

RESOLUTIONS OF STAKEHOLDER MEETING OF 16/01/2020 ON CHIMPANZEE CONSERVATION IN AKO-MBEMBE FOREST RESERVE - AKO

We, traditional rulers, religious authorities, municipal councilors, union/CIG leaders, hunters, farmers, bee farmers, etc. from the adjacent communities of the Ako-Mbembe Forest Reserve, participants at a stakeholder meeting organized by CIRMAD at the MBECUDA Hall, Ako Town, on Thursday, 16th January 2020 on chimpanzee conservation in the Ako-Mbembe Forest Reserve; resolve as follows:

1. That the chimpanzee populations of Ako-Mbembe Forest Reserve under threat, being hunted and sold across the Nigerian border, and the illegal logging of Rosewood (Madrid wood); deserves greater conservation attention.
2. That the Ako Forestry and Wildlife Post with just the Chief of Post be better staffed equipped, especially with sports motorcycles.
3. That the Ako Council deserves praise for considering the Forest Reserve and the Forestry/Wildlife Post in its 2019 plan of activities; and because their implementation last year was seriously frustrated by the Anglophone crisis, urges it to bring them forward for effective execution this year 2020, as calm returns to the Municipality.
4. Lauds and encourages CIRMAD the NGO for its commitment to the conservation of Ako-Mbembe Forest Reserve as chimpanzee habitat.
5. Lauds CIRMAD for training and empowering CIGs and individuals for bee keeping as alternative IGA around the Forest Reserve.
6. Encourages those trained and empowered by CIRMAD on beekeeping, and are active in the field despite the crisis, to keep up with the conservation friendly livelihood activity.
7. Encourages CIRMAD and its partners to continue and increase the empowerment of the serious ones of the trained bee farmers.
8. Encourages CIRMAD to work closely with the Ako Council for the protection and possible upgrading of the status of Ako-Mbembe Forest, preferably to a National Park.
9. Recognizes the need to create or revamp Village Forest management Committees (VFMC) for better community participation in the management of the Forest Reserve.
10. Urges CIRMAD to pursue its plan of enlisting and training of Forest Vigilantes to support forest protection under the Chief of Post.
11. Recognizes the need for the creation of a Cooperative Union of the CIGs in the adjacent communities of the Forest Reserve involved in NTFPs, especially for bee farming.
12. Urges the government to work with the Nigerian Forestry Service across the border in Taraba State to curb the excessive illegal trans-border logging of the Rosewood (Madrid wood) from the Ako-Mbembe Forest Reserve.
13. Calls on the government not only to halt the planned creation of a Forest Management Unit (FMU 11-010) across the Ako-Mbembe Forest Reserve for commercial timber exploitation, but to raise the Forest Reserve and chimpanzee habitat to a National Park.

(Find attached the signed **ADVOCACY AGAINST THE CREATION OF FOREST EXPLOITATION/MANAGEMENT UNIT (FMU 11-010) OVER AKO-MBEMBE FOREST RESERVE – BY LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS**)