



**PNI - Omo-Oluwa-Shasha Forest Elephant Initiative  
Project Progress Report for the International  
Elephant Foundation  
January 2010 – May 2011**



**PRO-NATURA**  
INTERNATIONAL (NIGERIA)

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## 1. Grantee Partner

**Name of local NGO/CBO:** Pro-Natura International (Nigeria)

**Grant Recipient Address:** PNI (Nigeria), 76 Norman Williams, South West Ikoyi, Lagos, Nigeria

**Telephone:** +234 (0) 818 163 6056

**Email:** nicholas.wicks@pronatura-nigeria.org

**Author:** Nicholas Wicks

## 2. Identification of the Project

**Project Name:** Activities towards establishing an elephant sanctuary in the Omo-Shasha-Oluwa forests in SW Nigeria.

**Location of Project:** Ogun, Ondo & Osun states, SW Nigeria

**Project Start and End Dates:** Jan 2010 – Jan 2011

**Changes requested to End dates:** Jan 2010 – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2011

**Period covered by the Report:** Jan 2010 – May 2011

## 3. Financial Summary:

### Fund Utilization & Disbursement Request Amount

**Grant amount:** \$10,000

**Funds received to date:** \$5,000

**Funds spent to date:** \$5,000

**Funds balance:** \$0

**Grant disbursement requested:** \$5,000

## 4. Progress Report

### Summary

Grant activity area	Progress made
Human settlement/Forest Utilization Survey	Completed for Omo and Oluwa. Not possible in Shasha due to allocation of farms, but solutions being sought
Rehabilitation of Erin field camp	Completed: Erin camp has been repaired and refurbished and is being actively maintained
Deployment of Government rangers	Rangers have been actively patrolling the target area from time to time, but still awaiting permanent secondment of rangers
Recruitment of 2 community liaison/rangers	2 community liaison officers and 1 ranger have been working in the area since the start of the project
Engagement of the State Government Authorities	In partnership with the Nigerian Conservation Foundation, the State Government Authorities have been actively and frequently engaged. A letter of support has been obtained from Ogun state and is expected shortly from Ondo. Solutions within Osun are still being sought.

#### a. Human settlement/forest Utilization Survey

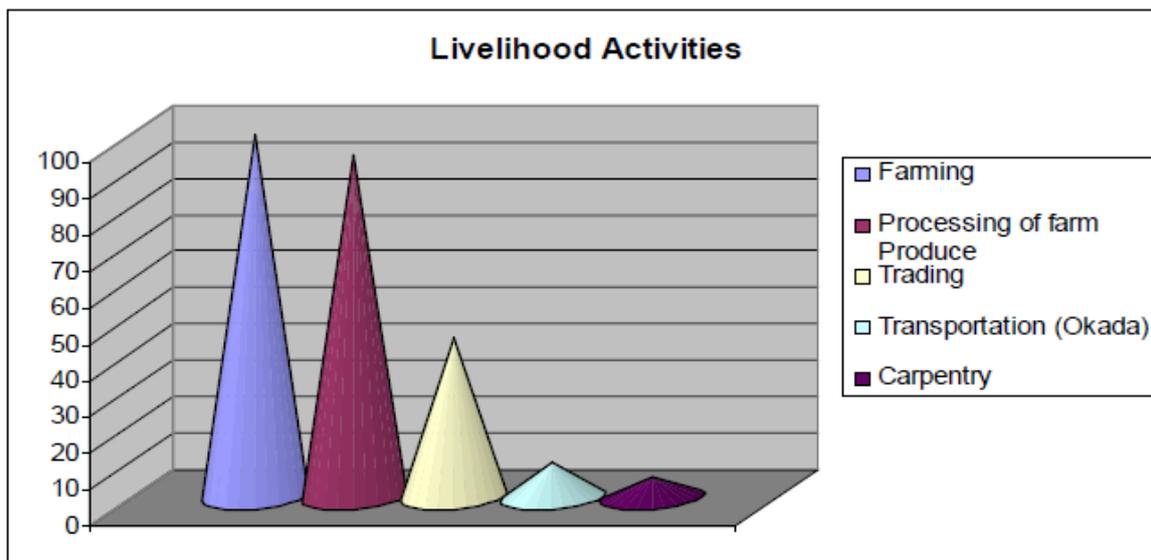
A team of independent consultants from the University of Ibadan has just completed a socioeconomic survey of the communities surrounding the proposed Forest Elephant Wildlife Sanctuaries in the Omo and Oluwa Forest Reserves. Prepared by Professor Janice E. Olawoye, Dr. O.B. Oyesola and Dr. J.O. Oladeji, the report was submitted in late March 2011 to the main stakeholders of the Omo-Shasha-Oluwa project: Nigerian Conservation Foundation, Pro-Natura and the Ondo, Osun and Ogun State Governments.



Rural woman in Omo processing kolanut (an important non-timber forest product)

The study was designed to assess the social, cultural and economic characteristics of the communities in the vicinity of the site chosen for the proposed protected area, specifically: demographic profile, social capital, village economy and local livelihoods, natural capital, level of infrastructural development and development needs assessment, and finally, attitudes and perceptions of the local inhabitants about the proposed protected areas. Data was gathered from interviews of 145 randomly selected respondents across most of the communities in both reserves, as well as 46 Focal Group Discussions in unisex groups, in which a number of participatory tools were used to draw out information.

