

Forest Peoples Project



Annual Report
2003

Forest Peoples Project

The Forest Peoples Project was established on 29 October 1999 as a company limited by guarantee to become the UK-registered charitable arm of the Forest Peoples Programme. The Forest Peoples Project was registered as a UK Charity in August 2000.

Aims and activities

Our aims are to support indigenous and tribal forest peoples to:

- ⑥ promote their collective and individual rights;
- ⑥ secure their lands and manage their natural resources;
- ⑥ carry out sustainable community development;
- ⑥ educate policy makers, agencies and civil society about their concerns and aspirations.

We work to achieve these aims by means of :

- ⑥ technical support, capacity building and policy advice for forest peoples;
- ⑥ networking with NGOs, indigenous support organisations and agencies;
- ⑥ researching and analysing the situation of forest peoples;
- ⑥ providing information on forest peoples.

The Board and Staff

Our board :	Area of expertise:
Saskia Ozinga (Chair)	Aid, trade and environment
Nicholas Hildyard (Treasurer)	Environment and development policy
Carolyn Marr (Member)	Indonesian peoples, forests and environment
Tricia Feeney (Member)	Development policy
Albert Kwokwo Barume (Member)	Human rights lawyer

Our staff:	
Marcus Colchester	Director
Dorothy Jackson	Africa Coordinator
John Nelson	Policy Advisor
Louise Henson	Senior Administrator
Lucy Mulvagh	Project Officer
Lindsay Hossack	Administrator
Julie Manning	Administrator
Penninah Zaninka	Uganda field worker
Bemond Tchoumba	Cameroon project coordinator

Photo credits:

Dorothy Jackson: page 4, 5, 6 top left, 7 bottom right; Kalimba Zephyrin, CAURWA: page 10; John Nelson: cover, page 8, 9 ; Christoph Renzaho, Pottery Project: page 6 bottom left, bottom right; Penninah Zaninka: page 7 top right.

Editing, design and production: Dorothy Jackson

Overview of the year

Our overall long-term goal is improved social, economic and environmental living conditions for indigenous and tribal forest peoples. We aim to contribute towards this goal by helping forest peoples gain control over their futures through defending their own rights, developing sustainable livelihood skills, engaging with policy makers and strengthening their capacity. Closely linked to this is our work to influence the forest debate with the aim that forests are protected for sustainable use by people with secure rights. Our work therefore adopts a rights-based approach with strong advocacy and capacity building components. The three main strands of our work (which overlap with each other) are promoting indigenous peoples rights and sustainable livelihoods; supporting indigenous peoples to influence policy and practice affecting them; and networking, information and support to local communities facing external threats.

⑥ Our project promoting sustainable livelihoods, education and advocacy with the marginalised indigenous Twa people of Rwanda made important progress in defending the rights of Twa people. 2,109 Twa people benefited directly from community development activities, increasing their food security and incomes, 61 secondary school children were supported and over 300 Twa gained literacy skills.

PROMOTING COMMUNITY-OWNED DEVELOPMENT

⑥ Working with the Twa to commercialise Twa pottery we trained 14 potters groups (292 potters) in business development and improved technology. We opened a new sales outlet and doubled sales, thereby increasing potters' incomes significantly.

⑥ We supported Bagyeli communities affected by the Chad-Cameroon oil pipeline to produce the first set of Bagyeli land-use maps and claim basic citizenship rights as well as calling on agencies involved in the pipeline project to fulfil their commitments to the Bagyeli. Discussions over land rights for these communities are now underway with government and customary authorities.

SUPPORTING LAND CLAIMS

⑥ We supported the Amerindian Peoples Association of Guyana to compile a map showing the extent of Amerindian land claims made to date, and their overlap with all existing mining and logging concessions and proposed protected areas.

⑥ We sent a geomatics expert to work with the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, and the Evenki organisation ARUN from Evenkiisky Autonomous Region, Russia, to train them in how to carry out a Territorial Mapping project of Indigenous Peoples' Lands in Siberia.

