



**Community Outreach Programme  
February Monthly Report**

<b>TCOP Team</b>	<b>Rosa Garriga, Lauren Masey, David Momoh, Yirah Koroma, Joseph Marah, Ethel Sillah and Konkofa Marah</b>
<b>Areas of Operation</b>	<b>Moyamba District, Pujehun District, Western Area Peninsula-Regent/Bathurst</b>

**TCOP UPDATE**

- **Site Assessment:** The Outreach Team went out to Pujehun District this month to perform an initial survey as part of a larger project to identify if this particular site (70km<sup>2</sup>) is viable for a community conservation project. We have conducted 41 semi-structured interviews to farmers in 9 different villages as well as 9 reconnaissance walks in the community forests near those villages. The team found both evidences of chimpanzees and the endangered pygmy hippo! Two key forest areas have been identified that require further research: Waima forest and Lower Tiwai Island.
- **Camera Trap Research:** The team retrieved the cameras this month from one of our newer project sites and confirmed the presence of chimpanzees in both forest patches, about a group of 6 in each. We also discovered the clawless otter, Maxwell dukiers, brushtail porcupines, campbells monkey, civet cats, and sooty managbeys showing that this area, though small, is a suitable place for diverse habitats. The team also spent time with communities planning out their livelihood projects that will begin in late March/April. The communities are equipped with technical knowledge over their project as well as other skills such as record keeping and managing income and profits to ensure for a successful launch of the projects.
- **Tacugama Football Club:** Tacugama Football Club has been re-launched, after closing under the Ebola curfews. Tacugama is supporting two teams, youths ages 18-21 and 14-15. Tacugama is excited to use this culturally significant forum to sensitize youths about conservation and the protection of chimpanzees. The teams will act as ambassadors on behalf of Tacugama and will be involved in community projects, such as community clean-ups and tree planting. The team will be actively fundraising around Freetown through volunteering to raise money for the project!
- **Tacugama Kids Environmental Education Programme (TKEEP):** TKEEP urban has partnered with an elementary school in Denmark in a pen pal programme! One of the students from Denmark attended the school this month and was involved in TKEEP, bringing the students letters from his own classroom. The classes will exchange letters and pictures once a month, discussing different topics about wildlife and their natural environment. The students continue to be a part of fun lessons covering habitats and ecosystems and environment and pollution. Students played fun games displaying all the earth's main elements. Schools are preparing for the upcoming Environmental Days at the end of term where they'll be involved in tree planting, song and dance, school clean-ups, football matches and community clean-ups.
- **WAPNP Patrol Operations:** Tacugama's intensified patrol seems to be effective. After the retrieval of the wood bundles from last month during the training, no extensive human disturbance has been reported. We have however, been experiencing small forest fires, as now is the season for them to begin. We've been able to create small fire breaks around the fires and successfully keep them under control. Tacugama will be making new trails this month to continue expansion.
- **Partnerships and Collaboration:** The Outreach Team played a role in the recent Community-Based Forestry (CBF) workshop held by MAFFS. The workshop aimed at the revision of the 2010 Forestry Bill to incorporate its new strategy of community-based forestry approach to forest management. Fortunately, our team had a lot of experience and lessons learned to bring the table to advise on the revision of the concept note and bill. Tacugama is part of a small working group with other key national stakeholders to guide the development of CBF. Additionally, Tacugama has partnered with the District Forestry Officer, who came to monitor the general effectiveness of the project. We look forward to continuing this relationship.
- **Social Media:** The Outreach Team has been busy blogging and updating the Tacugama website in our 'News' section. Follow what we've been doing at [tacugama/news.com](http://tacugama/news.com).
- **Fundraising:** If you'd like to support any of our projects or initiatives, please contact Lauren Masey at [cm@tacugama.com](mailto:cm@tacugama.com). We're still seeking funding for our school in Moseilelo, for our Football Clubs in Regent, Freetown, and for a vehicle to help us safely drive upline!



Outreach Team and Forest Guides in lowland forest in Waima-Kanbama Axis, Pujehun District.



The Outreach Team found many signs of chimpanzees including nests during their trip to Pujehun. This nest was found at a height of 35 meters!



Nyandehun Community planning their project implementation of fishing nets as an improved forest management initiative.



The team found many evidences of the endangered pygmy hippo, such as this footprint, in Pujehun District.



Mikkel, representing his school from Denmark for the penpal project and getting to know the TKEEP students.



A deforested mangrove habitat due to fish smoking. One of our communities, Sorbengi, solely relies on fishing and is experiencing conflict with the manatee as well as the effects of unsustainable use of mangroves. TCOP has begun to incorporate them into their conservation programmes to address some of these problems.