Importantly there appears to be good basic knowledge and support for the current reserve and the prospect of new wildlife sanctuaries. When asked about the reserve, most people knew about the restrictions within the existing Forest or Wildlife reserves and the majority of residents recognise these as being good, especially in Oluwa where 78.8% respondents expressed this. However, there were concerns about the potential for losing farming land or the ability to conduct certain livelihood activities on the land. Overall though, the communities expressed a strong desire to participate in the management of the reserves. Importantly, a number of villages reported that elephants had damaged their crops, clearly necessitating conflict resolutions to be developed.



#### Breakdown of livelihood activities within Oluwa

Based on the results (presented in more detail below) several recommendations were made by the authors for the project proponents:

1. Each community is unique and should be handled differently.
2. Communities should play an integral role in the management of the reserves.
3. Communication between the local people and officials should be improved.
4. Some of the very small settlements within the corridor should be relocated and more effort placed on informing people about reserve regulations.
5. Local communities should be assisted with alternative income generation activities.
6. Traditional leaders should play an important role in community engagement.
7. Effort should be placed on strengthening social capital.
8. Activities of loggers should be stopped within the sanctuary areas and monitored elsewhere.

For more information, see the Socio-Economic Report (Appendix 3).

It was not possible to conduct a socio-economic assessment of Shasha due to the allocation of farming concessions (see section 5).

## **b. Rehabilitation of Erin field camp**

Erin camp has now been fully rehabilitated, including the repair of roof, wall, doors and floor panels and the upgrading and improvement of existing facilities (beds, mattresses, mosquito nets, bedding, kitchen equipment, shower repair. A locally employed camp manager/ranger is responsible for ensuring that the facilities at Erin camp are maintained and kept in good order.



**Erin Camp's rehabilitated chalets**



**Erin Camp's rehabilitated multi-purpose building and kitchen**

## **c. Deployment of Government rangers**

The project area has benefitted from patrolling and law enforcement by Government staff, especially from Ogun State. This has helped to curtail illegal timber extraction and reduce the numbers of incursions in the area. At the time of writing this report, the Project is still awaiting the secondment of permanent staff from the respective State Governments, as promised by Ondo and

Ogun. As with the gazettement process, this support has not been secured largely because of the elections. However, this is expected to change once the newly elected Government officials take office. Simultaneously, the Project shall hire a Head Ranger to oversee patrols throughout the area.



**Pressure from illegal logging remains a threat to the forests of Omo-Shasha-Oluwa**

#### **d. Recruitment of 2 community liaison/rangers**

The Initiative has employed two community liaison officers (Adamola Lawal and Niyi Amos) and one community ranger (Titus Onyewie) throughout the project period. The community liaison officers

routinely visit six local communities within the area, and have been responsible for raising awareness of and gaining support for conservation issues. They have been mobilised by the acquisition of a motorbike, one of the only year round forms of transport.

Titus has focused primarily on patrolling and maintenance of trails in and around the Omo Man and Biosphere reserve located within the proposed Omo Wildlife Sanctuary. He has been empowered greatly by the procurement of a second motorbike (in addition to that for the community liaison officer). This has enabled more ground to be covered and thus greater efficiency in the apprehension of trespassers. Additional financing shall be sought to facilitate the recruitment of more community rangers to patrol the wildlife sanctuary forest areas, alongside Government staff.