⑥ Twa excluded from the Mgahinga and Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Parks in south-west Uganda held meetings to discuss the impacts of the National Parks on their livelihoods, and their human rights, and met with government, development and conservation agencies to press for action on land and alternative livelihoods.

ENABLING CONSULTATIONS WITH AGENCIES

⑥ Our project on Parks and Peoples in Africa continued to support dialogue between indigenous communities and conservation authorities in seven countries, leading to practical changes to conservation practice in the field. We produced a CD of indigenous testimonies and a book, which were widely distributed.

FOSTERING PRACTICAL CHANGES

Batwa people in Rwanda: Sustainable livelihoods and community development

A COUNTRY WITHOUT EXCLUSION AND DISCRIMINATION, WHERE THERE IS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EQUALITY AND RESPECT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS.

CAURWA's vision.

This five-year project works with our Twa partner CAURWA (Communauté des Autochtones Rwandais) to decrease the marginalisation and poverty of the Twa, the indigenous people of Rwanda.

The programme integrates human rights and advocacy work, education and income-generating activities. It is funded mainly by Comic Relief, with co-funding from Trócaire, the EU, Act!onAid, MRG and the British Embassy in Kigali.

FPP is helping CAURWA to build its capacity to represent the Twa, advocate for their rights and provide effective development support for Twa communities. This work involves training and coaching in managing and implementing the programme of work, organisational management and development, training on human rights and advocacy and supporting CAURWA's work in regional and international indigenous rights processes.

Advocacy and human rights

CAURWA tracked several key civil and political developments in Rwanda. In the run-up to the presidential elections CAURWA encouraged Twa to register for voting, and sent a widely publicised open letter to the four presidential candidates, asking them to take account of Twa concerns if they got elected.

Animators and antennes at one of CAURWA's advocacy and human rights training workshops.

During consultations on the new Rwandan land law, CAURWA lobbied the government to enact special measures to counter Twa landlessness, secure Twa potters' access to marshland clay deposits, involve Twa in management of the National Parks from which they were evicted and address the severe housing crisis of the Twa.

CAURWA provided legal support to 16 Twa communities whose land had been expropriated by neighbours or by local authorities. As a result of CAURWA's information campaign on new inheritance laws protecting women's property rights, 39 Twa couples have so far registered their marriages in order to benefit from these provisions.

With FPP support, CAURWA carried out research and analysis for a 'shadow report' on the situation of Twa children to be submitted to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2004.

CAURWA expanded its network of *antennes* (community volunteers) to cover all the 12 provinces. The *antennes* increase communication between Twa communities, local authorities, and CAURWA, and raise community awareness about rights and national policy issues.

With technical support from FPP, and in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, CAURWA carried out a nationwide survey of Twa communities. The results, to be published in 2004, will provide the first comprehensive assessment of the socio-economic situation of the Twa that will help orientate government and NGO interventions in favour of the Twa.

CAURWA participated at 10 international meetings on biodiversity conservation, forests and indigenous peoples, continuing to press African governments to recognise indigenous rights. The Director is an indigenous expert member of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights Working Group on Indigenous People/Communities which has now agreed formal processes to deal with indigenous rights issues in Africa. CAURWA continued to strengthen contacts with Twa organisations in neighbouring countries.



Sustainable livelihoods

CAURWA's income generating work is vital to alleviate Twa communities' poverty, and their painstaking work with local communities has increased the Twa's confidence in their own abilities and helped defuse some of the social tensions that are still quite prevalent in these very stressed and impoverished communities. During 2003 CAURWA worked with 104 Twa cooperative associations in six provinces (10,545 beneficiaries), and provided training in management of associations, agriculture, animal production and health, and distributed seeds, fertiliser, pesticides and tools. Following a request from a Twa community, construction started on 25 houses. CAURWA negotiated with the District to obtain an additional plot of land, where this community also had access to marsh land for cultivation.

Food security in all the target communities continues to increase. Cash generated from sales of harvests or small ruminants has been used to open bank accounts and invested in improving and building housing, buying additional livestock, paying for schooling costs, and joining local health insurance schemes to get subsidised health care for their families. Groups have also obtained credit from local credit & savings associations.



expanded its literacy programme to 12 communities and continues to be a leading practitioner of the REFLECT literacy method in Rwanda. By the end of 2003, the number of adult learners had increased by 123% compared with the previous year, of whom 38% could read newspapers and booklets, and write. Having experienced the benefits of literacy, the learners are much keener on sending their children to school.



