

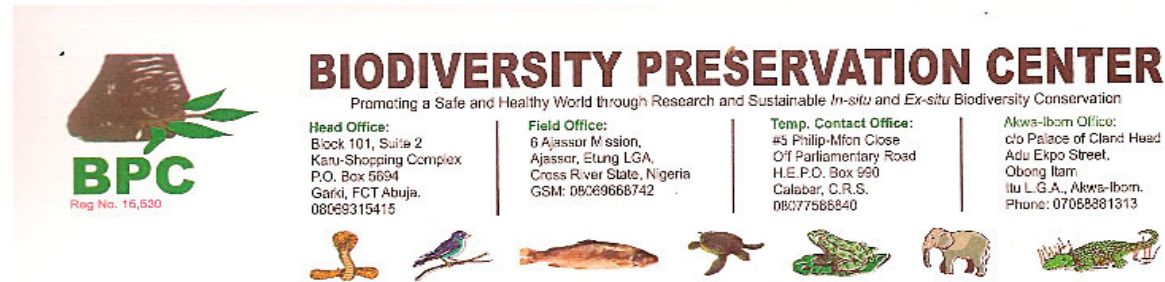
Building a Community-Based Conservation
Initiative for Threatened Tortoises and
Crocodiles in Uyo, Akwa-Ibom, Nigeria.



Name: Prof. Edem A. Eniang

**Affiliation: Biodiversity Preservation Center (BPC), Uyo, Akwa Ibom
State, Nigeria**

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



A close-up photograph showing a person's hands holding three large, dark, oval-shaped objects, which appear to be tortoise shells. The shells are dark brown or black with visible scutes. The person's hands are weathered and brown. The background shows a body of water and some wooden structures, suggesting an outdoor setting near a pond or lake.

A photograph showing three turtles, likely Galapagos tortoises, resting on the ground in a natural, vegetated area. The turtles are surrounded by green plants and dry, brownish vegetation. One turtle is in the foreground, facing left, while two others are slightly behind it to the right. The ground is covered with dry leaves and twigs.



- Nigeria National Census 2006
- **Acknowledgements**
- We appreciate GEF-SGP UNDP, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), Institute of Development, Ecology and Conservation (IDECCand funding to make this project a success. their) for support

Thanks for listening