**Ranger Titus clearing trails in the Omo Wildlife Sanctuary**

## **e. Engagement of the State Government Authorities**

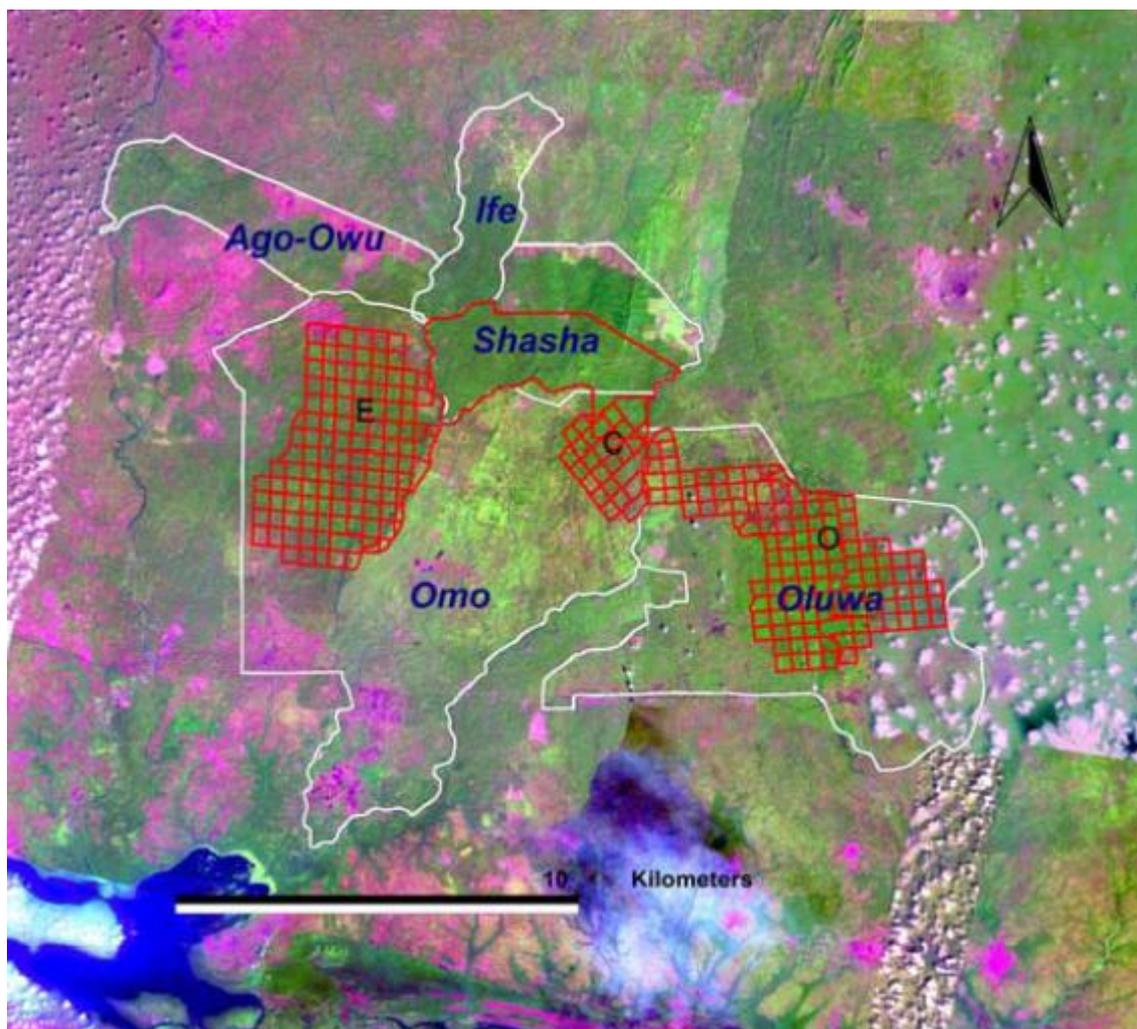
The Initiative, particularly with the assistance of the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF), has continued to engage the State Governments of Ogun, Osun and Ondo. Requests to each of the State

Governments to gazette the protected areas were not possible until the compartments that form the proposed Wildlife Sanctuaries were identified. Now that the compartments had been identified, the project partners have been able to secure a letter of commitment from Ogun State detailing their intentions to establish a Wildlife Sanctuary in Omo Forest Reserve in 92 compartments (Appendix 1). According to Ondo's Director of Forestry, the State Government is currently in the process of gaining approval for releasing a similar letter for that State. Progress in Osun and Ondo have been hampered by national elections and the allocation of farming concessions within Shasha (see section 5 for more details). During the next few months, the initiative intends to work towards addressing this, as well as securing the funds to legally gazette the Wildlife Sanctuary.

## e. Additional progress made to date

### Definition of conservation area boundaries

Using GIS and ground truthing surveys, the blocks of forest required for the sanctuary areas in Omo (Ogun State) and Oluwa (Ondo State) have been successfully identified. These blocks should form the proposed Omo Elephant (E), Omo Chimpanzee (C) and Oluwa (O) sections of the Wildlife Sanctuary as shown below. Identification of blocks within Shasha was not possible due to the allocation of land to farmers (see section 5).



Map of Omo, Shasha and Oluwa Forest Reserves showing the compartments proposed for the Wildlife Sanctuary

The table below summarises the extent of the three proposed protected areas, demonstrating that they form substantial areas of land, especially when they will be combined with the Shasha Wildlife Sanctuary.

#### Areas of proposed Strict Conservation Zone

Sub-component Name	No of compartments	Approximate Area (ha)	% of total FR area
Omo Elephant	115	30,000	23
Omo Chimpanzee	29	7,500	6
Oluwa Wildlife	127	33,000	40

The table above does not include an estimate for the additional area that shall be included following the successful resolution of the Shasha issues. It is hoped that this shall add another 11,000 ha of forest protected as elephant habitat.

#### Development of an interim management plan

In March 2011, the project produced an interim management plan for the Omo-Shasha-Oluwa Forest. This document represents an important marker towards the establishment and subsequent effective management of the Forest Elephant Wildlife Sanctuary.

