

NOUBALÉ-NDOKI NATIONAL PARK, APRIL 2021



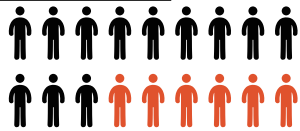
Alpha male Mark enjoying fruit snacks just before he fishes for termites ©S.Brogan/WCS

SUMMARY

- A high-tech digital radio system, combining long and short-distance radio, was installed at the Park's bases and checkpoints surrounding the Park. This will allow a revolution in continual communications for ranger and operations team.
- Transboundary ranger patrols were able to restart after over a year's suspension due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The restart was possible due to laudable collaboration between the local administrations of the three countries in the TNS: Congo, Cameroon and the Central African Republic.
- Members of Bomassa community visited community-based tourism sites in southern Congo as part of an exchange visit, gaining valuable experience and lessons learnt from similar initiatives.

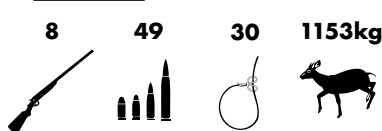
CONSERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY

NNNP arrests:



* in red, suspects transferred to local courts

Seizures:



Illegally killed elephants:

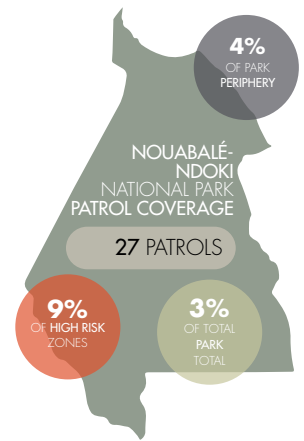
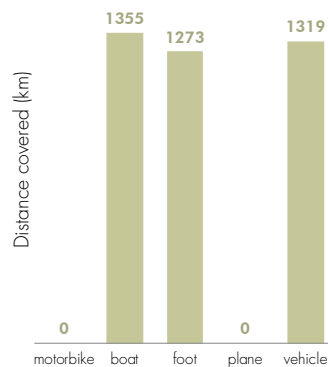


* red indicates carcasses found within the park boundaries.

Hunting camp monitoring:

42 camps visited **37** camps destroyed

Patrol effort:



Operations & Information Fusion Centre: The second refresher training of the year was carried out, with support from the Wildlife Crime Unit, who provided a two-day course on police techniques to apply to the ranger's work, including evidence and crime scene management, and preparing for criminal trials.

REHABILITATE WORKS HAVE STARTED AT NDOKI2, A NEW STRATEGIC PARK OPERATIONS CENTER, KINDLY LEASED BY THE CIB

INFRASTRUCTURE CONSTRUCTION

- Installation of solar panels at Motaba, Leopard and Ndoki 2 gatehouses
- Excavation of the rainwater drainage channel at the community campsite
- Electrification of two buildings at Ndoki 2 camp

AVIATION PROGRAM



Surveillance flights: 0
Logistics flights: 0

Plane parts have arrived in Congo, awaiting shipment to Kabo and arrival of mechanic to allow full servicing.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



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The delegation from Bomassa which took part in an exchange with ESI to learn more about community-based tourism





©D.Morgan

Mondika research assistants have been trained to use the Behavioral Observations Research Interactive Software (BORIS).



©S.Brogan/WCS

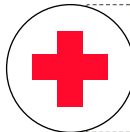
As Kale, a young gorilla from Goulougo, grows, her mother will increasingly refuse to carry and nurse him.





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A yet unidentified juvenile, about 5 years old, migrated to group "Isaak" in Mbeli Bai

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



The Bomassa health centre received 267 patients, the Makao centre received 50

139  178 
* including 47 indigenous



Sixteen pupils from Makao and Bomassa received scholarships this term

7  9 



Management meeting of the Bomassa Village Development Fund

1  9 

- The last instalment of the project to support the operation of the Makao secondary school was disbursed. This has enabled the payment of teachers' fees for the second term of the school year, thus ensuring education for several dozen pupils in Makao.
- Two supply movements between Bomassa and Pokola took place this month, enabling households and businesses in Bomassa to obtain supplies.
- A working session was held with a social partner to discuss the impact of the Bomassa senior citizens project on the operation of the commissary.

RESEARCH AND MONITORING

Elephant Listening Project (ELP):

The ELP team is in the process of replacing the microphones and motherboards of all the bio-acoustic units currently in the field.

Wildlife Health Program (WHP):

the Park organised a second round of training for the Bomassa nurses for the testing of COVID-19. The first round of samples were taken from 15 staff planning to enter Mondika.

NNNP
RESEARCH
SITES



Mondika: Kingo and Metetele were observed interacting again. The silverbacks were at about 10 meters from each other. Kingo charged, without contact, and Metetele retreated.



Mbeli Bai Study: Silverback "Tavi" (26 years old), who became solitary in 2013 and disappeared shortly after, was seen after eight years of absence.



Goulougo Triangle Ape Project: Loya was observed on two separate days with new wounds. Even if healthy, Loya is being increasingly challenged by an other male, Makassa.



TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

A delegation from the Bomassa community took part in a two-week exchange to southern Congo. The exchange was arranged with Endangered Species International (ESI) Congo, who support a small community-based tourism project with two villages. This exchange provided delegates exposure to new tourism products.

MEDIA

A new agreement [between the WCS and the Ministry of Scientific Research](#) has been signed and will facilitate research in Congo

