



On the evening of March 12, thirty Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) arrived to the forestry school ENATEF in Mamou, each with a young man from his or her village, to kick off the third annual Peace Corps Guinea Boys Conference.

Over the course of the next three days, the PCVs, along with nine Guinean invitees, organized and led the boys in sessions on topics covering:

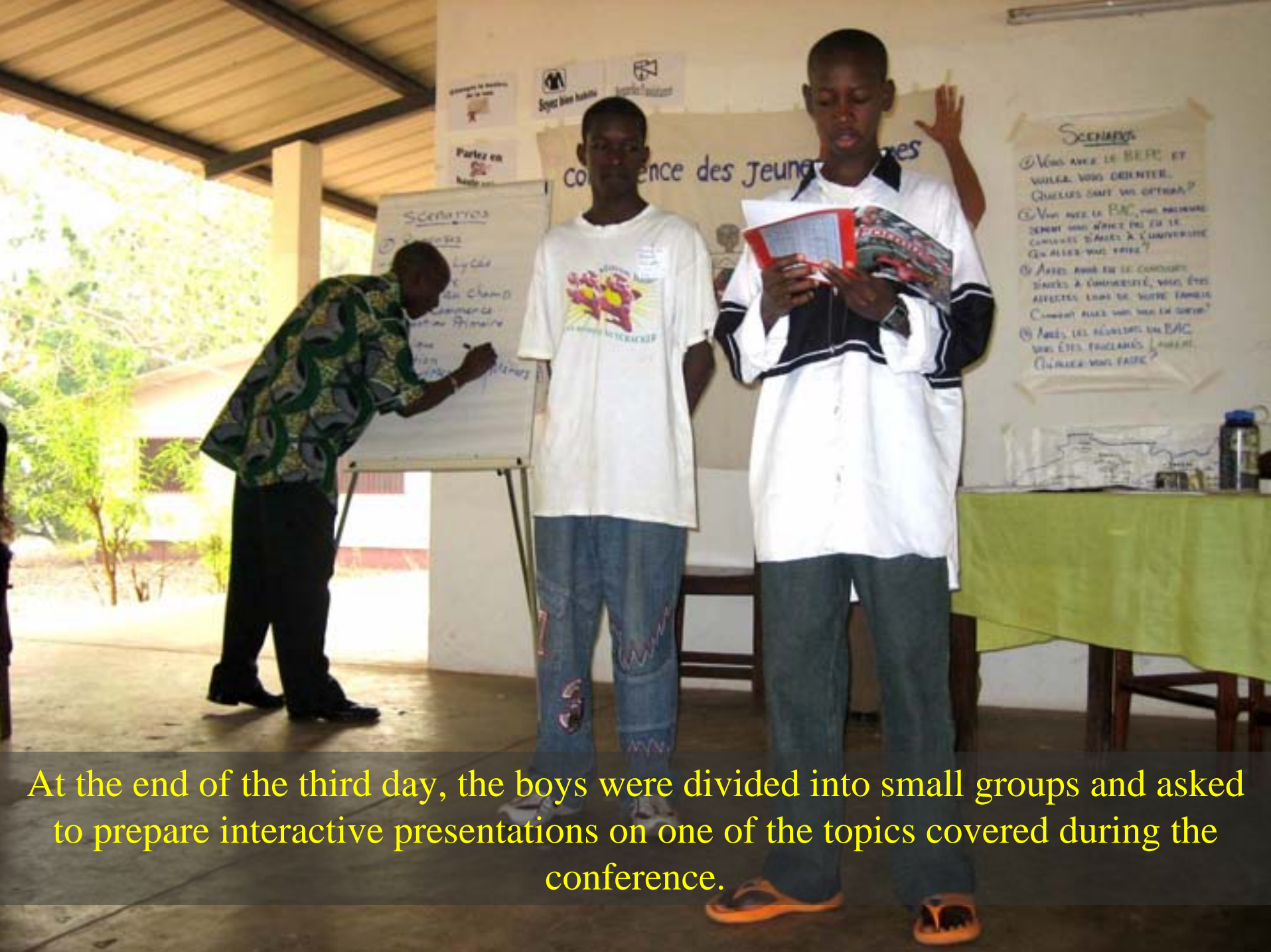


- Nutrition
- Prevention of drug abuse
- HIV/AIDS
- Gender equality
- Protection of the environment
- Personal finance management
- Public speaking









At the end of the third day, the boys were divided into small groups and asked to prepare interactive presentations on one of the topics covered during the conference.