Potatoes, cabbages and pigs: CAURWA's support to rural Twa communities has increased food security.

Education and literacy

CAURWA's national socio-economic survey showed that the Twa's level of education is very low compared with the national population. The Twa's lack of literacy and education severely limits their confidence to take up public positions and be accepted as leaders in the wider community. However, more Twa families are sending their children to primary school as a result of awareness-raising by CAURWA's field workers and staff, and increased contacts with other NGOs who are now supporting Twa children through their own programmes.

CAURWA increased its education support scheme by providing school fees, uniforms and school materials to 61 Twa secondary school pupils (41 boys and 20 girls). CAURWA

Organisational development

During its AGM CAURWA increased its membership to 93, and elected a new Administrative Council and an Oversight Committee, thereby increasing rural Twa involvement in CAURWA's affairs. Eight administrative and junior programme staff were recruited (six are Twa). Organisational functioning, planning and personnel management systems improved with training and support inputs from FPP. A second vehicle and additional computer equipment have increased work efficiency. An external evaluation, commissioned by CAURWA, concluded that CAURWA's work is having significant positive impacts for rural Twa communities and influencing local and national government.

Twa pottery: income generation through Fair Trade



Potters at Shyorongi were trained by the Project in methods of producing high-quality bricks suitable for building kilns.

This project, also carried out in collaboration with CAURWA, aims to increase Twa people's living conditions, by commercialising their traditional craft of pottery and developing a small business enterprise, based on Fair Trade principles, that will eventually be run by Twa. The project works in an integrated way on all aspects of pottery development including product quality, marketing, and business training, and strengthening potter groups' organisational capacity. The main funder is Community Fund with additional funding from the Onaway Trust and Rowan Trust in the UK, and Norwegian Church Aid and Canadian Cooperation in Rwanda.

In its second year the project worked with 14 potters groups (170 men, 122 women). A rolling training programme increased potters' understanding of the Fair Trade principles that underpin the project, how to sustain a trading relationship with a buyer, how to manage and develop their small businesses and how to price their products realistically.

The project provided technical training to help potters improve product quality through better production methods, including brick kilns, and new designs. The project staff also increased their business and retail skills through training in stock management, retail pricing, quality control, product display and financial management. The potters have their own Association, which is represented on the project's management committee.

During 2003, sales increased by 140% over the previous year. Potters also earned

additional income for producing bricks and supplying labour during the building of two kilns and from dance and drumming performances during visits by tourists organised by the project.

We secured new premises for the project in a central area of Kigali, which attracted many new customers. The new premises are being set up as a Pottery Centre and to provide a venue for training potters' groups in pot production, new designs and marketing. The new premises will also act as a central information point with literature and videos about the Twa, and will facilitate the coordination of tourist visits to Twa potting communities and excursions to Twa dance displays.



Promotional and marketing activities were very successful. The project now has its own brand name and logo - "Dancing Pots" - referring to the two Twa activities being promoted by the project. "Dancing Pots" was launched at the annual National Trade Fair in Kigali, where it won the Bronze medal "for its work in customer relations, stand display and the promotion of local products". The project is supplying hotels and restaurants in Kigali, and sells to Rwandans and expatriates in its retail outlet.

The project has increased its promotional activities through links with tourism. The project is a member of the Rwandan government's Tourism in Rwanda working group and supplied leaflets and products as part of the Rwandan delegation to the international Tourism Exhibition in London.

Below: The Pottery Project's stand at the National Trade Fair.

Below right: Project staff with the bronze medal awarded to Dancing Pots at the National Trade Fair.



Supporting Ugandan Twa and UOBDU

Since 1999 FPP has supported the Twa in south-west Uganda to help them address their lack of land and develop sustainable alternative livelihoods. The Twa's landlessness and acute poverty results from their expulsion from the Bwindi and Mgahinga forests and denial of access to forest resources when the Bwindi and Mgahinga reserves were gazetted as national parks in 1991.

