

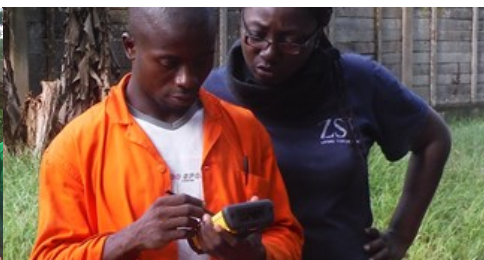


2015: YEAR OF THE pangolin

**ANNOUNCING TWO NEW INITIATIVES TO PROTECT THE
WORLD'S MOST TRAFFICKED WILD MAMMAL**
(and other stories about people working for wildlife)



IN THE DJA RESERVE
**How communities stood
up against poaching**



WILDLIFE WOOD PROJECT
**Tracking wildlife
using SMART**



NET-WORKS IN LAKE OSSA
**Lake Clean-ups bring
profit to fishers**

Joining forces to protect pangolins

IN CAMEROON, PANGOLINS ARE THREATENED BY HABITAT LOSS AND ILICIT HUNTING. ZSL IS JOINING FORCES WITH IUCN AND THE USFWS TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE FOR THIS UNIQUE MAMMAL OF HARD SKIN.

It is estimated that over one million pangolins have been poached from the wild in the last 10 years (Challender *et al.* 2014), making this animal the most trafficked wild mammal in the world.

These inoffensive animals are a target for illegal international wildlife traffickers, mainly for their skin, scales and meat, driven largely by market demand in East Asia. African pangolin species are predominantly threatened by habitat loss and intensive hunting. Pangolin meat is widely consumed and scales are used in traditional African bush medicine. However, in recent years African pangolins are targeted by wildlife traffickers and transported to Asian markets. In Asia pangolin meat is a delicacy in some Chinese and Vietnamese cultures, and scales are used as an ingredient in traditional Asian medicines.

In fact, as a result of these increasing threats, IUCN has re-categorised all eight species of pangolin on its Red List of Threatened Species. Each species is now threatened with extinction.

In response to the increasing global threats facing pangolins in Central Africa, ZSL have now added to its programme a focus on the conservation of the three species of pangolins found in Cameroun, with two new projects:

Save Our Species: With funds from IUCN, ZSL will work to improve the conservation status of the 3 species of pangolins present in Cameroon. Protecting key populations, reinforcing the capacity of the Cameroon Government Conservation Service, enforcing the existing wildlife laws, increasing protection through informant and community surveillance networks and reducing the international demand for pangolins products such as scales are the main actions.



MENTOR Progress on Pangolins (POP) Fellowship Program

Program: A USFWS funded project, MENTOR Progress on Pangolins (POP) Fellowship Program, to develop a trans-disciplinary team of MENTORS to counter threats to pangolins in Central Africa and apply appropriate conservation measures. This project will train and develop pangolin champions across the region. To achieve this, the project will develop the capacity of a team of Central African and Asian conservation professionals.



DID YOU KNOW? There are three species of Pangolins in Cameroon: Giant pangolin (*Smutsia gigantea*), White bellied or Tree pangolin (*Phataginus tricuspis*) and Black-bellied or long-tailed pangolin (*Phataginus tetradactyla*).



(Photo: New York Times)

MENTOR PROGRESS ON PANGOLINS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

MENTORS will develop new approaches to address key threats to pangolins. The program has the following objectives by December 2016:

- Train and equip a trans-disciplinary team of nine Central African and Asian Fellows with the capacity to design and deliver conservation programs;
- Develop and test robust methods for assessment of pangolin populations, offtake and trade, to provide population assessments for key sites in Cameroon and information on the pangolin trade. The information will be provided to the Cameroon CITES Authority;
- Improve the effectiveness of law enforcement for pangolin protection;
- Determine the nature of demand for pangolin products
- Develop pilot projects that lead to reducing this demand.

WANT TO BECOME A FELLOW?

Apply until Sep 4th through www.zsl.org



A community response against poaching



COMMERCIAL POACHING IS A THREAT NOT ONLY FOR BIODIVERSITY BUT ALSO FOR LONG TERM FOOD SECURITY IN VILLAGES AROUND THE DJA RESERVE. SINCE 2012, ZSL WORKS WITH COMMUNITIES TO SURVEY FORESTS AND REDUCE POACHING.



The scale of poaching is threatening not only wildlife, but also the livelihoods of millions of forest adjacent peoples who rely on forest resources for survival. In the Dja Biosphere Reserve poaching is one of the main barriers for conservation, and community engagement to denounce and prevent poaching is critical.

A Community Surveillance Network to enable communities to denounce poaching activities happening in their land started in 2012 following the denouncement of intense poaching from traffickers from away of the area by communities. Since then, six communities in the boundaries of the Dja Biosphere Reserve have engaged with ZSL and the Dja Conservation Service in a Community Surveillance Network (CSN) following a process that includes interviews and a SWOT analysis. Since 2012 thanks to this network and the proactivity of the forest administration, several poachers have been identified and captured. But more important, CNS seems to be helping to consolidate long term behavioural change in communities: transit of poachers is decreasing in participant villages as community members refuse to work as trackers for commercial poachers.



All these indicators evidence that engaging communities in anti-poaching efforts is dissuasive and contributes to a better stewardship of wildlife. By engaging communities in conservation, the CSN approach contributes to integrated management and conservation of protected areas with active participation of neighboring communities.