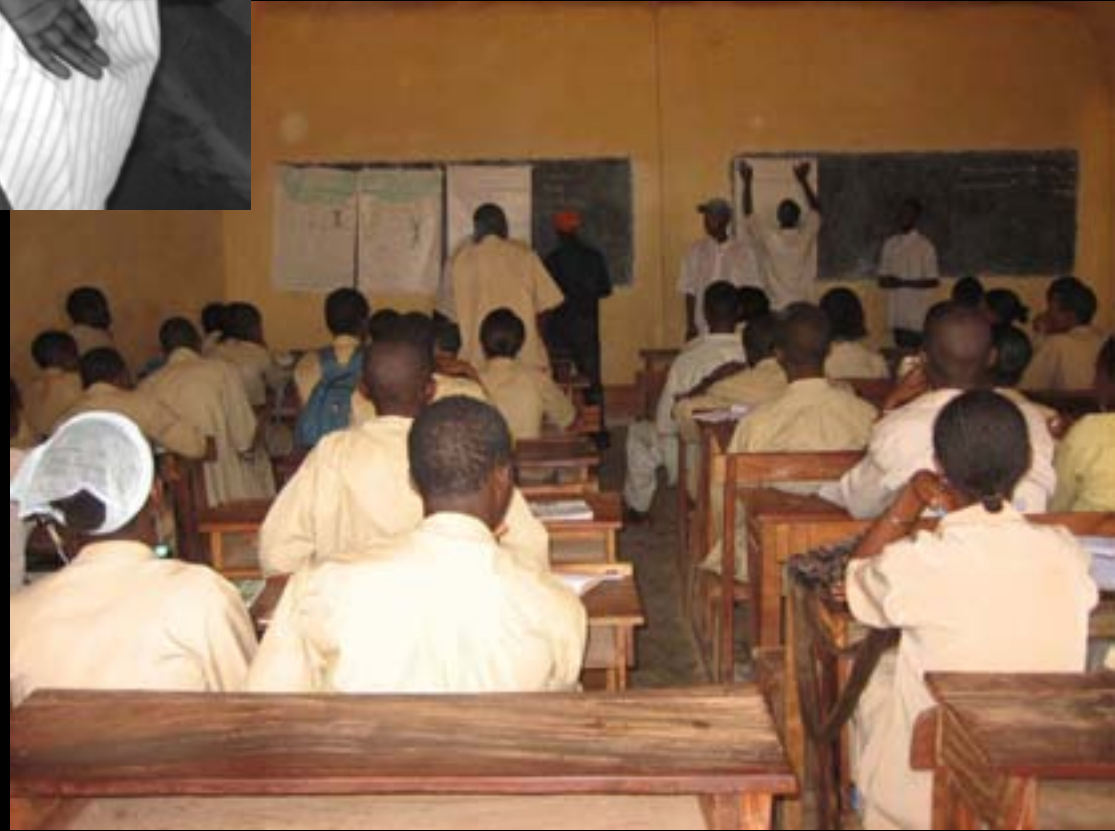
The boys spent the third night preparing skits, games, posters, and demonstrations to present these sensitive topics to students at a high school in downtown Mamou.



On the morning of the fourth day, the boys and their PCVs went to the high school to make the presentations.



The boys performed with confidence and amazing competence.



Upon returning to ENATEF that afternoon, the boys completed a written action plan detailing how they could present the information learned to their communities and help address the issues in their own villages.

All PCVs involved agreed that each of the boys could be counted on, in collaboration with the volunteer, to follow through on these and other projects.



