



Status of Forest Carbon in Cross River State

The Journey so far



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Chairman

Cross River State Forestry Commission, Nigeria

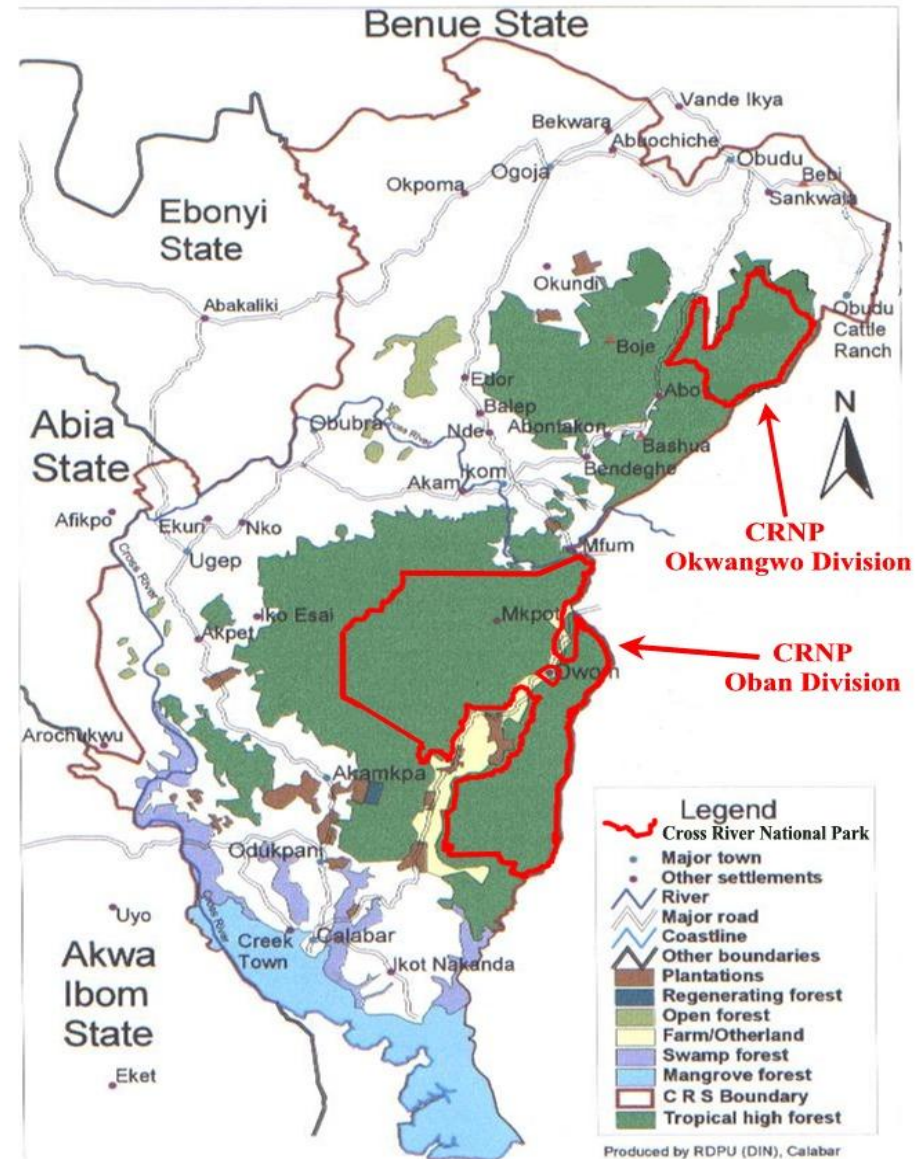
Nigeria: our forest , our biodiversity

- Nigeria has unique forests with endemic species found nowhere else on earth
- but 90 percent of Nigeria's rainforests has been lost.
- Over 50% of Nigeria's remaining Tropical High Forest is in Cross River State.



Cross River State

- This is part of the “Gulf of Guinea” which starts east of Cross River and a global biodiversity hotspot.
- 75% of Nigeria’s endangered tree species are only found in Cross River State



