

From: Captain George Cordle, Grenadier Guards
Temporary Equerry to H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

13th February, 2003.

Dear Mr Cradick,

The Duke of Edinburgh has asked me to thank you for your letter concerning the activities of the WWF in the rainforest region of South East Cameroon.

His Royal Highness is making some enquiries into this matter and I anticipate being able to send you a fuller reply in due course.

Yours Sincerely
George Cordle

Mr. Martin Cradick

From: Captain George Cordle, Grenadier Guards
Temporary Equerry to H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

9th April, 2003

Dear Mr Cradick,

The Duke of Edinburgh has asked me to thank you for your letter dated 4th February, 2003 concerning the activities of WWF in the rainforest region of South East Cameroon.

His Royal Highness has asked Dr. Claude Martin, Director General, WWF International to respond on his behalf. I have therefore forwarded your letter to Dr. Martin and I am sure you will hear from him shortly. Meanwhile Dr. Martin would appreciate any further comments you may have after your recent visit to the South East Cameroon.

Dr. Claude Martin's address is:

WWF International,
Office of the Director General,
Avenue du Mont-Blanc,
1196, Gland,
Switzerland.

*Yours Sincerely
George Cordle*

Mr. Martin Cradick



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Mr Martin Cradick
Global Music Exchange
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United Kingdom

Gland, 9 April 2003

Dear Mr Cradick,

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh has forwarded your letter of 4 February 2003 to me and asked me to respond to your concerns.

The WWF Africa & Madagascar Programme is very concerned by these allegations and our Representative for Central Africa is looking into the specific issues raised. Meanwhile, we would like to highlight some facts about WWF's Jengi Project.

The project goals are:

- To provide support to the government of Cameroon in its efforts to conserve and manage the biological resources of the forests of the south-east through assistance in the creation of three protected areas and their management in a sub-regional context as part of the tri-national park;
- To promote the involvement of rural populations in biodiversity conservation;
- To encourage sustainable utilisation of renewable resources;
- To promote sustainability and environmentally compatible development in the regions surrounding protected areas.

Most of the community work you refer to occurs around Lobeke National Park where WWF has for many years promoted community involvement in resource management and conservation activities. The gazettment process in Lobeke was very participatory and widely seen as a model in the region. All the local communities, including the Baka pygmies, were consulted. Their concerns were taken in to account by the government and, as a result, Lobeke National Park is the first protected area in Central Africa with recognized community-use zones inside the park. These zones permit local communities, notably Baka pygmies, to hunt, fish and harvest other non-timber forest products such as bush mangoes and honey. The Baka pygmies are not denied access to their land. Indeed, as a result of the consultation process to gazette the park, the government accepted some additional traditional Baka users' rights, such as the killing of elephants during their annual Jengi festival when young Baka pygmies are ushered into the highly respectable social hierarchy.

WWF recently completed a study focusing on defining strategies for the better integration of Baka pygmy communities into community wildlife management especially decision-making processes related to benefit

President: HE Chief Emeka Anyaoku
Director General: Dr Claude Martin
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WWF-Fonds Mondial pour la Nature
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Also known as World Wildlife Fund





sharing and village-based wildlife management committees. WWF is also lobbying government authorities to ensure Baka are not excluded from any appropriate management bodies due to their failure, for cultural reasons, to meet minimum educational requirements. WWF is working with the German developmental agency, GTZ, to identify and build capacity of potential Baka leaders in order to address management roles in wildlife management structures.

The WWF Jengi project helped establish community hunting zones covering more than 180,000 ha of forest in Lobeke the park and, alongside GTZ, is helping build viable management structures to support the community hunting zones. The project helps establish collaborative conventions between sport hunters and local communities in order to secure more profits and other benefits by the communities from sport hunting. For example, in 2001, through leasing the hunting areas to sport hunters, local people obtained more than 30,000,000 FCFA in profits. This money has been invested by various communities in development projects such as schools, health supplies, community farms etc. In addition, the project is providing technical assistance to assess wildlife potentials that would be used for development of hunting zone management plans. As part of the capacity building process, the project is training local guides in basic wildlife monitoring methods. One of the hunting zones was formerly owned by a French professional hunter and, with help of the project, the government handed over this hunting area to the communities. This strongly encouraged and strengthened relations between the project and communities. WWF has also recruited 26 local people, including Bakas, as game guards; they are presently carrying out law enforcement activities.

There are many Baka pygmies working with WWF projects in the region and occupying various positions ranging from game guards to ecological monitoring field assistants. One of the Baka pygmy Field Assistant, Petit Jean, last year won the WWF International Award for Excellence. This distinguished honour is a clear testimony and acknowledgement of the contributions of individuals working for WWF in the region.

WWF continues to strive to work with representatives of all local communities – youth, men, women, Bantu and Baka – to find mutually beneficial ways of sustainably managing natural resources for future generations. WWF Projects in the region will continue to work towards improving upon existing management systems, especially those targeting the participation of grass roots and minority groups in natural resource management. We are confident of full and active participation by ethnic groups especially given the achievements so far in the creation of community wildlife territories and enhancing benefit sharing schemes.

I trust the above responds to the issues you have raised, and I would appreciate any further comments you may have after your recent visit to South East Cameroon.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Claude Martin
Director General



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Mr Martin Cradick
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Gland, 15 July 2003

Dear Mr Cradick,

Thank you for your letter of 20 May 2003.

We were concerned to hear of your experiences with the village chief and the forest rangers during your last visit to Cameroon. It is clear there is still much work to be done to discourage the inherent antagonism apparent between local communities. However, we would like to assure you that WWF is trying hard to integrate all ethnic communities, including the Baka, into park planning and community forest management. We will follow up with our team in Cameroon and continue to look at ways to achieve that goal.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Claude Martin
Director General

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Director General: Dr Claude Martin
President Emeritus:
HRH The Duke of Edinburgh
Founder President:
HRH Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands

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