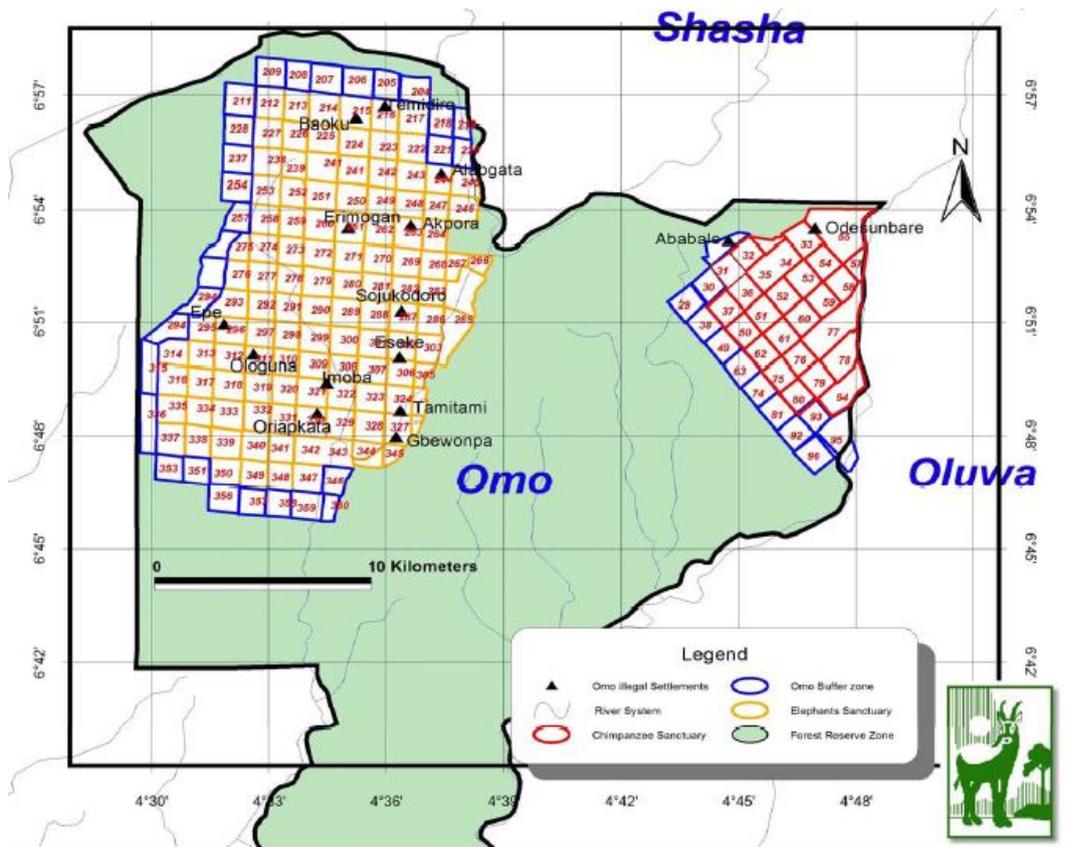
The authors of the plan were: Dr. M. Babatunde Lawal – Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education, Otto/Ijanikin, Lagos; Mr. Dolapo Odulana - Ogun State Ministry of Forestry, Abeokuta; Prof. Augustine Ezealor- Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria; Mr. Alade Adeleke - Director, Technical Programmes, Nigerian Conservation Foundation, Lagos, and ; Tunde Morakinyo – ERM Foundation, UK.

The aim of the Management Plan is to establish the Omo-Shasha-Oluwa protected area for elephant conservation and to investigate opportunities for carbon financing through offsetting industry carbon emissions.

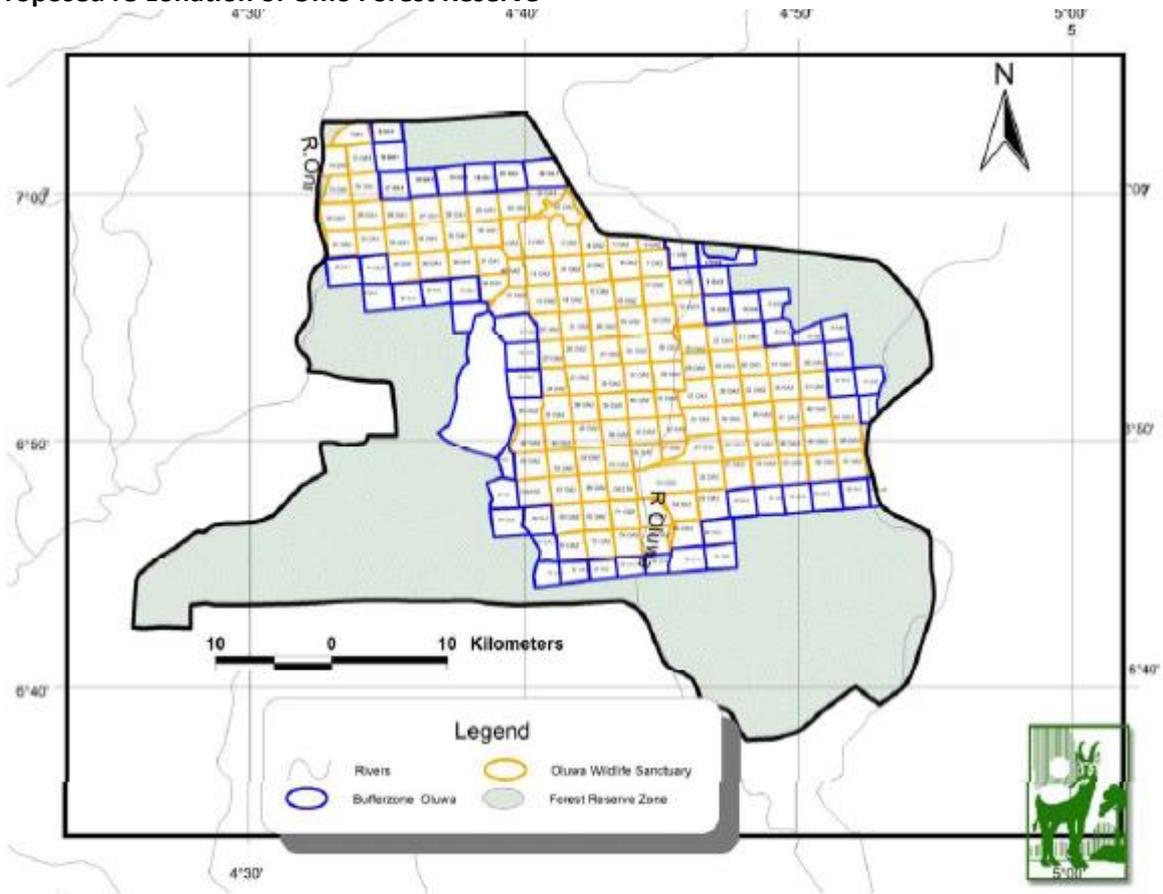
Omo-Shasha-Oluwa is expected to be managed as a wildlife sanctuary (under IUCN Protected Area Category IV) with several objectives that are aimed at protecting biodiversity but permitting human use where this is compatible with forest conservation. The management plan will guide and control the management of the forest's resources, the use of its different areas and development of facilities required to support these uses.

