

Project Update: June 2013

The Mobile Conservation Education Van is a new innovation and strategy that the project team has introduced. It combines all the elements of a good learning experience; it's fun, educational and interactive, and above all, it is a welcome change from the daily routine of classroom like instruction and lecture. It involves the screening of video documentary on conservation to school children and communities after which there are discussion sessions on the documentary to illicit the participants views and understanding, while they get opportunity to also ask questions which are also discussed and answered by the anybody including the project team members. As part of the project, video equipment has been acquired and two video documentaries of 15 minutes each have also been produced for the awareness program. The documentaries were produced locally with technical some support from some volunteers from Germany.

The documentaries basically show some negative human practices on the environment – such as cutting down trees for firewood and charcoal, setting the bush on fire to trap rodents' etc. What the communities and individuals including children can do to protect the environment and the subsequent benefits to expect. Two more documentaries will be produced in the coming 2 months on other aspects of conservation specifically on sustainable farming practices, protection of water bodies, poaching and alternative livelihood options to minimize over dependence on the forest.

Three schools have so far benefited from the mobile conservation education video programme. Since the schools will soon be on break, the programme will focus on the schools till the end of July 2013. From August the communities will have their turn every fortnight.

At Likpe Mate, a single session was held for the two groups of pupils from two schools. After watching the documentary which lasted for 15 minutes, a discussion session was facilitated by a member of the project team - Edem Blaise. During the session, the facilitator introduced the rest of the team members and some executive members of the Green Clubs in the schools and acknowledged the presences of some school authorities.

During the discussion session the pupils participated fully which showed their understanding of the issues and requested regular programs in their school. The discussions were centered mostly on the documentary and in the school pupils were asked in the end what lessons they have learnt and will want to develop into actions. The following are what the pupils want to see happen and/or developed in actions:

- ✓ School pupils adopt positive environmental practices to serve as role models in their communities and schools.
- ✓ School environmental taskforce established to educate and check negative environmental practices among school pupils
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- ✓ School Green clubs members to intensify class to class peer education on the negative effects littering and indiscriminate killing of birds and other small animals for food.

Two more Green Clubs were inaugurated for the R.C. and E.P. Primary School respectively.

