



# Kudu-Zombo News



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## Sea turtle conservation : **Campo-Ma'an commits itself**



*... beautiful, but so vulnerable !*





*Janet E Garvey witnessing the liberation of young sea turtles*

## US AMBASSADOR VISITS CAMPO-MA'AN

US ambassador to Cameroon Janet E Garvey has pledged the support of her embassy for the promotion of ecotourism initiatives and conservation activities in and around the Campo-Ma'an National Park.

The US diplomat who was speaking in Campo on January 11, 2008 after a two-day field trip to the region said there was a possibility for her to find funding support for some of the technical needs of the park guides. She described as remarkable the work being done by

both WWF and the park staff to save nature. "Having seen some of the challenges with my own eyes, I am even more impressed with your efforts". She further said.

During her stay in Campo, Janet E Garvey who was accompanied by WWF Cameroon Technical Director Dr Martin Tchamba visited the Campo-Ma'an National Park, the Dipika Island and three local communities involved in ecotourism activities. She was impressed not only with huge ecotourism potential of the area but

also with the efforts being made by the local communities and International organizations such WWF to promote ecotourism as a way of improving people's livelihood.

The visiting US official was also briefed on efforts being made to conserve nesting sea turtles which visit the Campo-Ma'an coast line. She was later witness to the liberation of about twenty little sea turtles which were rescued from wandering dogs' attacks by the villagers.





## SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION IN CAMPO-MA'AN

# MORE THAN FIFTY NESTING SEA TURTLES FREED SINCE NOVEMBER



**M**ore than 50 sea turtles which accidentally felt in the fishermen's nets while heading to the Campo-Ma'an coastline to lay their eggs have been released since the 2008 nesting season began in October 2007. The release of the sea turtles is the result of a partnership being built between the local administration, the fishermen, eco guards and organizations such as WWF within the framework of a sea turtle monitoring programme currently being implemented in the area.

Although they have been well sensitized to the need to protect sea turtles, the fishermen complain that the animals, some of which weigh about 300 kilogram's, often destroy their hard earned nets. According to them, a compensation mechanism for nets destruction by the turtles should be put in place.

For the moment WWF and the conservation service which are implementing the sea turtle monitoring programme, are working on a system of compensation whereby the fishermen whose nets have been destroyed by the sea turtles receive some financial or material support.

Désiré Foguekem who is in charge of bio-monitoring in The WWF Kudu-Zombo Programme in Campo says the ideal situation will be to have a permanent fund that will not only serve in compensating fishermen for nets destruction, but will also be used to support sea turtle conservation programmes.





# LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN CAMPO-MA'AN JOIN IN SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION EFFORTS.

**L**ocal communities living along the Campo - Ma'an coastline have committed themselves to sea turtle conservation by creating two local associations to protect sea turtles through monitoring, sensitization and environmental education activities. One of these associations named Djobo Ja Kudu " Save sea turtles" is located in Campo town, and the other named Kud'Atube is located at Ebodje village.

Members of the associations are eco guards and youths who have volunteered to carry out night patrols to save sea turtles from poachers and other threats. "We at Ebodje have long understood the need to protect sea turtles not only because they are an endangered species but also because we need them to attract tourists". said Toby Mediko, one of the members of the Ebodje sea turtle monitoring project.

The project which provides opportunities for sea turtle watch, works closely with GIC EBOTOUR, a local common initiative group involved in ecotourism activities. The tourists, with the help of the project guides can observe sea turtles nesting during the corresponding nesting season (October to April each year). The project has also set up a system of patronage which allows compensation for a fisherman's net destruction by sea turtles incidentally caught. In exchange for an amount of money given to the fishermen for a sea turtle to be released in its natural habitat, a tourist who is the patron receives a certificate. This measure has proven to be an efficient economic alternative, to the sale and consumption of sea turtles. With the revenues derived from ecotourism activities, the project has been able to support primary schools and also contributed to the construction of the women's house





# CAMPO-MA'AN WOMEN COMMIT THEMSELVES TO SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**M**ore than one hundred leaders of women's association in the Campo-Ma'an region, grouped under the umbrella of the platform for the model forest initiative, have expressed their determination to join in efforts to ensure a sustainable use of natural resources in their region. The women

They also intend to continue to work closely with WWF and other conservation and development organizations to find funding support for small scale development projects which have been initiated to improve the living conditions of the rural people. The WWF Kudu-Zombo Programme which assisted the women



took the commitment in Kribi on January 09, 2008 during their first ever general assembly which focused on the platform internal regulations and the plan of action for the next five years. According the platform leaders, one of their main priorities will be to lobby for institutional reforms in order to ease the women' access to natural resources notably the non timber forest products on which most of the rural populations depend for survival.

in organizing the meeting stressed the important role women play in natural resources management as the primary users of these resources.

The Campo-Ma'an women platform for the model forest initiative aims to contribute to livelihood improvement in the region through a sustainable use of natural resources, and good governance .



## THE FIRST EVER SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF THE CAMPO-MA'AN NATIONAL PARK HOLDS



The WWF office in Campo hosted on December 04, 2007 the deliberations of the first ever scientific and technical committee of the Campo-Ma'an National Park.

Chaired by the Secretary General of the Cameroon Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation, Maurice Doubé, the meeting focused on ways of improving research activities in and around the Campo-Ma'an National Park. After a thorough assessment of research activities in the region, the committee members observed that although much has been done

in the domain, there is a need to redefine research priorities with focus on the issues of species and plant conservation, protected area management, the sustainable management of natural resources and livelihood improvement. The committee also emphasized the fact that strategic partnerships with national and international research institutions are essential in promoting research activities in the Campo-Ma'an National Park and its periphery. The members therefore committed themselves to exploring all possible opportunities and

useful partnership that could help boost research in the region. The presiding official Dr Maurice Doubé urged WWF and other international organizations to continue to support the Cameroon government in its efforts to ensure a sustainable management of natural resources for the benefit of its people. After the Scientific and Technical Committee, the next challenge will be to organize the management committee which is a larger forum which brings together the local communities and other major stakeholders in the park's management.