



## Snail Tales

*How families with a bold new vision for the dinner table are leading the way in their communities*

The creation of a national park is a good thing for nature. But what do you do if you are a local villager who relied upon the park and its wildlife for food? With the recent creation of Mount Cameroon National Park in Cameroon, West Africa, local people have lost access to traditional hunting grounds in the park where they would supplement their diet with protein. To help address this new dietary challenge, CREE has begun pioneer work farming snails with families in Mapanja village and we hope to expand this work to multiple villages. We use environmental education to teach the value of wildlife and realistic alternatives to help people cope with the daily challenges in their lives.

## Taming the Typhoon

What is a child's competency in math, english, and science to a CREE staff conservationist? Everything, as children form the next generation of community leaders we hope to work with. When a typhoon struck the Philippines and destroyed schools in communities CREE works with on its whale project, CREE responded where the government fell short. We distributed text books to school children of all ages. We see this as a worthwhile investment in our [future partners in conservation](#).

# CREE

## Notes from the Field



Snail farmer Alfred Ekose

## What we do

The Center for Rural Empowerment and the Environment is a non-profit charity implementing practical solutions to sustainable development and environmental conservation. We achieve this through programs that focus on poverty alleviation and resolving human-wildlife conflicts. CREE is unique because of its focus on poverty, making it a leader in the environmental field in addressing problems traditionally tackled by humanitarian organizations.

By keeping a focused project portfolio tightly organized around poverty-environment interactions, CREE ensures high success rates within its niche of the field of conservation. CREE is structured in a revolutionary way with 100% local leadership at the top of the decision-making process. All of our Project Managers are local and have complete control over project direction. Our products are culturally appropriate solutions to environmental problems that enhance livelihoods.

## Whale Watch

One of the many natural wonders of the world is witnessing humpback whales migrate and arrive in the Philippines each year. CREE Project Manager Dr. Jom Acebes recently finished a ground-breaking biological survey of the whales near the Babuyan Islands, in the northern Philippines. CREE also completed its one of a kind human-whale interaction guidelines, which detail whale viewing protocol that is safe for both humans and whales. At CREE we see the value the amazing marine wildlife can and should have for local people, which is why we are helping developing sustainable model for eco-tourism.



## Becoming a Better Neighbor to a Hippo

The beautiful shores of Lake Victoria house one spectacular, but ornery neighbor. Hippos, a local resident here for a millenia, are now facing increased competition for limited space from local farmers. As soil on farms reduce in quality due to overproduction, more and more lakeshore habitat once claimed by hippos is being converted into homesteads. This creates a conflict for space between man and nature. CREE is reducing this conflict through innovative natural fertilizing techniques, enriching the soil and negating the need for new farms on hippo lands. Read more on 'Dunga Wetlands'.



## Take Action!

Looking ahead, CREE has bold goals underway for 2010 and all of its global projects. Being a smaller organization with all funds going directly to the field, we drastically reduce overhead and administrative costs. This gives our donors unique opportunities to make a huge difference with their contributions. Please help us channel funds directly to the village to give those affected by our projects a treasured gift for the holiday season. Donate today at: [contribute@conservationforpeople.org](mailto:contribute@conservationforpeople.org).

**CREE: a green solution for poverty**

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