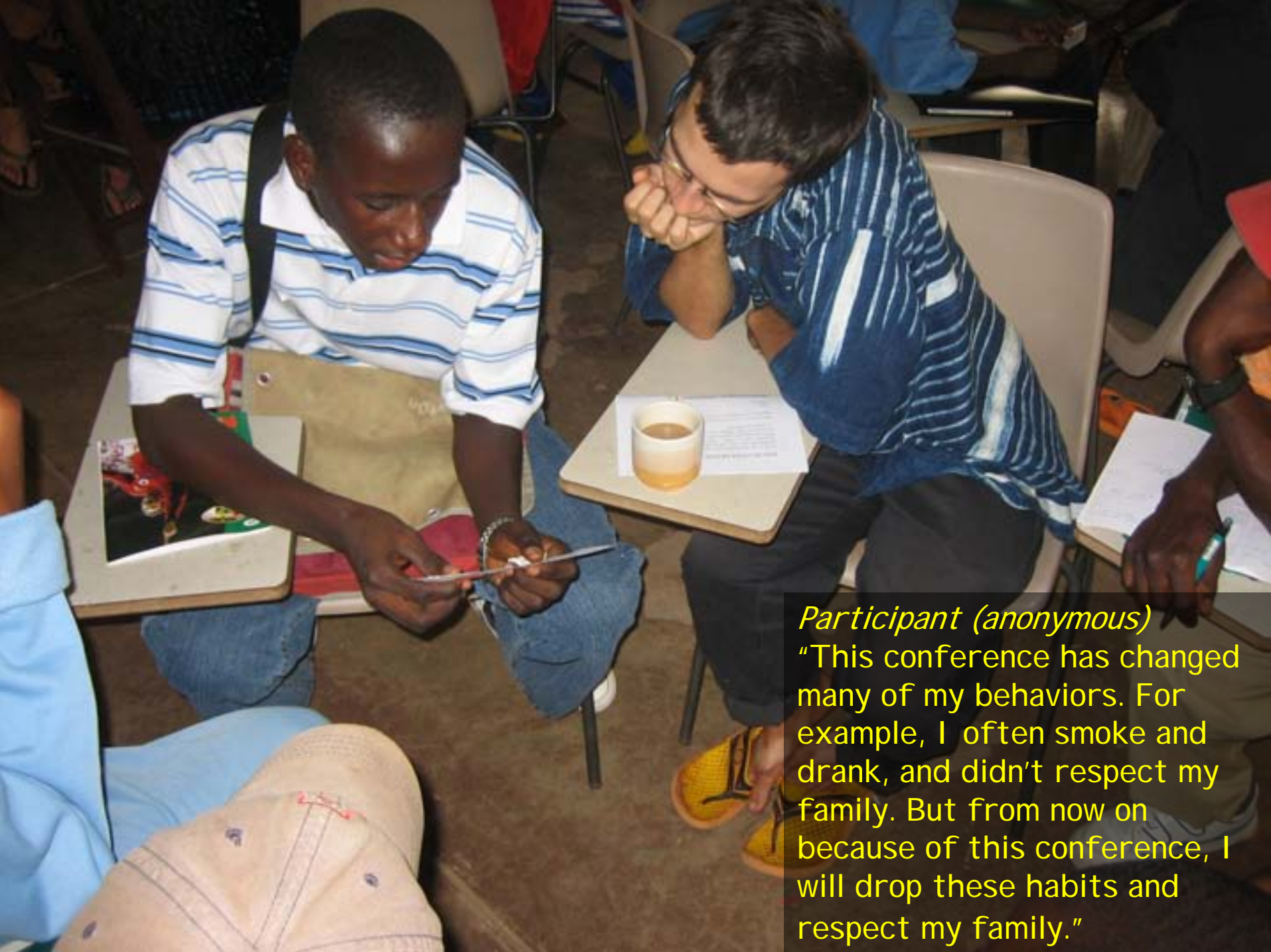
Participant from Niandankoro (pfc. Siguiiri) “I encourage you to continue on this path [of supporting the Boys Conference] because it’s very important for us, and we want our younger brothers to have the same ideas of how to develop our country...Before this conference, we were in the dark, but [now] we can help ourselves.”

Participant from Bodié (pfc. Dalaba) –

“I liked the session on gender roles in particular because before coming to the conference, I thought that men and women were not equal; I thought that women could not do a lot of things that men can do.

After the conference, I understand that most things men can do, women can do; most things women can do, men can do also.”





Participant (anonymous)
"This conference has changed many of my behaviors. For example, I often smoke and drank, and didn't respect my family. But from now on because of this conference, I will drop these habits and respect my family."



“From this conference, I learned how to protect myself against STDs and HIV, the importance of gender equity, family planning, public speaking, and how to protect the environment. I am really satisfied.”



**We thank you for your support for the
2006 Boys Conference!**

Credits

Photography: Angela Curry

Essay/Narration: Brian
Buehler

Slideshow: Sam Wu