To assist in this, the following three management zones are proposed in the reserves (see images below):

- **Strict Conservation Zone** – the only uses allowed will be research and ecotourism. The area will be allowed to regenerate naturally and to act as a reservoir for biodiversity and carbon.
- **Community Farming/Buffer zone** – this is the area where the project will work with communities to enhance sustainable livelihoods including farming and other natural resource use compatible with forest conservation.
- **Forest Reserve Zone** – the plan recommends that the state authorities lease this area out to private companies for reforestation and enrichment planting with indigenous trees.



Proposed re-zonation of Omo Forest Reserve



Proposed re-zonation of Oluwa Forest Reserve

The plan also sets out a series of activities required for the realisation of the zones including re-gazettement of areas of the forest reserves, community development, environmental education and research. A key activity will be eco-tourism aimed at tapping the potentially lucrative market in nearby Lagos. The project will also work to access sustainable financing over the long term through carbon credits from REDD mechanisms.

The participation of the state governments and the communities will be critical to the success of this plan and mechanisms to facilitate this and to enable equitable benefit sharing to be achieved form important components proposed by the authors. Moreover, to ensure this, it is expected that the management plan shall need be revised to incorporate feedback from local communities and the three State Governments by the end of 2011. For more information see the Management Plan in Appendix 4. The Initiative shall begin implementing the recommendations laid out within the Plan shortly, as well as gaining greater levels of input from Government and local communities.

### **Rehabilitation of the Project Office**

The Initiative office has been rehabilitated and now has a power supply and internet connection. It is also being used as a temporary visitor centre/welcome point.



**Rehabilitated Initiative Office & temporary visitor centre in J4, Omo**

### **Establishment of a new multi-agency Steering Committee**

Although PNI has been collaborating with the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) and Paignton Zoo (PZ) for some time, as outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between them, coordination amongst the partners had been limited. This has now been addressed through the establishment of a new Steering Committee comprised of senior staff from PNI, NCF, PZ and the environmental consultancy firm ERM. Improved communications between the partners and regular monthly meetings are now held to jointly implement progress. This collaboration will continue to be strengthened through a revision of the MoU, and development of a joint Policies and Procedures manual. This shall ensure effective, transparent and harmonised management of all Initiative resources, regardless of which organisation is sponsoring it.

### **New Logo**

A new logo for the Initiative has been developed (right) with assistance from Kerry Downing, Paignton zoo's senior graphic designer. After going through many drafts, the final logo was selected for the perfect combination of symbolisations within it which includes: green to represent both Nigeria and conservation; rainforest trees to ensure that the target audience considers the habitat of these animals, and; both adult and baby elephants to encourage thought for the current status and future of the species.



### **New website**

A new website aimed at building support for the Initiative locally and internationally has been developed and can be found at: <http://forestelephants.wordpress.com/>

### **Finance for Community Development**

AusAID and the Australian High Commission in Nigeria have approved a grant to PNI entitled 'Establishing a Community Led Sustainable Development Programme within Nigeria's Omo and Oluwa Elephant Forests'. Effective protected area management can only occur with the active participation of local communities. Currently this is not possible amongst the communities surrounding the proposed Forest Elephant Wildlife Sanctuary within the Omo and Oluwa Forest Reserves due to weak local civil society and unsatisfactory levels of governance transparency or effectiveness. Moreover, this has led to an inability to solve many major social and economic factors such as high levels of poverty that would form barriers to environmental stewardship of the Sanctuary and its buffer zone. This project aims to address this using a model that has been successfully applied throughout Nigeria by PNI through the establishment of a Community Development Foundation. Using a participatory learning and action process combined with capacity building for local communities, it can reasonably be expected that this will have numerous benefits for local communities in the long term, most notably allowing communities to develop greater self-sufficiency and more equitable decision making, including in the management of the proposed Wildlife Sanctuary.

### **Increased sustainable financing**

The project has received a much welcomed boost from the partnership of the 'Size of Wales' project who are have agreed that they will donate one pound to the Initiative themselves for every pound that is raised by the general public. In particular Paignton zoo, who have been raising funds amongst the public to help the Initiative for over a decade, are pleased to note that the outcomes of their efforts have been doubled through the scheme in terms of funds donated to the initiative.

