

Rapport Annuel



2019



Support for Cooperation
Tri-national Sangha for the
conservation and prosperity of
the people

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www.fondationtns.org



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A word from the Chairperson of the Board of Directors

Samuel MAKON WEHIONG
Chairperson
Board of Directors



Dear readers

As I write these words accompanying the report on the work carried out by our institution throughout 2019, I must point out that the parks of the Sangha tri-national (TNS) cross-border complex, like the other protected areas of the Central African sub-region, are facing the biggest health crisis since their creation, that of COVID-19. We naturally stand in solidarity with the men and women who work there and the indigenous and local populations living in and around these parks. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our donors and especially KfW for the measures taken in favour of these parks to enable them, through an additional financial contribution, to effectively combat the disease.

Returning now to the actual report of the activities of the Executive Board for the year 2019, the main purpose of my intervention, I must point out that it reflects the diversity of our activities, the richness of the relations we have with our partners and the relevance of the mission that the FTNS has set itself since its creation in 2007. It can be noted that many of the objectives set out in the 2018-2027 Strategy are being implemented. As Chairman of the Board of Directors, I look back with great interest on the road already travelled, while at the same time being aware of the major challenges that remain to be met. Continuous dialogue with our main donor, KfW as well as collaboration and consultation with the three TNS states and local communities remain the watchwords that we will continue to apply on a daily basis in order to achieve this.

In the 2019 work plans, the FTNS got committed to supporting the parks in addressing, among other things, the following 3 major challenges facing them: i) eco-development with increased involvement of the riparian communities and a particular emphasis on the protection of human rights and the promotion of good governance, ii) cross-border cooperation with support for the operation of the TNS Anti-poaching Brigade, the undisputed showcase of the TNS, and finally iii) multifaceted conservation activities. This activity report for the year 2019, the first year of full implementation of the articulations of our strategy, reflects this refocusing. Organised around our strategic axes,

it illustrates the efforts made in 2018 to achieve coherence and efficiency by

the FTNS teams, consistency aimed at avoiding the dispersion of energy and resources in too many projects with limited ambitions, seeking greater efficiency around more structuring projects aimed at a profound transformation of our parks into human faces and relying on new partnerships between the parks, communities and local associations. Some examples corresponding to key moments of the year demonstrate this. This is the case of the Initiative for the Development of Non-Timber Forest Product Value Chains of the women of Mambélé, who are grouped together in a cooperative, the grouping of three villages around the APDS for the development of sustainable agriculture with the technical support of our partner ICRAF.

My sincere gratitude is equally extended to all the members of the Board of Directors whose involvement, generosity and vigilance have made it possible to continue the FTNS' mission. Complementarity and cooperation, Commitment and professionalism describe the work done by all team members. Permit me to use this «tribune» to express all my admiration to the men and women of the TNS parks, who are under the responsibility of the challenge of integration and cooperation. These people are key players in the preservation of our forest ecosystems and protected areas, because they force, by their courage and determination, to change our mentalities and break down our prejudices.

I am therefore convinced that, with the support of our technical and financial partners, the FTNS will continue, based on its current achievements, to become even stronger. In the short term, we are demonstrating great reactivity to continue to mobilise funding, including the three parks' need for the planned activities.

A word from the Chairperson of the Investment Board

Chairperson
Investment Board



Dear readers

A word from the Chairman of the Investment Board

Bruno Schoen (Chairman of the Investment Board)

Dear readers,

It is by congratulating the work of Emmanuel Fourmann and acknowledging his departure that I take up the role of Chairman of the Investment Committee. It is with enthusiasm and optimism that I have the pleasure of being able to honour this responsibility with the aim of supporting the FTNS's investment policy and to seeing promising prospects.

It is undeniably by combining the decisions taken and the lessons learned from the past as well as the Committee's experience in defining the profile of the portfolio that we will continue on this course. The objectives are to maintain investment diversification with good profitability while reducing the risks incurred.

After a difficult year, 2018 and a decline to -6.86%, the portfolio's performance in 2019 reached +9.06%. To this positive note can be added a substantial contribution of 10 million euros from the German Development Cooperation through KfW. The capital, which stood at €49.4 million at the end of December 2018, has now been increased by €10 million making it 62.4 million at 31 December 2019. The realistic and pragmatic performance that we long-term target amounts

to 4% and it is by reaffirming the direction of the investment policy that we are pursuing that we will deploy our strategy towards ethical and responsible investments by 2021. This means going beyond the current exclusion list against companies producing or trading in arms.

The aim is to increase investment in placements that ensure social or environmental aspects are taken into account at the global level. The performance of our portfolio in 2019 is mainly the result of exogenous risks that have been avoided. In an uncertain global context, the absence of an expected recession in the United States or in Europe with the Brexit without an agreement, or of an intensification of the trade war between the United States and China, have helped to reassure and secure good results during this year.

