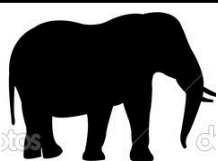


July to
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No° 007



Did you know?

African forest elephants are suffering unprecedented rates of poaching due to increasing accessibility into the forest and an insatiable demand for ivory. It is likely they will be driven to extinction in the near future if nothing is done to curb demand in Asia and fight poaching in countries like Cameroon.

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ZSL AND CONSERVATION SERVICE TO IMPLEMENT SMART IN THE DJA BIOSPHERE RESERVE

The Dja Biosphere Reserve (DBR) in Cameroon is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, recognized for its importance in global biodiversity conservation efforts and home to many globally endangered species such as African elephant, western gorilla and common chimpanzee. The DBR and its unique biodiversity face many threats including increasing pressure of illegal commercial hunting for bushmeat and other wildlife products.

ZSL, working with the Conservation Service, have embarked on the improvement of anti-poaching efforts and overall law enforcement effectiveness in the DBR through the implementation of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) endorsed by the Cameroonian Ministry of Forests and Wildlife.

The SMART implementation in the DBR started with a three day workshop at the DBR headquarters in Somalomo. The workshop conducted by Dr. Rajan Amin (ZSL Senior Wildlife Biologist), Oliver Fankem (Research Co-ordinator ZSL Cameroon), Paul De Ornellas (ZSL Assistant Programme Manager, Africa) was targeted at DBR management staff involved in overall reserve management, reserve sector management, anti-poaching unit management, and biodiversity monitoring.

The main objectives of the workshop were to: 1)

Introduce the SMART approach for adaptive management and wildlife protection to the DBR management. 2) Setup the SMART system for the DBR (threats and species, reference spatial map, patrol and reporting structures). 3) Train the DBR management in SMART operationalization. 4) Prepare an outline implementation plan for SMART law enforcement monitoring system in DBR.

At the end of the workshop, 10 DBR management staff were trained in the basic use of SMART software. SMART software was configured for practical use in the DBR, and an outline plan for SMART implementation was elaborated for use in the northern antenna.

We expect this approach that uses a combination of a law enforcement and monitoring software tool, capacity building, and implementation of standards to empower DBR staff, boost motivation, increase efficiency and promote transparent monitoring of anti-poaching efforts.

The next three months will be crucial as patrols will be conducted using this new approach. After an evaluation of the first phase, SMART will be deployed for use across the DBR and hopefully across the larger landscape, securing wildlife protection for the future of Cameroon's forests.

Lessons learned from communication efforts around the Dja



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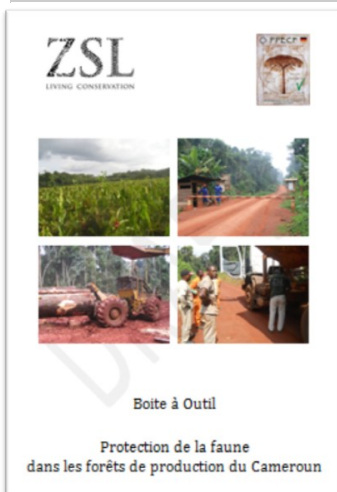
Between December 2013 and July 2014, ZSL carried out a communication program focused on presenting to local people the risks associated with poaching. This radio program, entitled *Forêt-Faune*, was recorded and broadcast locally in both Mindourou and Lomié in the East Region of Cameroon. In order to better understand the impact of the program and to be able to reinforce this or similar programs in the future, a study was carried out in August with over 50 community members across 15 different villages in the zone.

The results showed that 92% of audience members questioned appreciate the radio programs, primarily because of the instructive nature of the programs which allowed community members to better understand forestry and wildlife law, as well as because of the importance of community member participation to support the work of the government to achieve sustainable wildlife management.

The program has helped audience members better understand the transition currently underway from usage rights to commercially-minded purposes through poaching, with or without support from external poachers. Audience members highlighted the need for more education-related activities in order reach the largest population. Finally, audience members emphasized the need for a greater implication of local actors and their important role in realizing sustainable resource management.

