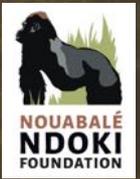


NOUABALE-NDOKI NATIONAL PARK JANUARY 2018



The WCS Congo aircraft taxiing down the Makao-Linganga airstrip. ©Z Labuschagne/WCS

SUMMARY

- The 7th Nouabalé-Ndoki Foundation board meeting was held in Brazzaville on the 30th. The President of the Board and all administrators congratulated the Park Management Unit on the achievements and improvements made over the past year and the 2018 Annual Park Work Plan and Park Budget were adopted with minor modifications.
- Under the lead of ACFAP, a workshop was held in Bomassa, to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practice, and improve communication, with PROGEPP-Kabo, PROGEPP-Ngombé, Tala Tala and ETIC coordinators.
- The vice-president of WCS Global Conservation, Joe Walston, visited the Park, taking part in a five-day trek to one of the more remote forest clearings in the north-west of the Park, Bonye Bai.

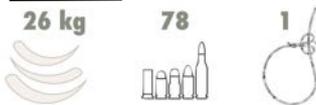
CONSERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY

PNNN arrests:

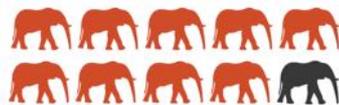


*two suspects transferred to the courts.

Seizures:



Illegally killed elephants:

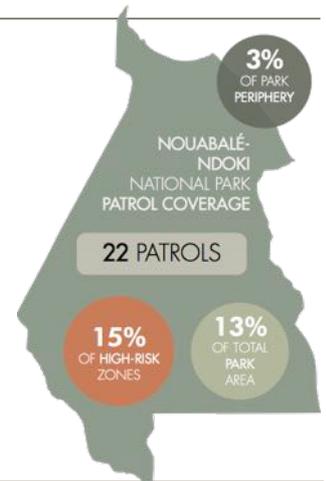
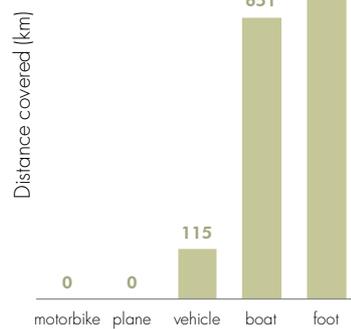


*red indicates carcasses found within the Park boundaries.

Hunting camp monitoring:

27 camps visited **16** camps destroyed

Patrol effort:



Operations & Information Fusion Centre: The Makao control room was re-organized and several days of refresher training on patrol briefing and debriefing was given to the eastern sector team. The 2017 patrol data was analyzed. Three radio controllers from Brazzaville visited the park and were trained on Park radio protocols.

A WORKSHOP HELD IN BOMASSA BROUGHT TOGETHER MANAGERS OF SEVERAL CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN NORTHERN CONGO UNDER THE LEAD OF ACFAP

WILDLIFE CRIME UNIT

WCU operations:



one operation carried out leading to the arrest of **five** poachers

AVIATION PROGRAM



Surveillance flights: 0
Logistics flights: 1 (1 h 6 min)

The WCS plane officially moved from Ouesso to the WCS Makao-Linganga airstrip, drastically cutting operation costs and bringing the plane closer to high risk poaching zones.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



A baby gorilla seized at a Ndoki ranger checkpoint was cared for by assigned carer, Aimé, for five days before being successfully transferred to the Lesio-Louna Gorilla Sanctuary where he was named Bomassa and is recovering well.



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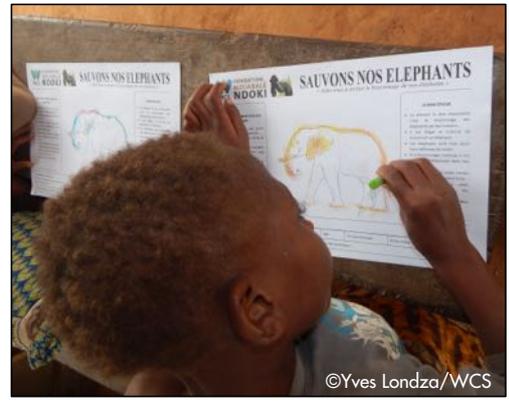
©Terry Brnić/WCS

Ivonne Kienast, Mondika Gorilla Project site manager, delivering a talk to Park staff on the work of the Mondika habituation project.



©Zanne Labuschagne/WCS

Team photo during the mission to Bonye bai with Joe Walston, WCS vice-president of Global Conservation.



©Yves Londza/WCS

An environmental education session held at the Ora school in Thany on the north-eastern boundary of the Park.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Screening of a film in Makao on ancestral and indigenous knowledge in the Congo Basin

22 10
*including 15 indigenous people



Three environmental education sessions held with school children of Makao and Thany

31 37
*including 44 indigenous people



Two presentations on possible benefits of community ecotourism given in Bomassa & Bon Coin.

20 10
*including 12 indigenous people

- The Park facilitated a visit to the Bomassa school by the the Education Inspection Committee from Pokola to allow the Committee to carry out supervision, and evaluation of teachers at the Bomassa school.

- A visiting delegation from *Sabine Plattner African Charities* (SPAC) met with representatives of the Park, and the Women's Association of Bomassa village. Discussions focused on investment opportunities in early childhood education in Bomassa.

RESEARCH AND MONITORING

Elephant Listening Project (ELP): The team carried out a mission to change the batteries and collect SD cards from the 20 units deployed in the Goulougo and Mbeli area.

Wildlife Health Program (WHP): The joint project between the Congo WHP and Bronx Zoo Ornithology Department to develop the standard rehabilitation and care protocols for confiscated African Grey Parrots has been awarded the first prize for the "Achievement for an Avian In-Situ Programme" by the Avian Scientific Advisory Group's (ASAG) annual Plume Awards.

NNNP RESEARCH SITES



Mondika: Individuals in both gorilla groups were observed coughing; dung samples were taken for as many individuals as possible during this period. The tracker team were given an arithmetic course, part of the site's capacity building strategy.



Mbeli Bai Study: Behavioral observations of the sitatunga group brings into question the assumption that the dominant sitatunga male possesses reproductive exclusiveness. New-borns observed: one gorilla, one sitatunga, one buffalo, two elephants.



Goulougo Triangle Ape Project (GTAP): A period with few fruiting trees was experienced at the end of the month, possibly affecting ape ranging and social patterns. Two fresh elephant carcasses were discovered and reported to Bomassa.

TOURISM

The tourism team hosted four visitors in Bomassa and Makao this month (Non-WCS collaborators: 2, WCS: 2). Number of bed nights: Bomassa: 8 and other sites: 12.



LOGISTICS & INFRASTRUCTURE

Cement slabs were laid in preparation for the arrival of the two new generators at Bomassa. A shipment of AvGas arrived and was stocked in Kabo. Bryce Gara joined the logistics team; he will be working in the Bomassa food store.

NDOKI MEDIA:

Our latest blog post: A celebration of Kingo's 40th birthday.

