

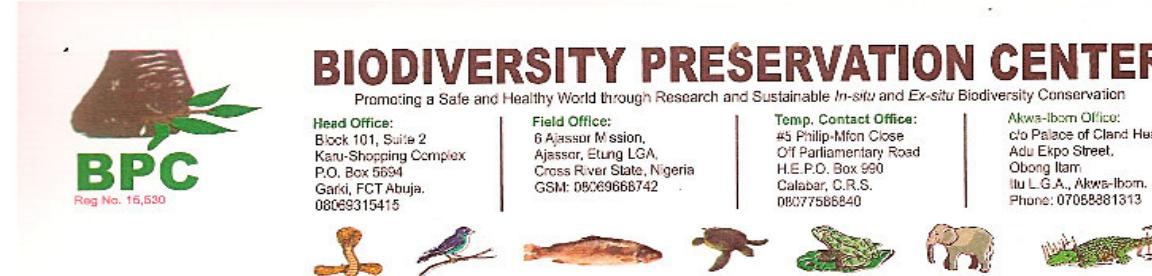
Building a Community-Based Conservation  
Initiative for Threatened Tortoises and  
Crocodiles in Uyo, Akwa-Ibom, Nigeria.



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# Introduction



- This project was conceived as a follow up to BPC then on-going project entitled 'Determining the connectivity of threatened Tortoises and Crocodiles in Nigeria' which was graciously funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF). The project which was funded under the Guinean Forest of West Africa hotspot and administered by Birdlife International had come to its full circle. Based on the foregoing, BPC and their overseas partners Institute of Development, Ecology and Conservation (IDECC) Rome, Italy conceived the present project which focuses on the conservation of two species of forest hinge-back tortoises (genus *Kinixys*: *Testudinidae*, *K. homeana* and *K. erosa*) and a species of crocodile, the African slender-snouted crocodile (*Mecistops cataphractus*) which the project team of scientist had not seen since year 2006 when an individual was found being offered for sale in Hawkins Beach Bushmeat Market..
- <https://fb.watch/tcoEzg6x6x/?mibextid=6w5mK7s5e42khvDv>

# Objectives



Use participatory methods to build a Community-Based Conservation Initiative for Threatened Tortoises and Crocodiles in Uyo, Akwa-Ibom, Nigeria.

- **METHODS**
- Community engagements,
- Field Surveys/Animal Rescue
- Wildlife Sanctuary/Mini Zoo
- Translocations
- **We rescued over 1389 Animals**



# Results and Discussions

- The conservation situation of these species was understood to have considerably deteriorated in the last two decades, due to widespread forest habitat loss and intensive harvesting for domestic consumption in West Africa (Luiselli 2003a, Acta Oecologica 24: 157-163; Luiselli et al. 2006, Chelonian Conservation and Biology 5: 130-139). *K. homeana* was assessed as CRITICALLY ENDANGERED, *K. erosa* as ENDANGERED (see Turtle Taxonomy Group, 2014, Turtles of the World, 7th Edition: Annotated Checklist of Taxonomy, Synonymy, Distribution with Maps, and Conservation Status. 000.v7; IUCN/SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group), and *M. cataphractus* as CRITICALLY ENDANGERED. All other species found in the



# Conclusion and Future Work



The project brought along massive skills transfer through training, coaching and extension services among community members on integrated farming, biocides for pest control as against chemical pesticides, compost, organic liquid fertilisers as replacement for inorganic fertilisers.

## • **References**

- Nigeria National Census 2006

## • **Acknowledgements**

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# Thanks for listening