Our Rich Fauna

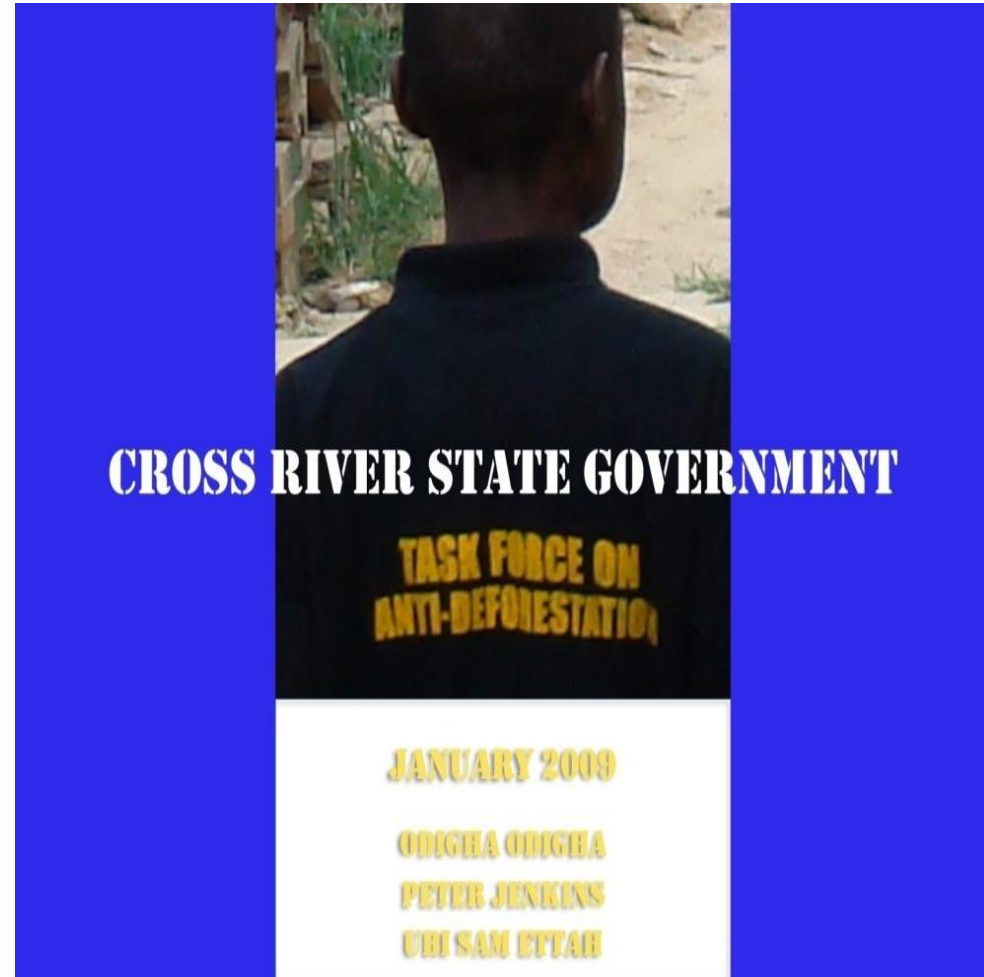
- We have 22 primate species including endemics like Cross River Gorilla, Drills and Preuss Guenon monkeys
- The studies of birds, butterflies, plants, reptiles and amphibians indicates similar high levels of richness



How We Have Responded

Our political Will

- Held a Stakeholders Summit on the Environment in June 2008
- Put in place a two year logging moratorium
- Established and supported the anti-logging task force. To date about a million US dollars has been Committed to this cause.
- Far reaching reforms in the Cross River State Forestry Commission



Goal of the Working Committee on REDD

- Conduct federal /state legal and institutional review for REDD initiatives
- Catalyze federal level engagement on REDD Readiness process with international institutions
- Build technical capacity and community engagement



REDD; steps taken so far as led by CRS

- Preliminary Scooping studies of forest site for a REDD pilot: Tunde Morakinyo and John Mason investigated PES potential of CRS. Early impressions indicate the PES potential of the state to be considerable.
- The Katoomba meeting 2009: The state Governor's presentation opened up opportunities for Nigeria to make application to the UN-REDD and the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF).
- Establishment of the Climate change unit
- John Mason & Yadvinder Malhi carried out identification of baseline and methodological approaches for carbon stock estimation at 3 pilot sites

ACHIEVEMENTS RECORDED BY CROSS RIVER STATE AT COP15

- Formal admittance of H.E into the Governor's Climate and Forest Task Force on 15th Dec, 2009
- Attendance at the Avoided Deforestation Partners Forum



Current Situation

1. Nigeria's application to UN-REDD and World Bank Forest Carbon and Partnership Facility (FCPF)

- Nigeria given the Observer's status at the UN-REDD and attended the 4th Advisory board meeting held in Nairobi, March 2010. CRS attended as the managers of the pilot along with the national focal person on REDD and the UNDP officer from Abuja Office. National working group set to design a REDD Readiness programme for Nigeria.
- Nigeria also approached World Bank for membership into the FCPF. We have been granted Observer status and Nigeria was also invited to the partnership meeting of FCPF in Gabon March 2010. The national focal person represented the country.
- .The State forest carbon team operate from the forestry commission

2. National organization for REDD Readiness

National REDD Steering Committee → representatives from Government (3 level of Govt), private sector, civil society, research community.

We are here to talk about this.

CROSS RIVER STATE'S VISION

- Within 10 years, Cross River State will have 1 million hectares of forest lands managed for climate change friendly activities
- These will include carbon, non-timber forest products, sustainable tree crops and ecotourism
- This could potentially generate new economic value into the state.

Our Strengths

- high degree of political support and leadership
- Significant high carbon habitat and rich biodiversity
- Valuable community forestry examples
- Significant NTFP potential and tree crop farming
- Ecotourism potential
- Large potential client base for purchase of future credits

Our Challenges

- Low REDD/PES awareness at federal, state and site levels,
- Low institutional capacity at all levels
- No federal or state level REDD carbon framework/legislation
- Uncertainty around land tenure and carbon rights
- Low budgets to environment at federal and state levels
- Significant gaps in sustainable NTFP harvesting and marketing plans

Thank you!!!

- We would like to ask for partnership with you on this journey that we are committed to travelling.
- You will have all the political support you require to help us achieve our vision for a carbon friendly future.