## Activity Summary

Meetings	
Organization / Gov't / Individual	Purpose of Meeting
INGO Meeting	Cocoa and Coffee by WHH; All along the value chain
MAFFS / FAO Workshop	Community Based Forestry Workshop

Sensitization			
Date	Place	Activity	Participants
09-10/02	Yelleh, Mokombo, Mai, Moyamba	District Forest Officer Monitoring: Project Management for Tree nurseries and woodlots	30 men; 10 women
06/02	Moiteh, Molaga, Bumpekandoh, Moyamba	Livelihood Project Management	27 men; 18 women
07/02	Motaso, Moyamba	Introduction to TCOP	5 men; 2 women
07/02	Moseilelo, Mokango, Mokebi, Moyamba	Livelihood Project Management	35 men; 22 women
08/02	Bissawo, Talia, Nyandehun, Moyamba	Livelihood Project Management	24 men; 23 women
16/02	Yelleh Axis, Moyamba	Camera Trap Sensitization	30+ adults
16/02	Mokombo, Moyamba	Livelihood Project Management	34+adults
17/02	Sorbengi, Moyamba	Manatee and chimpanzee conservation	30+ adults
23/02	Waima, Pujehun	Introduction to TCOP, research	84 adults
24/02	Nongowa, Pujehun	Introduction to TCOP, research	30+ adults
24/02	Gbellah, Pujehun	Introduction to TCOP, research	2 adults
26/02	Kambama, Pujehun	Introduction to TCOP, research	29 adults
1-2/02	Logos Experimental, Saio Elementary, Children in Crisis, Abigail Butcher	Lesson 1: Introduction to TKEEP	140 students; 7 Teachers
29-1/02	Regent / Bathurst, Freetown	Introduction of Tacugama Football Club	46 male youths
		<b>Total</b>	<b>488 adults/ 140 students</b>

Western Area Peninsula National Park Patrol		
18/2/2016	Patrol Guard Training	GPS: Navigating to existing waypoints
20/2/2016	Patrol / Outreach Training	GPS: Downloading GPS points and converting them to usable shapefiles

A little more details.....

Western Area Peninsula National Park Patrol Summary	
<b>Total Number of Patrol Tours</b>	39
<b>Evidences of Chimps</b>	
Chimp Nest sightings	6
Chimp Trails	3
<b>Evidence of Other Wildlife (trails, sighting, vocalizations):</b>	
Campbell Monkey	8
Maxwell Dukier	7
Brush tailed porcupine	1
Bush buck	6
Tree Pangolin	4
Vervet Monkey	5
<b>Evidence of Human Disturbance</b>	
Wildfires	2

**Livelihood Project Management:** After the project identification stage in communities, we work with them further to flush out their plans for how they will manage their projects. Through lessons learnt, we’ve found that alternative livelihood often dissipate for small reasons due to a lack of planning. TCOP went to the extra effort to work with communities to plan exactly who was a part of the project, where the project would take place, how benefit sharing would occur, and what items could be sourced locally. Many communities suggested that from answering a series of questions prompted by the outreach team, that they will develop community constitutions for the projects. We believe that this will allow communities to feel full ownership of the projects and increase success rates. Communities are taught how to monitor benefits so that we can achieve high quality data collection during our monitoring stage.

**District Forest Officer Monitoring:** We are very grateful to the MAFFS and the District Forestry Officer for visiting our project sites to find out more about our projects on the ground. We are also happy to have solidified this partnership, as the local office is able to offer technical support and frequent monitoring. It’s also been a good step to see the Forest Office directly liase with communities, offering encouragement in sustainable forestry management.



District Forestry Officer meeting with communities promoting the Community Conservation Project.



**Camera Trap Retrieval:** The camera trap retrieval went well and communities were able to view the photographs captured by the cameras. This gave an added visual confirmation to communities of the biodiversity living within their forests and encouraged them to continue protecting these species. Our team did further investigation into one of the communities near to our project sites, as we had heard that manatees were living near the river and in the sea. We wanted to find out more information and discovered that manatees are often found in pairs in the sea, but give birth in the river. This community relies solely on fishing as a source of income and use mangrove wood to smoke fish because of its long-burning qualities. Further, this community experiences human-wildlife conflict when the manatees destroy their fishing nets. We want to incorporate this community within our project to help them develop sustainable ways to smoke the fish to help preserve this unique habitat.



A healthy, adult female with a baby on her back caught on our camera traps!