UOBDU (United Organisation for Batwa Development in Uganda) is a community-based organisation, officially registered as an NGO in 2001, which was formed by Twa with FPP's support. All Ugandan Twa are eligible to join and its governing board is made up of Twa from three districts of South West Uganda. FPP's community and coordination work in Uganda is carried out by our local fieldworker, Penninah Zaninka. This work, originally funded by the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC), is now supported by Comic Relief.

During 2003 the Twa continued consultations among communities around the Mgahinga and Bwindi National Parks, to discuss the impact of the parks on their livelihoods, and their human rights. FPP supported a training workshop for community representatives and UOBDU on human rights and national laws relevant to the Twa. During meetings with government, development and conservation agencies the Twa emphasised the urgency of reinstating the land purchase programme which had been initiated through the Mgahinga and Bwindi Impenetrable Forest Conservation Trust (MBIFCT) set up to mitigate the impact of the parks on local communities, but which ceased in 2002 due to lack of funds. Securing land is an essential part of the Twa's own strategy to develop sustainable alternative livelihoods.

The Twa also called for agencies to support increased access to their ancestral lands within the parks, education and literacy, and new means of income generation, for example, carpentry and employing Twa as guides in the national parks. UOBDU has approached local hotels to promote performances of UOBDU's dance troupe to visiting tourists. However, few Twa benefit



directly from the tourism revenues generated by the parks, even though the value of their traditional forest knowledge and the need to involve them in conservation and tourism initiatives have been repeatedly stressed by external consultants brought in by the park authorities. To identify new possibilities for action on Twa landlessness and their participation in conservation, FPP engaged a consultant to work with UOBDU to scope out the activities of different agencies and identify entry points for the Twa.

UOBDU and the Twa's increased contacts with local government and agencies, researchers, journalists and filmmakers, and participation of UOBDU members at national and international meetings on human rights and on conservation, have also helped to raise the national and international profile of the Twa. Several NGOs and donors now have greater awareness of the Twa as a distinct rural community, and wish to include a Twa component in their local programmes.

In response to these new opportunities, and to enable donors to better understand Twa priorities, FPP helped UOBDU obtain funds for a consultation with Twa communities. The consultation will identify key Twa concerns, and develop an overall programme that will orientate donors about how best to respond to communities' aspirations and their capacities, and enable UOBDU and the Twa to steer and coordinate donor initiatives in line with Twa priorities.

UOBDU's Batwa Cultural Dancers at the International Festival of Theatre and Dance in Kampala, where they won two awards.

Twa children in a village near the Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, which tourists visit as part of a guided walk. After deduction of fees for the managers of the walk, the Twa's monthly income from dancing for the tourists may be a little as 1\$ per adult.



Promoting Bagyeli Land Rights and Sustainable Livelihoods in Cameroon



Above: Bagyeli mother and child sorting the catch from fish traps.

In Cameroon FPP is into the second of a four-year project working with the marginalised Bagyeli people of south-west Cameroon. The project originated as a result of the Bagyeli's request to FPP to help them deal with the World Bank-endorsed Chad-Cameroon oil pipeline, which crossed their lands and was implemented without proper consultation with Bagyeli. The few compensation measures agreed for communities affected by the pipeline were delivered in a way that further marginalised the Bagyeli in their dealings with their Bantu farming neighbours, and the Bagyeli have yet to benefit from the local and regional development initiatives associated with the pipeline.

Our project is helping Bagyeli reduce their social marginalisation by enabling them to obtain information and develop their knowledge and skills to engage with civil society and policy makers and defend their rights, including their rights over their traditional lands. The project seeks to develop new, inclusive institutional mechanisms to enable Bagyeli to hold informed and equitable dialogues with Bantu communities, government authorities and pipeline project administration. These are key steps to enable Bagyeli to reduce their poverty and secure sustainable livelihoods in the long term. The project is being implemented in collaboration with two local NGOs, CED and Planet Survey, and is funded by Comic Relief and DFID.

