Science informing policy and setting the stage for responsible ecotourism in the Gran Caldera Scientific Reserve, Equatorial Guinea

Dr. Katy Gonder
Bioko Biodiversity Protection Program
Why is Bioko important?

- Protected areas cover 40% of the Island
- Hotspot for species richness and endemism
- Among the most important sites globally for the conservation of:
  - Primates
  - Marine turtles
  - Forest birds

“GCSR”
Biodiversity

Supporting Services

Provisioning Services

Healthy Ecosystem

Cultural Services

Regulating Services

Ecosystem Services

Biodiversity
Why is Bioko’s biodiversity important?

**Monkeys:** High densities of seven species of endangered monkeys live in Bioko’s forests.

“Bioko Island is the single most important place in Africa for primate conservation action.”

-- IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group

**Nesting sea turtles:** Four species of sea turtles nest on the ~12 miles of Bioko’s southern beaches, including many leatherbacks and green turtles.

**Frogs:** Bioko’s deep mountain valleys and high rainfall are very conducive to frog speciation. Frogs are also very sensitive to changes in climate.
How does biodiversity create a healthy ecosystem?

1. Large numbers of healthy primate, bird, and small mammal populations
2. Able to cover a broad area for seed dispersal
3. Greater plant success and diversity
Negative Cascading Effects

Increased hunting activity in GCSR

Decreased primate populations

Decreased seed dispersal (over area and species)

Decreased biodiversity

Degradation of ecosystem services

Collapse of local communities
How does the GCSR provide cultural services?

- Abundant food resources
- The last traditional Bubi village is in the GCSR
How does the GCSR provide cultural services?

• The Bioko Biodiversity Protection Program (BBPP) employs and trains local citizens as biomonitors.
How does the GCSR provide cultural services?

• Serves as a venue to teach the public about the value of protecting their ecosystem
How does the GCSR provide cultural services?

• A focal point for collaboration for the National University of Equatorial Guinea (UNGE) to create leaders of the next generation knowledgeable in conservation.
How does the GCSR provide cultural services?

• Moka Wildlife Center
• Several annual university courses and educational outreach for school-aged children
How does the GCSR provide cultural services?

- Two seasonal camps on the GCSR beaches
- Primate censuses, monitoring of nesting turtles & other research projects
Challenges and opportunities

Beach D June 2015
Challenges and opportunities

- Ecotourism
Challenges and opportunities

• Micro-enterprising
Translating ecosystem services to improve GCSR protection

- Work with UNGE to advise the Government of Equatorial Guinea on best conservation practices
Challenges and opportunities

• Improve international engagement

• Creating new partnerships with international research and educational organizations to promote regional cooperation
A promising future

Low human population density

Steep, intact habitat

Successful academic partnership

Increasing government involvement
Guidelines for Semi-annual Reports

Grantees are required to submit reports to PCI each year by June 30th and December 31st, for the period of the award. For projects lasting longer than six months, short progress reports (2-4 pages) are due on the above dates until completion of the project. The final report should be at least 5-7 pages, but not more than 10. The following format is suggested for the final report, appropriate sections should be included in the shorter reports.

**Financial Reporting Requirements**

To protect yourself from possible tax liability and PCI from charges of misallocation of funds, you must account for all money you spend. You must provide a complete accounting of your project expenses by the end of each year (generally with the December 31 report, but may be submitted in June if your project is complete by that time). Failure to file a financial report, to provide the proper receipts or to report unused funds will disqualify the grantee and their institution from consideration for further grants from Primate Conservation, Inc.

Expenditures should be divided in the following four broad categories:

1. Travel and related expenses
2. Equipment and supplies
3. Purchased services
4. Other

All expenditures over $100 should be documented with receipts. Items within categories under that amount can be lumped together and itemized. Petrol costs can be accounted for by entries in a log book or by receipts, whichever you find more convenient. If you are in doubt how to report an expenditure, use your best judgment, or contact the Director of PCI.

**1. Brief summary of proposal as written.** Include in the final report: Project description, Methods, Post-project follow-up, Timetable, Budget, Bibliography.

**2. Statement of objectives for the past six months.**

**3. Research accomplishments (Narrative documenting progress and problems, lists of publications, popular and professional including those accepted and in press).**

**4. Training and educational accomplishments (For example student projects supervised at a distance or in the field, or university and field courses conducted).**

**5. Conservation accomplishments (List tangible results, which might include progress on species or habitat protection, legislation, publicity, fund raising, local benefits, government action, involvement of local and international agencies, improved prospects for future action).**

**6. Other accomplishments (List might include media involvement, papers presented at meetings, participation in committees, workshops).**

**7. Proposed activities over the next six months.**

**8. Problems and assistance needed.**
Acknowledgements

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Thank you