## **5. New Developments, Unexpected difficulties/problems & Actions taken to solve them**

### ***Change in Project Manager***

The project suffered a setback in November 2011 when the Project Manager at the time, Matthew Stevens had to leave the country for personal reasons. After a period of absence from the project site, an agreement was made between PNI and Matt for him to leave Pro-Natura. This has hindered project progress, particularly in terms of reporting. However, a new Project Manager with considerable experience of working in similar conditions elsewhere has subsequently been hired and started work in April 2011.

### ***Elections***

During the first five months of 2011, little progress could be made as a result of the run up to National elections. The civil instability and in some parts of the country even violence created by these delayed the arrival of the Project Manager. Moreover, the Elections were naturally a greater priority for the politicians whose partnership is essential for the gazettment of the protected areas than the Initiative. Government support is being pursued with renewed vigour now that the elections are over.

### ***Shasha's farming concession***

During a stakeholder meeting held in February 2010, the Project learned that a number of plantation concessions (issued 5 years ago) were still extant within the Shasha Forest Reserve. As a result, Osun state government felt that they could not sign a MOU with the Project until these had expired or been revoked. Therefore little progress towards gazetting Shasha has been made. To address this, the Initiative held a meeting in April 2011 with the traditional authorities in Osun State about these farming concessions. The meeting also highlighted the outcomes of a field survey carried out on 5th of April 2011 to investigate the impact of farming on the forests in the report and to provide feedback from the traditional leaders. This report showed that while substantial forest areas have been cleared for farming as might be expected, there are still substantial and important areas of forest remaining and recommended that blocks of forest needed to connect Omo and Oluwa together are secured. A complete report of this is presented in Appendix 2.

## **6. Summary of Actions for the remainder of the Project**

### **Human settlement/forest Utilisation survey**

- Address the Osun/Shasha situation in order to allow for community development work to continue (see below).

### **Rehabilitation of Erin field camp**

- Continue to maintain Erin.

### **Deployment of Government rangers**

- Request rangers from the state governments now that the elections have taken place and seek funding to develop infrastructure.

### **Recruitment of 2 community liaison/rangers**

- Seek additional financing to facilitate the recruitment of community rangers to patrol the wildlife sanctuaries' forest areas.

### **Engagement of the State Government Authorities**

- Organise a meeting with the Osun State traditional authorities to advance progress on Shasha Forest Reserve.
- Work towards securing letters of support from Ondo and Osun States supporting the creation of wildlife sanctuaries.
- Revise and finalise the management plan after consultation with the state governments and forest communities.

## Appendices

### Appendix 1. Letter from Ogun State

  
**MINISTRY OF FORESTRY**  
P. M. B. 2008 ABEOKUTA, OGUN STATE, NIGERIA.  
**OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY**

Your ref No:.....  
All communications should be addressed  
to the permanent secretary  
NCF/PS/1/203  
Our Ref .....

Date..... 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2011

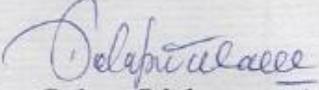
The Director Technical Programme,  
Nigerian Conservation Foundation.  
Lekki Conservation Centre,  
Km 19, Lagos-Epe Expressway, Lekki,  
Lagos

**RE: ESTABLISHMENT OF WILDLIFE SANCTUARY WITHIN OMO  
FOREST RESERVE**

Your letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2011 on the above subject refers.

We wish to affirm that your request for a letter of support for the protection of ninety two (92) compartments and eighteen (18) additional compartments as core area of the wildlife sanctuary and buffer zone respectively has been granted in consonance with biodiversity conservation and ecotourism development as contained in the objectives of the Omo-Oluwa-Shasha Conservation plan.

Many thanks

  
**Dolapo Odulana,**  
For Permanent Secretary

## **Appendix 2. Shasha Forest Reserve, Osun State: Ascertaining current potentials for conservation**

### **Background**

In 2007, NCF carried out a preliminary assessment of the potential of the forest of south west Nigeria for biodiversity conservation and ecotourism development. The report of the survey identified Omo, Oluwa and Shasha Forest Reserves as viable for conservation. The report however indicated that an immediate attention should be directed towards the control of logging and the spreading agricultural expansion in the Forest Reserves. Five Forest Reserves, namely Omo, Oluwa, Shasha, Ago-Owu and Ife were visited by the survey team. The three Omo, Oluwa and Shasha were chosen for focused conservation attention based on the relatively higher biodiversity potentials and their contiguity.

As a follow up to the 2007 survey, NCF received assistance for a one-year project to develop a management plan for the conservation area to be proposed and to set up an inter-state stakeholder's forum in support of the project. The Stakeholders forum thus formed comprises of the Permanent Secretaries of the three States of Osun, Ogun and Ondo representing Shasha, Omo and Oluwa Forest respectively. A Memorandum of Understanding was drafted for signing by the three States to signify their participation in the project. In March 2010, the MoU was signed by Ogun and Ondo State. Osun State could not sign the MoU due to the need to resolve and or/clarify the position of 30 sq mile of the Shasha Reserve which was allocated to the Ooni of Ife on behalf of Ife people earlier in 1999 by the former military administration. The 30 sq mile lies within the southern boundary of the Shasha Forest Reserve which is also contiguous with the Omo Forest Reserve. The management plan for the Omo-Oluwa-Shasha wildlife sanctuary proceeded without further baseline information gathering and socio-economic analysis of the Shasha Forest Reserve. It was agreed by the project management team that Shasha can only be included in the project if the land use issues and the 30 sq miles allocation is clarified.