THE COMMUNITY SURVEILLANCE NETWORK IN 2015 **(January to May)**

11 CALLS FROM 4 COMMUNITIES
6 POACHERS ARRESTED BY FOREST ADMINISTRATION AS A RESULT OF INFORMATION RECEIVED
3 POACHER MOTORBIKES STOPPED AND CONFISCATED
2 PUBLIC AUCTIONS OF BUSH MEAT

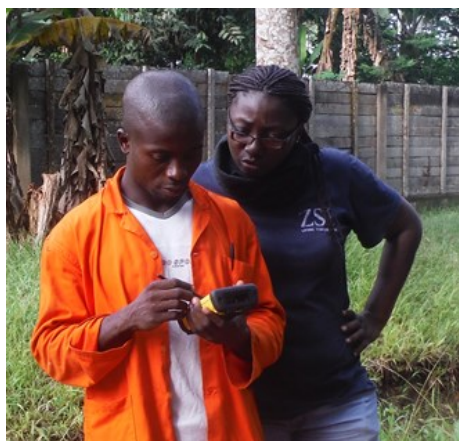
WILDLIFE WOOD PROJECT

SMART expands in Cameroonian logging concessions

ZSL is presently supporting SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) implementation for Wildlife monitoring in the Dja Biosphere Reserve (DBR). To expand the SMART system to the periphery of the DBR, ZSL collaborates with innovative logging companies like Pallisco, and SFID (Mbang and Djoum concessions). Pallisco and SFID partner with ZSL to improve wildlife management practices within their concessions.

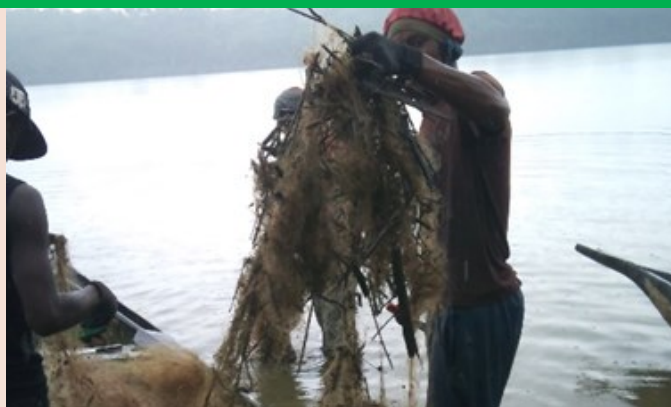
The SMART system will sustainably improve anti-poaching efforts and overall law enforcement effectiveness in more than 725 429 ha of forest concessions. Prior to this configuration, a preparatory mission was carried out to ensure that adequate resources (human resources, funds, etc.) were in place to operate surveillance and patrols and that decision makers within the companies were involved to monitor progress and make management decisions based on the information obtained by the wildlife monitoring teams.

In the three sites, SMART implementation plans and patrols agendas were agreed upon and the wildlife monitoring teams who are now actively using the SMART system in surveillance and wildlife monitoring activities.



In these sites, SMART is presently facilitating the collection, storage, communication, and evaluation of

patrol data on: efforts (e.g. time spent on patrols, areas visited and distances covered), results (e.g. snares removed) and threat levels. It is also maintaining the information flow between wildlife teams, team leaders, companies managers and, when needed, the forest administration for appropriate action.



NET-WORKS

The good business of cleaning up Lake Ossa

In the Lake Ossa Wildlife Reserve, ZSL is working with the Conservation Service to engage communities in conservation through the generation of buy-ins related to livelihood development. Indeed, the Lake Ossa Site is included in the a global program for the recycling of discarded fishing nets into carpet tile (Net-Works). Through Village Saving and Loans Associations and in collaboration with the local zoning committees, ZSL organized an activity to remove discarded fishing nets from the lake. Discarded fishing nets are seen as a major threat for the fishery, as they lead to ghost fishing (accidental capture of fish) and the degradation of lake habitats. Participants collected in total 270 Kg of net debris that they sold to the village savings and loans associations for export and recycling. This clean-up activity was a good opportunity to demonstrate the Net Works business model and to engage community associations in environmental regeneration activities.



OUR PARTNERS



INSIDE ZSL

ZSL Cameroon appoints a Law enforcement coordinator



Humphrey Ekane Anoah, joined ZSL Cameroon in June 2015 in the position of Law Enforcement Coordinator. He is a jurist specialized in environmental Law and sustainable development. He previously worked with the Last Great Ape Organization (LAGA) Cameroon, as a jurist in charge of wildlife Law enforcement and field operation coordinator for five years. He managed numerous field operations that led to the arrest of hundreds of wildlife traffickers with excellent judicial prosecution. His enormous passion with environmental resources especially wildlife, and his full awareness of the fast extinction of wildlife within the sub region due pushed him to join the ZSL team. In his new position, Mr Ekane Anoah hopes to be active contributor to wildlife conservation in a holistic manner through effective wildlife law enforcement. ZSL welcomes Humphrey to the team and wishes him the best in his new role!

Wishing the best of lucks to Lauren Redmore



We wish to say goodbye to Lauren Redmore, our former ZSL project manager in the Lake Ossa. Ms Redmore joined ZSL in January 2013 as a social and communication officer before becoming a project manager for Lake Ossa. Lauren will be missed, however she will be forever linked to Cameroon and Dizangue, town that honoured her with the title of Notable and ambassador. Good luck Lauren!

SNAPSHOT FROM THE FIELD

(Left) Constant Ndjassi, intern at ZSL Cameroon working at the Lake Ossa project (Dizangue) undertaking a Catch per Unit Effort baseline study. The results of this survey will help stakeholders evaluate the impact of sustainable fishing practices.



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ZSL | **LET'S WORK FOR WILDLIFE**