In the future, it is a question of consolidating a positive investment dynamic and redoubling efforts in order to make further contributions to the foundation's capital. Reaching the 100 Million Euro mark as a major step forward, will make it possible to perpetuate the financing of the protected areas of the Sangha Tri-national to protect endangered species and to ensure the maintenance of biodiversity, in particular in the context of climate change.

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List of Abbreviations

AFD	French Development Agency
APDS	Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas
BE	Executive Office
BLAB	Tri-national Anti-Poaching Brigade
BMZ	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CA	Board of Directors
CAFE	Consortium of African Funds for the Environmental
CAWHFI	Central African Forest World Heritage Initiative
COMIFAC	Congo Basin Forest Partnership Central African Forest Commission
CTPE	Commission des Forêts de l'Afrique Centrale
CTS	Tri-national Planning and Implementation Committee
CTSA	Tri-national Monitoring Committee
FNN	Tri-national Supervisory and Arbitration Committee
FTNS	Nouabalé-Ndoki Foundation
KFW	Sangha Tri-national Trust Fund
LAB	Institute of International Relations of Cameroon
MINFOF	German Financial Cooperation
MEFCP	Anti-Poaching fight
MOU	Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (Cameroon)
PEA	Ministry of Water, Forestry, Hunting and Fishing (Central African Republic)
PNL	Memorandum of Understanding
PNNN	Operating and Development Permits
SINFOCAM	Lobéké National Park
STBC	Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park
TNS	Société Industrielle des Forêts Centrafricaines et d'Aménagement
UFA	STBC Société de Transformation de Bois en Afrique Centrale
ULAB	TNS Sangha Tri-national
WWF	Forest Management Unit
WCS	Anti-poaching Fight Unit

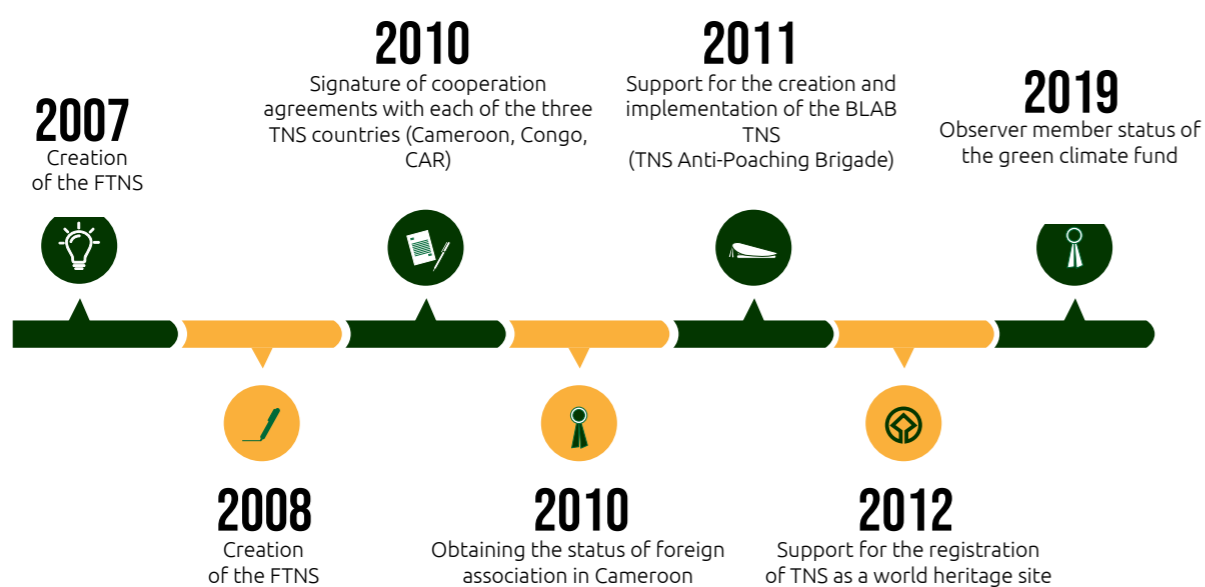
The Dzanga Bai clearing, a mythical space for elephant lovers!



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A foundation, a history that is being built.....

The Fondation pour le Tri-national de la Sangha (FTNS) was created in March 2007 with the mission of contributing to the sustainable financing of conservation, eco development and cross-border cooperation activities in the Tri-national de la Sangha (TNS) space. It thus supports the Convergence Plan 2015-2025 of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC), in its strategic axis 6 which is to develop innovative mechanisms for sustainable conservation financing, in this case trust funds. The FTNS is a member of the African Consortium of Environmental Funds (CAFE), an institution that brings together 18 environmental funds in Africa and is part of the global network «Conservation Finance Alliance».