### **The intervention by the Ooni of Ife, Oba Okunade Sijuwade Olubuse 11**

Following a letter sent to the Ooni of Ife by Nigerian Conservation Foundation on the 30 sq mile and Shasha Forest Reserve, the Ooni set up a team of High Chiefs and the Director of Forestry of Osun State to visit NCF for more clarification on the project objectives, its implication for Shasha Forest Reserve and the position of the allocated 30 sq mile within Shasha Forest Reserve.

On March 24, 2011, a meeting was held at the NCF Headquarters between the Ooni,s team and the NCF. The resolution of the meeting is a joint site visit to Shasha to carry out an investigation based on four main objectives

- Confirm the location of the 30sq mile and the status of its survey by the Osun State Department of Forestry
- Ascertain the extent of agricultural expansion and other land use forms in the area proposed for conservation in Shasha Forest Reserve
- Determine and recommend which part of the 30sq miles can still be viable for conservation;
- Determine and recommend the entire area for conservation in recognition of the earlier proposal of the NCF and the current negotiation with the 30 sq mile allocation.

### **The fact finding field visit**

On 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> April, NCF Field Team – Alade Adeleke and Damola Ogunesan joined the Ife Chiefs ( Seriki of Ife – Prof Muiz Opeloye and the Lakese of Ife Chief Olatubosun) and Officials of the Osun State Ministry of Environment(led by the Director of Forestry , Osun State, Dr Abayomi Fayenuwo) to carry out an investigation of land use issues, mostly regarding viability for conservation of some areas of Shasha Forest Reserve and particularly the area within the 30 sq mile allocated to the Ooni of Ife in 1999.

Day 1 (6th April 2011): On 6 April, the team visited the **south eastern part of the Shasha Forest Reserve**. The area visited is as shown on the right side of the map below. Villages and settlements in the area are Omifunfun, Olomidudu, Oramyan village, Ife tuntun and Abeku. More people have moved into the forest in the past six years with attendant increase in human pressure through agricultural expansion. A newly established traditional institution under the leadership of the Obawure of Ife Tuntun has consolidated new settlements. The pressure on the forest is high and human population is growing very rapidly. The forest frontier is highly fragmented by old and new cocoa farm plantations. There are pockets of small sized isolated forest blocks but more damage has been done and being done to forest in this area. Human settlements are large in size and permanent structures are already replacing the old semi-



**Team with the Obawure of Ife Tuntun**

permanent wooden camps. A huge investment will be required to relocate people in this area. There is high level of fragmentation and a huge task ahead to disregard the already established traditional authority on land.

**Recommendation:** The south eastern side of Shasha Reserve is highly porous and fragmented. The Osun State Forest Reserve should intensify efforts on enforcing forest legislation by closing down new

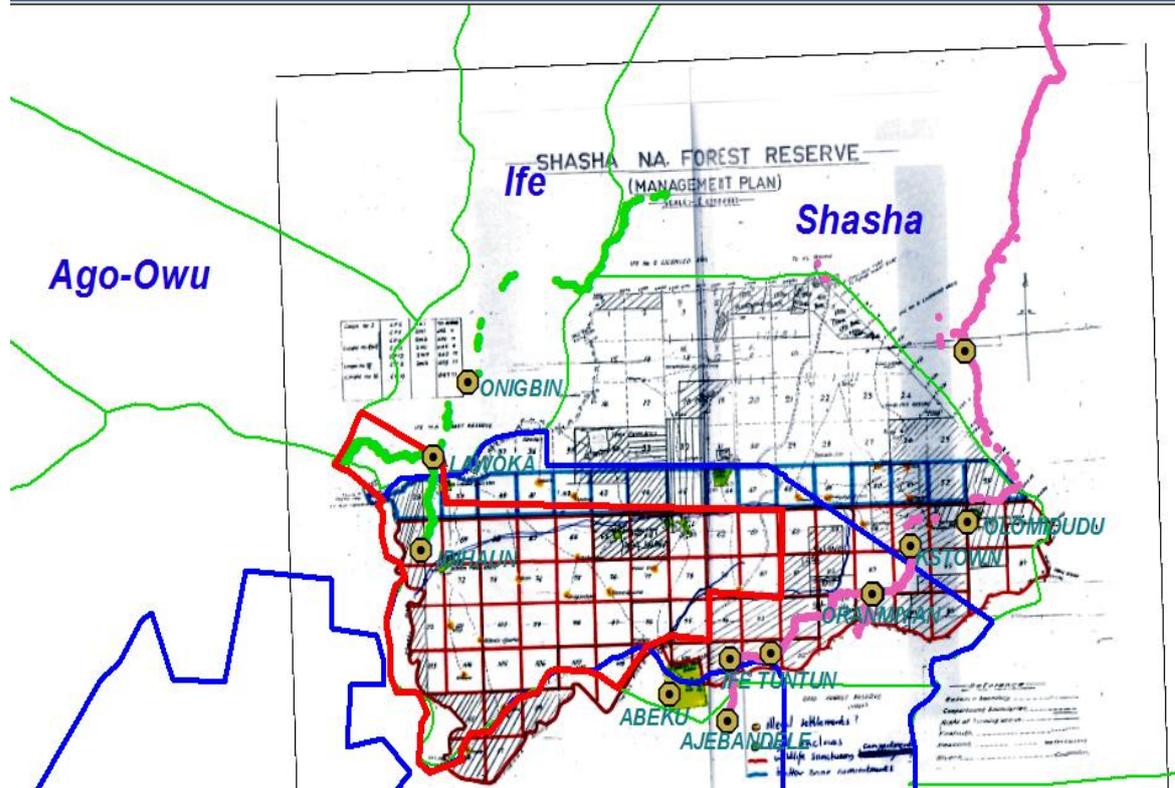
cocoa farm tents, but must recognize old enclaves like Olomidudu. The reviewed boundaries of the enclaves should be made clear. Farms outside the 30 sq miles should be considered illegal in this area in order to save the remaining un-allocated land area for long term conservation and management.

