



ERUDEF host PACE training for schools in Lebielem, Cameroon.



The mountains of Lebielem Division provide a home to the most endangered great ape sub-species the Cross River or 'Cameroon' gorilla. Penny Fraser and Edwin Ncha of [UNAFAS CVP](http://www.unafas.org) were in Fontem, Menji, the divisional centre, from the 4th to 8th July working with ERUDEF's wildlife conservation officer. CVP presented the PACE resources and approach to school educators from across Lebielem Division. The thirty six participants are head masters, principals, teachers and school inspectors – all affiliated in one way or another with ERUDEF* who did an excellent job making necessary arrangements on the ground.

We enjoyed and were inspired by the interest, openness and enthusiasm of the participants, many of whom made arduous journeys in order to reach the venue. They studied, discussed, questioned and were questioned for three and a half very full days, they enjoyed having 'experts' at their disposal, enjoyed debating and said that they learned a lot. We enjoyed learning about their area, traditions, concerns, and made new friends. PACE resources were distributed, before school resumes in September all participants will have a set of materials to use in their class rooms: they appreciated that PACE addresses environmental issues that touch on their everyday lives. Comments and questions ranged from issues of soil fertility, dealing with changes that now occur in seasons, problems of power supply in rural areas, water quality, wildlife large and small, as well much discussion of curriculum and examination issues and challenges.

THANK YOU to [TUSK](http://www.tusk.org) for sponsoring this work. PACE (Pan African Conservation Education) resources can be accessed, on-line free of charge at <http://www.paceproject.net/>

* [ERUDEF](http://www.erudef.org) (Environment and Rural Development Foundation) is a local NGO, with headquarters in Buea, established in 1999, they work to help conserve wild life and nature in the Lebielem area, wildlife that includes a small population of the rare Cross River Gorillas, chimpanzee and some exceptional tropical forest landscapes.





lectures



film

student led sessions



games

group work



dances



IT demonstration



Certificates awarded
By ERUDEF CEO Louis
Nkembe



ERUDEF have an on-going Conservation Education Programme that includes their Conservation Institute for Teacher Education, starting 2012 this will provide residential training (field and classroom based) for teachers from across the national territory – we were happy to be a part of it's early steps. They are well equipped, with a base in the area giving us every faith that the enthusiasm of participants at this training will bear fruits.