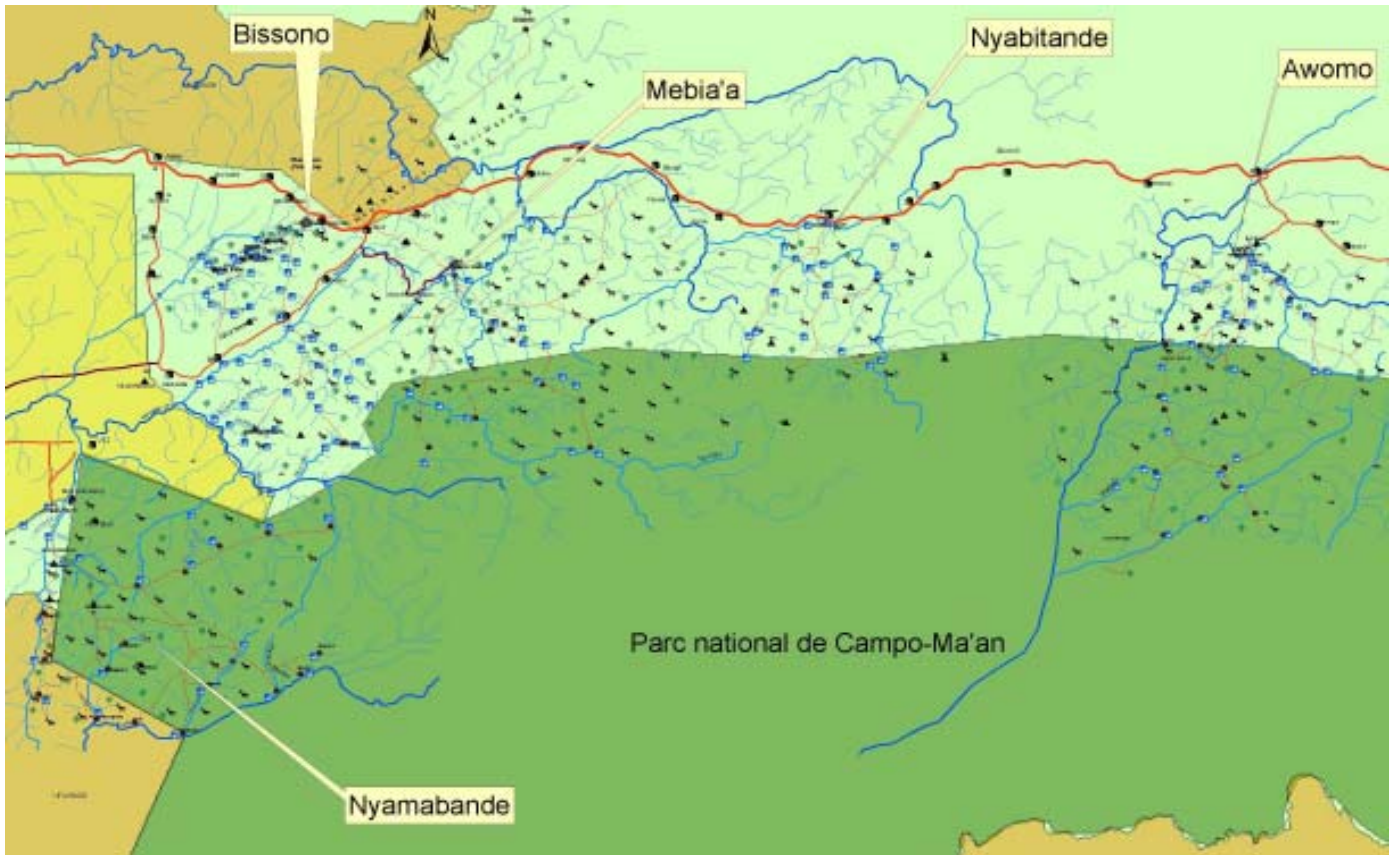
During 2003 FPP assisted Bagyeli communities to start mapping their lands. We upgraded the mapping equipment and increased the skills of our local partner CED to enable the rapid production of high-quality maps using data gathered by Bagyeli community members trained by the project.

