

# Road Development in Mbo Barombi/Kumba, Cameroon

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In Collaboration with Cameroon Football Development Program (CFDP)

## Abstract

- Joseph Bena and Adam Puccetti traveled to Mbo Barombi, Cameroon to work on the route planning and site survey for a proposed roadway to connect the isolated village to the town across the lake.
- The team worked independently under Cameroon Football Development Program, which empowers local youth through soccer matches and camps.
- The team worked with the village to select the most effective route which connects to Kumba via the Lake Junction Road.
- With this roadway complete, the people of Mbo Barombi will be able to easily access the village and transport their crops to the market to sell.



Figure 1: ETHOS Cameroon team and host Grandma

## Introduction

- Mbo Barombi is a remote village located on the opposite side of Lake Barombi from the town of Kumba. The lake is 3 km in diameter and surrounded by rainforest.
- The only way to access the village is to take a canoe across the lake (45 minutes) or trek through the forest around it (75 minutes).
- Lack of a roadway makes travelling and transporting goods to/from the village very difficult.

## Project Description

The Mbo Barombi Team's project involved the following:

- Determining a Route for the Proposed Roadway
- Setting Initial Survey Points on the Roadway.
- Completing a Topographical Survey of the Proposed Roadway
- Determining Land Ownership
- Beginning Cost Estimation



Figure 2: Surveying along the Proposed Route

In addition to the team's main work, Joe and Adam also chose to review the water catchment which was installed by the ETHOS Center in 2008 and updated in 2013. This data will be used to insure the system continues to work effectively as it ages.



Figure 3: Current State of the Water Catchment

## Results & Discussion

- The team completed a geographical study of the area surrounding Lake Barombi. They worked in collaboration with the community and chose the most effective route for the roadway.



Figure 4: Aerial showing proposed roadway

- Next, the team completed a full topographic survey of the 3 mile long roadway. This data will help in the future design of the roadway from Kumba to Mbo Barombi.
- Finally, the team was able to walk the roadway with the regional head of engineering, Mr. Benjamin. This helped to determine the plausibility of the project and gave the team valuable cost estimation info.



Figure 5: Surveying into Mbo Barombi

## Recommendations

- UD ETHOS Alumni group will draft cost estimate for road construction working with Mr. Benjamin Fela, Kumba county engineer.
- Additional survey work will need to be completed before construction begins.
- Additional action needs to be taken to address the water catchment system at Mbo Barombi.
- Be prepared for the unexpected
- Think everything through: Don't dive in without a plan, you will only waste time.
- Do not take offense to anything: You are in a new culture, and need to learn its ways before you understand.
- Experience the culture: the experience will change you, if you let it.



Figure 6: Mbo Barombi Goodbye

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