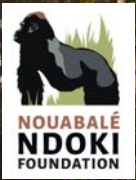


# NOUABALE-NDOKI NATIONAL PARK FEBRUARY 2018



The beautiful Motaba River snakes into the pristine forest to the north-east of the Park. ©Zanne Labuschagne/WCS

## SUMMARY

- Anti-poaching team deliver major success in response to January's poaching events. Following a concerted response, 3 of the poachers involved in the 9-elephant incident near Goualougo, were arrested, sent to court and each issued with \$10,000 USD fines and the maximum prison sentence of 5 years.
- Visit to Bomassa, Ouessou and Brazzaville for one week by Nancy Gelman, Program Officer for US Fish & Wildlife Service, to assess Park training and capacity building.
- Willy Brice Safou Makaya was appointed as the temporary Head of Logistics until further notice.

## CONSERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY

### PNNN arrests:



\*all suspects transferred to the courts.

### Seizures:



### Illegally killed elephants:

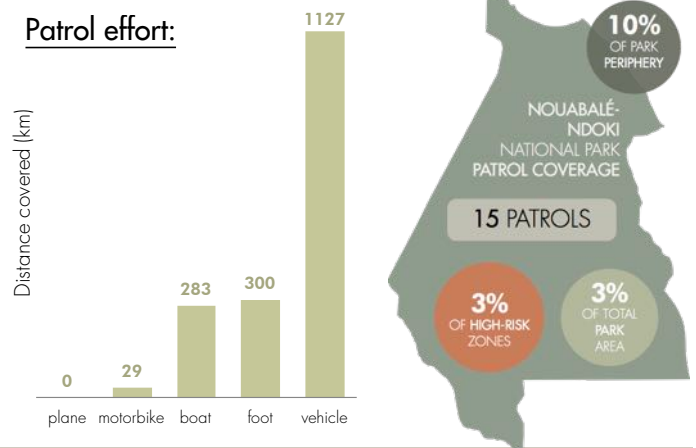


\*all carcasses found outside the Park boundaries.

### Hunting camp monitoring:

**2** camps visited **1** camp destroyed

### Patrol effort:



**Operations & Information Fusion Centre:** Arrival of new equipment from New York including InReach communication devices. Meeting held with anti-poaching staff to establish common intelligence guidelines for 2018. Contributions to the annual "SMART User Council" held in Cambodia. Secure file sharing system set up with the Wildlife Crime Unit.

SUCCESSFUL ANTI-POACHING OPERATION LEADS TO ARREST OF **THREE POACHERS** AND A SWIFT CONVICTION TO **FIVE YEARS JAIL TIME**

### WILDLIFE CRIME UNIT

#### WCU convictions:



**Seven** wildlife crime convictions, **five** of which were for maximum sentence (5 years)

### AVIATION PROGRAM



Surveillance flights: 0  
Logistics flights: 1 (3 h 12 min)

Aircraft annual service completed. Issues that caused the plane to be temporarily grounded at the beginning of the year were resolved.

### PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Rare sighting and footage capture of a one-day old baby western lowland gorilla in Kingo's group at Mondika with its mother, Mekome.





©Ivonne Kienast/WCS

Completion of the new walkway across the Mondika River. Two additional walkways were built to access the solar farm and washing line from the Mondika camp.



©Willy Safou Makaya/WCS

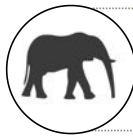
Practical component of the fire extinguisher training session held in Bomassa. The course was attended by 16 park employees from various departments.



©JP Sagette/WCS

Completion of the aircraft annual maintenance with the help of Vincent Muchiri (aircraft engineer) and Georges Ruggiero FAA inspector and licensed engineer.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Six environmental education sessions held on theme "Save our elephants and gorillas"

85 81   
\*including 51 indigenous people



Awareness raised on Sangha River about guidelines set out by the fisheries mini-charter

41 12   
\*including 8 indigenous people



A training workshop was held in Bomassa on restaurant management

22 3   
\*no indigenous people participated

- Two litter collection days were organised in the village of Makao.

- Eight 'English for Beginners' classes held this month, attended by 11 people (10 men, one indigenous woman) on a voluntary basis.

- The Park facilitated a mission for three teachers from Bomassa to go to Gatongo to attend an activity organised by the Pokola Primary Inspectorate to strengthen the capacity of teachers.

- Participation in a workshop, held in Nairobi, for the launch and implementation of the Sustainable Wildlife Management Program around the Park.

## RESEARCH AND MONITORING

**Elephant Listening Project (ELP):** The team retrieved data from devices that were installed in the Goulougo area, which suffered a poaching episode in late January. Data analysis is underway to see if the poaching incident gunshots were captured by the devices.

**Wildlife Health Program (WHP):** A collaboration between The WCS and Rocky Mountain Laboratories (RML) have been developing an iPhone platform-based, hand-held field molecular diagnostic device for the detection of Ebola. Eeva Kuisma visited the RML in Montana to discuss the project and to plan next steps.

### NNNP RESEARCH SITES



**Mondika:** Observation of Kingo attempting to mate with female Mokombe (17 years old). Arrival of new teaching aids for research assistant training program including: Statistics, Primatology, Animal Behavior, Evolution, and English.



**Mbeli Bai Study:** Pilot phase for a new study on forest elephant (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*) group coordination, conducted by research assistant, Jess Bahamboula, completed and evaluated. Boardwalk to Mbeli River rebuilt.



**Goulougo Triangle Ape Project (GTAP):** Three GTAP Research Assistants submitted successful applications to present posters at the International Primatological Society Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya this summer.

## TOURISM

The tourism team hosted three visitors in Bomassa this month (Donors: 1, Independent Researchers: 2).  
Number of bed nights: Bomassa: 13.



## LOGISTICS & INFRASTRUCTURE

Completion of the new oven at the Mondika Camp. A team of twenty people completed the clearing of vegetation along the road from Bomassa to Ndoki. Hot water heaters installed in the tourism house and the visitors guest house.

## NDOKI MEDIA:

Successful Anti-poaching Operation Leads to 5-Year Conviction for Three Poachers

