training program initiated	Technical assistance providers
Leveraging resources														
Identify relevant/potential partner institutions to support alternative livelihoods in enclaves (e.g., TOCS)	Enclave working group												Partner technical assistance organizations organized to provide services	
Feasibility studies of identified alternative livelihoods and resettlement; cost-benefit analysis against resettlement option	Enclave working group												Financing options	
Conflict Category: Community boundaries: Geographic focus: SPACE communities														
Dispute resolution mechanisms														
Carry out series of community meetings to identify problematic areas, convene stakeholders, and negotiate agreements	SPACE	CRSFC FMC											Recommendations for dispute resolution mechanism	Mediator/facilitator
Rights, roles, and responsibilities campaign														
Develop maps of boundary and land use agreements	SPACE													

PAPWG Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management Action Plan

Strategy/Activity	INSTITUTION(S)		2005				2006				2007	Results	Technical Needs
	Lead	Support	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1		
Publicize agreement on boundary dispute	SPACE												
Leveraging resources													
Integrate community boundaries dispute resolution in SPACE CBRNM and CLUP work plan	PAPWG	SPACE											

ANNEX E: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PLAN

Type	Nationality	Estimated LOE (days)	Responsible	Description
Legal Expert	Nigerian	10	SPACE	STPG Review and recommendations Policy analysis, recommendation for benefit sharing
Legal or a Forestry Expert	Nigerian	15	SPACE	Policy Analysis and recommendations on options for enclaves
Conflict Management and Facilitation Trainer (2)	Expatriate	24	SPACE	Design and modeling of CMM Workshop for field and management staff of PA institutions, NGOs, SPACE and partners
	Nigerian	12	SPACE	Training on conflict management and mitigation applications and practical approaches
NTFP Specialist	Expatriate	25	TBD (Funding not available from SPACE)	Analysis on NTFP extraction rate and sustainable yield on community lands and NTFP valuation
Land Surveyor	Nigerian	15	Min of Lands(Funding available from SPACE)	Survey of PA boundaries in Bumaji, Bashu and related Oban sites
Forestry Chain of Custody/Organizational Development Specialist	Expatriate	15	Forestry Commission (Limited field support funds may be available from SPACE)	Assess FMC administrative, accounting and compliance systems. Provide organizational development/forestry enterprise training to targeted FMCs
Communication Specialist	Nigerian	30	SPACE	Develop communication tools for access, boundary alignment, human-wildlife conflicts, etc.
Human-Wildlife Management Specialist	Nigerian	15	CRNP(Funding available from SPACE)	Conduct wildlife deterrence and vigilance trainings in targeted communities

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