Although there is an increased focus from the government on anti-poaching activities, outreach and education are just as important as ever to ensure community members clearly understand the law and, importantly, the risks associated with engaging in poaching activities.

ZSL produces Wildlife Protection Toolkit for production forests



Since the 1990s, Cameroon has initiated efforts for improved forest management with the forestry law of 1994. In production forests, the strengthening of the application of the law has been a gradual process through the various initiatives supported and implemented by various organizations, including FAO, ATIBT, WWF, IUCN, etc.

Today, forestry certification, especially FSC, is widely considered to be an important tool to achieve improved forest management, and is considered especially important for its ability to improve biodiversity protection. Unfortunately, despite national and international attention on forest biodiversity management, wildlife is particularly affected by alarming rates of poaching and increasing habitat fragmentation.

ZSL has worked since 2007 with two logging company partners and, within this context, has tested concrete ways in which to support law enforcement as well as FSC principles pertaining to the protection of wildlife. The actions tested in the field by ZSL and partners provided an important base to better refine wildlife protection approaches,

and as a result, ZSL has produced a toolkit for wildlife management in production forests with the support of the COMIFAC KfW-funded Programme for the Promotion of Exploitation of Certified Forests (PPECF). The toolkit proposes different effective approaches for adaptive wildlife management within the context of production forests in order to maintain or enhance the biodiversity values while preserving the interests of all stakeholders.

In order to improve the quality of the final product, ZSL organized a validation workshop in Douala on the 26th of September 2014. The participants were from various forest certification bodies, logging companies, local and international NGOs, etc. Workshop participants shared opinions and experiences and their comments will be taken into consideration in the final version of the toolkit, which will be made publicly available.

Exchanging experiences from abroad to develop innovative freshwater management techniques

In the Philippines, fishers have experienced serious declines in marine fish stocks over the years. Increasing local populations depend heavily on the available resources, and this often means that even a small catch has to be sufficient to share amongst the participating fishers. ZSL's experience in the Philippines in organizing communities to improve fisheries management has proven to be invaluable both in coastal Asian communities dependent on degraded coral reefs, as well as in Mozambique, and similar innovative science-based methodologies are being applied to the context of Cameroon where freshwater resources are currently relatively intact.

On September 3rd, Dr. Nicholas Hill of ZSL's marine and freshwater team provided a training to the Conservation Service of Lake Ossa, drawing on experiences of community-based initiatives effectively improving heavily degraded fishing stocks in the Philippines. The team learned about the challenges facing livelihoods of fishers and their families as well as the initiatives taken by community members to improve their livelihoods and overall well-being.

The training was presided over by the Sous-Prefet of the Sanaga-Maritime Department, and the Conservator of Lake Ossa and his small team of eco-guards participated with enthusiasm. Together, ZSL, the Conservation Service, and the Sous-Prefet worked together to discuss ways that community groups can effectively manage resources and support the government in their efforts to promote sustainable management. Community groups that are applying principles of good governance can have far-reaching and very positive environmental and social impacts to ensure continued development of rural Cameroon.



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Lessons learned on palm oil sustainability in Cameroon

Within the framework of government, national and international needs for sustainable palm oil production, ZSL Cameroon has carried out a palm oil sustainability assessment in order to have a better understanding of stakeholders' capacities and willingness to promote and adopt best practices, including Round Table for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) Principles and Criteria, High Conservation Value and Free Prior and Informed Consent concepts.

Ocean Division in the South Region and Nyong et Kelle in the Centre Region of Cameroon are among the high palm oil production zones in the country.

Within the framework of the stakeholders' assessment, an assessment of main producers in these areas was undertaken. The results show that actors here, like their counterparts elsewhere in the country, generally have low awareness and capacities to implement sustainable palm oil best practices.

Earlier in the survey, visits were made to the Littoral and Southwest Regions where the trends showed that stakeholders' awareness and capacities to implement best practices are generally low. In the Ocean and Nyong et Kelle Divisions in the South and Centre Regions, respectively, the trends showed even lower awareness. Slightly higher levels of awareness demonstrated by stakeholders in the Southwest Region could be attributed to the long history of presence of agro-industries in the area (CDC, PAMOL) and the debates generated by the recent establishment of an important new agro-industry (Herakles Farms) in the area.

