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## Biology Curators Group Newsletter

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# EARTHLIFE

## POSTERS TO SAVE A RAINFOREST

Earthlife is helping save Korup - one of the last virgin rainforests in Africa. Every minute 35 acres of tropical rainforest fall under the axe. Tropical forests are vital to the environmental and climatic stability of our planet yet nearly a half have been disrupted or destroyed in the past thirty years. There are few opportunities to be able to help conserve particular rainforests - but you can help Korup.

Korup, covering 350 square miles in the Central African Republic of Cameroon, is one of the richest forests in the continent. The abundance of its wildlife is remarkable - with over 500 tree species, 250 bird species, 39 species of amphibian and 14 species of primate. For many African animals Korup is their last forest-home - the Forest Drill, Preuss's African Colobus Monkey, the Pygmy Chameleon, the Hairy Frog and the Pygmy Flying Squirrel are but a few. Research into the forest's plant life has had fascinating results. Korup's trees are particularly rich in chemicals to defend themselves against insects and other predators. Over 100 compounds have been isolated, 40 of which were completely unknown before. Many could become the insecticides, analgesics, anti-bacterial and even anti-cancer agents of the future.

Korup is the first of 3 National Rainforest Parks scheduled by the Cameroon government in its National Development Plan.

The Earthlife Foundation is raising funds to help this important initiative to demonstrate the value of a rainforest reserve working as a vital renewable resource. The park programme, co-authored for Cameroon by Earthlife trustees, includes the husbandry of alternative protein sources by forest people, continued research into potential commercial uses of forest resources and development of agro-forestry schemes in buffer-zones around the forest perimeter.

Earthlife has produced a colourful poster showing a computer grid-map of the forest area. Each of its 60,000 squares represents 7 acres with some 1,000 trees. Every £10 donation sponsors a forest square and each donor is sent a poster with their sponsored area/s individually marked.

PLEASE HELP BY DISPLAYING THE POSTER & LEAFLETS FOR YOUR VISITORS.

Contact Earthlife Foundation, 10 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PH, Tel: 01-235 7055