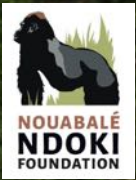


NOUABALE-NDOKI NATIONAL PARK, MARCH 2019



A group of forest buffalo in a forest lake, photographed during a surveillance flight. © JP Sagette/WCS

SUMMARY

- This month the park welcomed the new Eastern Sector Warden, Francois-Xavier Hourouga, who will oversee law-enforcement activities in the eastern sector of the park, based out of the Makao park headquarters. The park also welcomed Guy Charles Pambou Loembet, a new accountant, and Saturnin Leko, a new driver, to the team.
- The park's head of logistics, head of admin and finance, and an FTNS dedicated accountant took part in a training session on the new FTNS Manual of Procedures in Bertoua, Cameroon.
- Boreholes were successfully drilled in both Bomassa and Makao headquarters this month.

CONSERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY

PNNN arrests:

*no arrests made this month.

Seizures:



Illegally killed elephants:

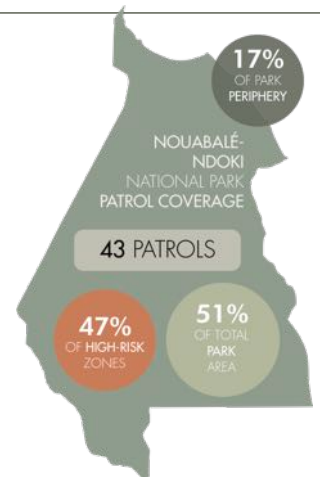
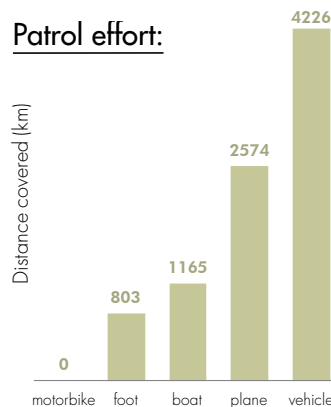


*red indicates carcasses found within the park boundaries.

Hunting camp monitoring:

20 camps visited **18** camps destroyed

Patrol effort:



Operations & Information Fusion Centre: Seven alerts were registered at the control room in March. New Garmin InReach trackers configured for the Wildlife Crime Unit. Exchanges with the Dzanga-Sangha law enforcement team on strengthening binational operations and intelligence sharing. Three *Officier Policière Judiciaires* in the eastern sector received training in drafting legal statements (*procès verbal*).

A NEW RANGER CLASSROOM WAS CONSTRUCTED AT THE BOMASSA PARK HEADQUARTERS.

WILDLIFE CRIME UNIT

- The WCU legal experts followed up on 13 cases this month (3 in Ouessou and 10 in Impfondo).

- Liaising with WWF on developing Standard Operating Procedures for Countering Trafficking of Protected Species with regards to bushmeat.

AVIATION PROGRAM



Surveillance flights: 6 (11 h 32m)
Logistics flights: 8 (17 h 26m)

An inspection of the aircraft was completed by the Civil Aviation Authority and subsequently WCS's operating license for the aircraft was renewed.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



©Gautam Shah/loL

A newborn baby Western Lowland Gorilla in the Kingo group of habituated gorillas at Mondika.



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©WCS

The new ranger classroom at the Bomassa park headquarters.



©JP Sagette/WCS

A large group of elephants in one of the park's forest clearings, photographed during ongoing, important surveillance flights.



©Z. Labuschagne/WCS

A march between Bomassa and Bon-Coin villages was held on the 8th of March, to mark International Women's Day.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Round table discussion held focused on education

30 0
*including 11 indigenous people



Top 3 students in each year received FNN notebooks during school prize-giving

11 9
*including 0 indigenous people



Meeting to raise awareness of hygiene issues was held in Makao

6 4
*including 40 indigenous people

- Two tourists visited Bomassa village for two three this month. They took part in several activities offered by the Community Ecotourism team, including a fishing trip in a dugout canoe on the Sangha River.
- Ten women from Bomassa and Bon-Coin participated in household food movements to Pokola to purchase basic necessities, one of the measures in place to mitigate the negative attitude towards elephants that comes with human-elephant conflict.
- A mission was completed along the Sangha River to raise awareness of the rules of the sustainable fisheries charter.

RESEARCH AND MONITORING

Elephant Listening Project (ELP): The ELP team received training on basic statistics and SMART. Analysis of data from two areas where acoustics units were deployed in 2018 was completed, and a report on these results was shared and discussed with the anti-poaching team.

Wildlife Health Program (WHP): The Vermiculated Fishing Owl that arrived at the Bomassa Rehabilitation Centre as a juvenile was released into the wild. Two confiscated Helmeted Guinea-fowls spent two nights recovering at the Rehabilitation Centre before being released

NNNP RESEARCH SITES



Mondika: Good progress is being made on the habituation of the third group of gorillas, with extended contacts made with the target group every day this month. Research assistants received training on basic statistics and SMART.



Mbeli Bai Study: Silverback "Khan" and his group were observed very close to the mirador, termite fishing and playing along the boardwalk leading to the platform. New Sitatunga baby observed.



Goulougo Triangle Ape Project (GTAP): Visit by the team from Internet of Elephants, who create games for conservation, and will feature Nouabale-Ndoki National Park's wildlife in their latest computer game.

TOURISM

A total of 17 visitors were received this month (2 International Tourists, 14 Collaborators, 1 Friends & Family. Number of bed nights: Bomassa: 68, Mondika: 4, Goulougo: 8.



LOGISTICS & INFRASTRUCTURE

Construction of the ranger classroom completed. Boreholes drilled at Bomassa and Makao headquarters. Arrival of the truck driver, to be permanently based in Bomassa, meaning that the park's Atego truck is now fully operational.

NDOKI MEDIA:

Chimps are losing their culture, says new study featuring GTAP.