Stakeholders are generally willing to support sustainability in the industry, but are more concerned with achieving economic benefits than with environmental aspects.



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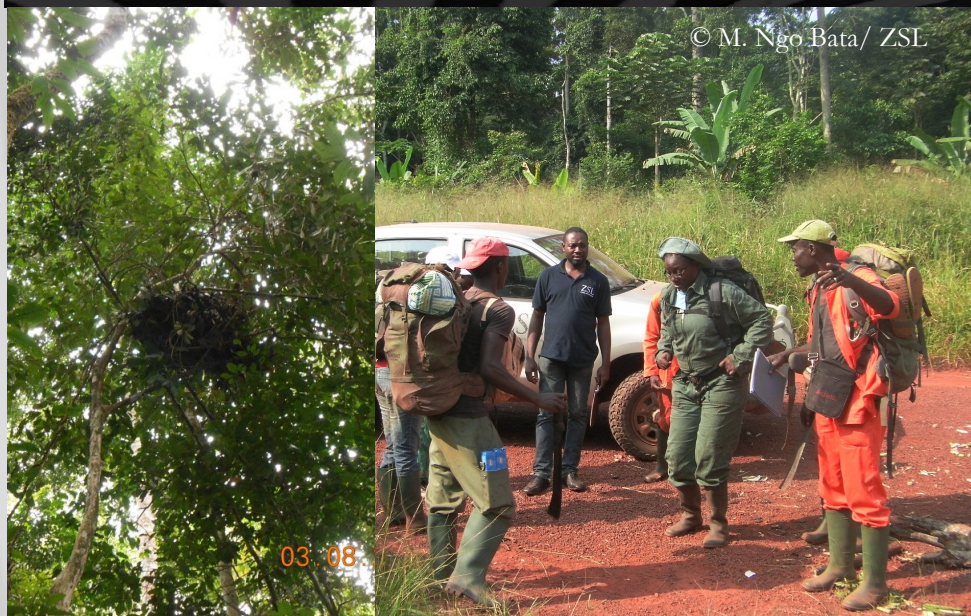
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OUR PARTNERS



DIRECT FROM THE FIELD



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Within the framework of the partnership between ZSL and SFID-Mbang and in the early stages of putting into action a wildlife protection plan for SFID-Mbang's logging concessions, field work was organized to carry out a wildlife inventory using the Adaptive Recce Transect Sampling (ARTS) methods developed by ZSL within the framework of the Wildlife Wood Project. This inventory was carried out in order to identify and map populations of the common chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes troglodytes*) found within certain sections of a logging concession. This identification allows the wildlife teams to identify zones in the forest with large populations of chimpanzees and to manage those areas as High Value Conservation forest. ZSL's Madeleine NGO Bata gets ready with the SFID wildlife team, on the right, and using the ARTS method locates chimpanzee nests high in the tree canopy, on the left.

ZSL TO HOLD GLOBAL CONSERVATION MEETING IN LONDON

From October 20th through October 31st, ZSL will hold the 3rd annual Global Conservation Meeting in London where ZSL staff from around the world meet at ZSL Headquarters to share conservation experiences, innovations, and ideas. About 25 ZSL global staff from Russia, China, Mongolia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Cameroon, Kenya, Tanzania, Benin, South Africa, and Saudi Arabia will be attending, along with all UK-based staff. There are two main objectives for the Global Conservation Meeting:

- 1) to provide training to our staff to ensure that ZSL has the best possible conservation practitioners working for us and delivering on ZSL's conservation mission;
- 2) to provide an opportunity for ZSL staff from across the society and different field programmes to meet, share ideas, learn from each other and take away these new ideas and approaches to help improve project implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation. This year, three ZSL Cameroon staff will participate with the goal of applying lessons learned around the world to deliver effective conservation projects in Cameroon that have tangible impact, and importantly provide second-hand training to other ZSL staff based in Cameroon to ensure that there is on-going learning to the benefit of all ZSL field staff.

ZSL
LIVING CONSERVATION