The team noted that Compartments 54,55,87,86,90,91,109,110,111,112 (within the 30 sq mile allocation) and compartments 54,55,56,57,83,84,85,92,93,94,95 all in the forest reserve outside the 30sq miles are highly fragmented and full of agricultural farm establishments. The extent of cocoa cultivation here is heavy and will require substantial efforts and energy to secure conservation activities.

It is important to maintain community outreach with human communities in Ife Tuntun and Abeku, most particularly on the need for the protection of endangered species such as the Forest Elephants and the Nigerian-Cameroon chimpanzee.

The Ogun State Ministry of Forestry has a very conspicuous presence in form of a forestry control camp near Abeku. It will be important for the Osun State Government to reinforce her forest management structure in the area as well since the area is still largely within the forest reserve despite the 30 sq mile allocation for farm settlement.

*Note: the red line of the proposed conservation area extends to the boundaries of Shasha Forest Reserve in compartments 16, 17, 18, 107, 108 and*



Day 2 (7th April 2011): On 7th April, the team moved to the **south western boarder** (see the left side of the map below) of the Forest Reserve. Communities in this axis comprises of Araromi Oke –Odo (outside the Reserve) , Onigbin, Lawoka and Idi Ahun . As noted in the south eastern boarder of the Forest Reserve, there is a growing population of migrant farmers opening up land for cocoa agriculture in the area. Human habitation in the forest is limited but some illegal structures are springing up in the middle of the forest.

In this area just like the south eastern end of the Reserve, the issue of the 30sq mile allocation is already known by residents; however the survey of the area being undertaken by the Osun State Department of Forestry to mark out the 30 sq mile is not yet concluded in the area. Human habitation is low and larger settlements are very remote from the core part of the forest reserve. Farmers indiscriminately open new forestland for farming but pressure on forest here is largely more for logging and timber extraction (mainly for *Ceiba pentandra* –silk cotton tree, a wood species rarely exploited in other forest reserves in Nigeria).

**Recommendation** – The contiguity of Omo and Shasha Forest Reserves is possible along the south-western section of Shasha Forest Reserve. It is therefore recommended forest compartments 16, 17, 70,71,116,117,118,107,108,96 ( all included in the 30sq mile allocation to the Ife people and compartments103,104,105,97,98,99,100,101,102, 71,72,73,74,75,76,77,78,79,80,8160,61,62, 63,,64, 65,66,67,68,69 outside the 30sq mile but stretches from the south-west end of the Reserve to the middle part of it be considered for conservation purpose. The area should extent to about ten compartments of Ife Forest Reserve that borders the Shasha River where we noted low agricultural activity but intense logging (**see the area within the red line in the map above**) . Like in many other parts of the Reserve, there is evidence of forest utilisation but based on timely intervention, conservation effort could savage the remnants of the forest in these suggested areas. There are some legal enclaves including Idi Ahun Lawoka and Onigbin.

#### **Preliminary Briefing of the Ooni of Ife on field activity**

On 8<sup>th</sup> April 2011, the field team visited His Royal Highness Oba Okunade Sijuwade in his palace where the findings of the team were presented to him. The team of Chiefs agreed that a full

presentation should be packaged by the NCF after a full field report is produced. A common position was taken that the conservation project suggested by NCF is a possibility in Shasha Forest Reserve but these needs be clarified with a reviewed land use decision soon. The reviewed land use decision should take note of

1. How to relocate farmers from compartments within the suggested new conservation area in Shasha (most particularly those that falls within the originally allocated 30q miles. Ife Chiefs recommend compensation for farmers that are within the proposed conservation area and within the 30sq mile land allocation)
2. How the Osun State Government will stop the massive farm encroachment in other parts of the forest reserve that falls within the proposed conservation area.

The report to the Ooni was considered only a preliminary one. The Ooni requested that NCF prepare a full field report as he will be willing to discuss the decision on the matter with NCF leadership as soon as NCF is ready. We propose a full briefing meeting with the Ooni for May 2011 on this issue.

Alade Adeleke

Director Technical Programmes, NCF

April 2011

**Appendix 3. Socio-economic survey**

See separate Portable Document File

**Appendix 4. Management plan**

See separate Portable Document File