Following this training, the first Bagyeli community-owned maps were produced showing their land-use in the Campo Ma'an National Park. This park was created outside the pipeline zone to offset the environmental damage caused by the pipeline, but has made the situation of the Bagyeli worse, as it overlies traditional Bagyeli hunting and gathering lands. The Bagyeli have used their map to start discussions with government and conservation agencies, in particular the World Wildlife Fund, concerning their land rights in the area covered by the park.

The project mapping team also established a rolling programme of map-making with Bagyeli communities living in the centre of the pipeline zone. This includes training local Bagyeli in GPS data collection and map representation, and technical and logistical support from our partner CED. The maps are then used by our other partner Planet Survey to support Bagyeli in their discussions with local government authorities and Bantu communities about Bagyeli land rights in the pipeline zone.

The mapping and networking activities are backed up by a community capacity-building programme managed by Planet Survey which is supporting several emerging Bagyeli community-based associations to draw up their own community development initiatives which the project will fund in 2004. The project is collecting socio-economic data on Bagyeli communities across the region and helping some 200 Bagyeli obtain identity cards, which are vital to enable them to bring issues to the attention of local officials without being harassed for not having identity cards.

Through community-based discussions the project is increasing Bagyeli knowledge about the pipeline and how programmes associated with the pipeline are supposed to be assisting the Bagyeli, as well as other aspects of Cameroon government policy. The



project helps Bagyeli to meet and discuss with each other, and supports them to develop negotiation skills and participate more actively in civil society processes affecting them. The project assists Bagyeli representatives chosen by their communities to meet agencies working on projects affecting Bagyeli, such as the oil pipeline company (COTCO), the agency responsible for elements of the oil pipeline compensation programme (FEDEC) and the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MINEF).

The capacity-building activities seek to build up communities' control over the orientation and decision-making of our project in the long term. An element of this is the annual participatory evaluation organised by FPP, which brings together Bagyeli from all over south-west Cameroon. At the July 2003 evaluation Bagyeli expressed their wish to be employed by the project, and subsequently put forward proposals as to how this would work at community level. Three Bagyeli project facilitators are now employed to support the newly formed Bagyeli associations, and two more will be employed in 2004.



Above: Section of a map generated by Bagyeli, with FPP support, showing the lands of five communities, including their hunting, fishing and gathering areas. The dark green area is the Campo Ma'an National Park which has been imposed over these Bagyeli lands.

Left and below: Bagyeli being trained in GPS data collection and map making.

Indigenous Peoples and Protected Areas in Africa: from Principles to Practice

Since 2000 FPP has been working with indigenous communities in Africa to analyse the impact of protected areas on their lives and their rights, and to initiate dialogue with conservation projects in their areas. The project is funded by the Community Fund. This work follows on from two previous projects carried out by FPP in Latin America and Asia to examine the obstacles preventing the implementation of new, internationally agreed, conservation principles that uphold indigenous peoples' rights to land and control over their resources. Lessons learned from this assessment of conservation impacts fed into the World Parks Congress, a highly influential gathering of conservation agencies, governments, international donors and civil society held every 10 years, which took place in Durban in September 2003.

Ten cases produced by indigenous communities on the impacts of protected

areas in seven African countries were discussed with conservation agencies at a conference in Kigali, in 2001. The process of carrying out the studies led to increased awareness of the impact of conservation projects locally and internationally, and continued during 2002 and 2003 with a range of initiatives by indigenous people to open up dialogue with conservation authorities and promote the implementation by conservation projects of standards embodied in the internationally agreed Convention on Biological Diversity. This culminated in the participation of representatives of indigenous peoples involved in the project at the World Parks Congress in September 2003. The indigenous peoples involved are the Twa and their support organisations in Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo; Ogiek in Kenya; Maasai in Tanzania, San in South Africa, Baka from central and

Batwa communities in Rwanda were evicted from the Volcanos National Park, and now live as impoverished squatters on neighbouring farmers' lands.



Community mapping in Guyana and Siberia

eastern Cameroon, and Bagyeli from southern Cameroon along the Atlantic coast. An external evaluation reported that this project is unique in providing a large regional body of data collected by indigenous peoples themselves, that demonstrates the widespread failure of conservation agencies to adhere to their own rights-based guidelines. The evaluation noted that the project is empowering indigenous peoples to proactively claim their rights and has given hope to many indigenous people expelled from their traditional hunting and gathering areas by conservation projects.

The project has increased the capacity of local partners by improving their working methodologies, enabling local partners to build better contacts with government administration and conservationists and informing communities and conservation organisations about conservation concepts. The evaluation concluded that the project has considerably accelerated the application of modern conservation principles recognising indigenous peoples' rights.

During 2003 FPP produced video documentation (available on CD-ROM) of Bagyeli and Baka perspectives of four protected areas in Cameroon: Campo Ma'an National Park, the Dja Wildlife Reserve and Lobéké and Boumba National Parks. Project findings, including the video and a book of the case studies and conference discussions, were disseminated during 2003, in particular at the World Parks Congress, at which community representatives from the case study areas participated, with FPP support. The 2003 Congress moved the indigenous rights agenda forward significantly. The Accord, Recommendations and Action Plan agreed by the Congress call on countries to recognise the rights of indigenous peoples in relation to biodiversity conservation, undertake reviews of existing conservation laws and policies that impact on indigenous peoples, and to adopt laws and policies giving indigenous peoples and local communities control over their sacred places.

Our support for communities affected by conservation will be extended and deepened next year, funded initially by Comic Relief.

Guyana

The Amerindian peoples of Guyana remain very vulnerable to the take-over of their customary lands by logging, mining and protected areas. Only about half of the Amerindians in the country yet have titles, and of those which do the majority complain that the titles encompass only a small proportion of the lands they customarily occupy and use.

In 2003 we supported the Amerindian Peoples Association of Guyana to compile a map showing the extent of Amerindian land claims, the extent of current titled lands and their overlap with all existing mining and logging concessions and proposed protected areas.

The maps are to be used to help resolve land conflicts and inform dialogues and negotiations with government agencies, mining and logging companies, and conservation agencies. Amerindians are especially concerned about the threats to their unsecured lands posed by a new road that will cut through central Guyana from Brazil.

Siberia

The reindeer-herding Evenki are struggling to re-establish their land rights, following the collapse of their traditional resource management systems, subsequent dependence on state subsidies as a result of the enforced centralisation of communities during the Soviet era, and then a hurried transition to a market economy. The area is now threatened by major oil development programmes. A 2001 Federal law provides for the recognition of territories of 'traditional nature use' but the law has yet to be implemented and is being resisted by the mining and oil industries.

During 2003, FPP sent a geomatics expert to work with the Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, and the Evenki organisation ARUN ('Rebirth' in the Evenki language) to train them in how to carry out a Territorial Mapping project of Indigenous Peoples' Lands in the Evenki Autonomous Region of Siberia.

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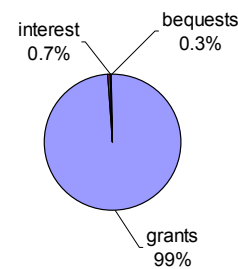
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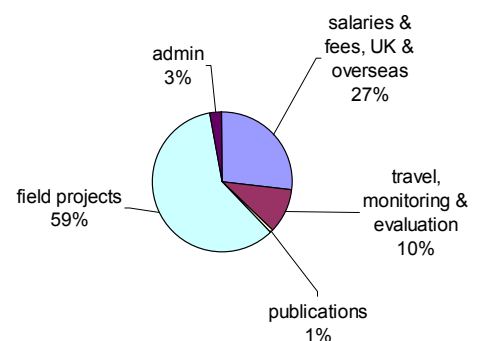
Comic Relief
Community Fund
Cross Bequest
Mosse Charitable Settlement
Onaway Trust
Swedish Society for Nature Conservation
UK Department for International Development (DFID)
Mary Webb Trust

Income and Expenditure

Income: £319,141



Expenditure: £365,750



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COMMUNITY FUND
Lottery money making a difference