The TNS, a unique and exceptional heritage..

The Tri-national pour la Sangha (TNS) is a 44,000 km2 cross-border forest complex straddling three Central African countries: Cameroon, the Central African Republic and the Republic of Congo. It was created in December 2000 following a cooperation agreement between the three states. It is the first concrete manifestation of the desire of the Heads of State of the Congo Basin countries to converge towards concerted management of cross-border protected areas.

TRI-NATIONAL DE LA SANGHA (TNS) SITE DU PATRIMOINE MONDIAL

- DATE DE CREATION**
2000
- DATE D'INSCRIPTION A LA LISTE DU PATRIMOINE**
JULLET 2012
- EMPLACEMENT**
Cameroon, Congo, CAR
- SUPERFICIE**
44 000 000 HA
- POPULATION**
191 000 HABITANTS

Discovering the TNS's biodiversity

In terms of biodiversity, the analysis of impacts and the human footprint shows that the TNS landscape is one of the least degraded areas in the whole of Central Africa. Within the Congo Basin, the TNS Landscape is recognised by the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) as one of the highest priorities for forest and biodiversity conservation. A total of 116 wildlife species belonging to 11 orders have been recorded in the TNS Landscape. It is one of the few places where a large mature population of forest elephants (estimated at more than 5000 elephants) can behave and move naturally across the transboundary landscape along major corridors.



Forest elephant

Class : Mammalia

Reign : Theria

Sub-Class : Eutheria

Order : Proboscidea

Family : Elephantidae

Genre : Loxodonta

IUCN Conservation Status

Endangered

The African forest elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*) is a mega herbivorous mammal of the Elephantidae family, smaller than other African elephants and typically forest dwelling (although episodically also present in areas of transition to savannah). It is one of the two species of the genus *Loxodonta* (and of the three elephant species currently in existence).



Western Lowland Gorilla

Class : Animalia

Reign : Chordata

Sub-Class : Eutheria

Order : Primates

Family : Hominidae

Genre : Gorilla

IUCN Conservation Status

Critically Endangered

The Western Gorilla can measure up to 1.7 metres for the male and weigh 180 kg while the females reach 1.3 metres and weigh 70 kg. It is slightly smaller than its eastern cousins and its silvery coat runs from the neck to the rump down to the hair on the foot. His arms are longer and his chest is wider with a lighter and shorter coat. The Western Gorilla has a life expectancy between 35 and 40 years and its overall population is estimated at between 80,000 and 100,000 individuals.

For all these reasons, the TNS has been identified as a crucial site for the conservation of forest elephants, and an exceptionally high priority site for the conservation of forest apes. The abundance and density of the latter species (estimated at more than 20,000 gorillas) is unparalleled.

In accordance with principles (IX) and (X) of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, this complex was inscribed on the list of World Heritage Sites at the 36th session of UNESCO in July 2012 in St. Petersburg: «Decision 35 COM 12B point 17.C. (whc.unesco.org/en/list/1380/). The TNS thus becomes the first tri-national World Forest Heritage.



Red-tailed Grey Parrot

Class : Animalia

Reign : Chordata

Sub-Class : Aves

Order : Psittaciformes

Family : Psittacidae

Genre : Psittacus

IUCN Conservation Status

Endangered

The Gabon Grey or Parrot jaco is the best talker among parrots. It weighs about 500 grams and feeds on seeds in forests and plantations. It is considered endangered and its population is declining due to international trade. After 35 years of regulated international trade under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) from 1981 - 2016, it is now listed in Appendix I and its international trade is strictly prohibited.



Pangolins

Règne : Animalia

Embranchement : Chordata

Classe : Eutheria

Ordre : Pholidota

Famille : Manidae

Genre : Manis

IUCN Conservation Status

Endangered

The Manidae are a family of pholidote mammals that includes all modern pangolins. The following 03 species can be found in the TNS: The Giant Pangolin (*Manis Gigantea*) is the largest living pangolin and weighs up to 35 kg. The White-bellied Pangolin (*Manis Tricuspis*), It is frequently found in Africa, it is much smaller with very small legs, an irregular arrangement of scales, «tail pads» used for climbing thanks to its long tail The Black-bellied/Long tail Pangolin (*Manis tetradactyla*) stands out as the smallest and most tree-dwelling of all pangolin species.

The FTNS in a few figures

€ 62.4 000 000 €
CAPITAL ON 31. 12. 2019

3,000,000 €
IN ANNUAL GRANTS

13 YEARS
OF EXPERIENCE

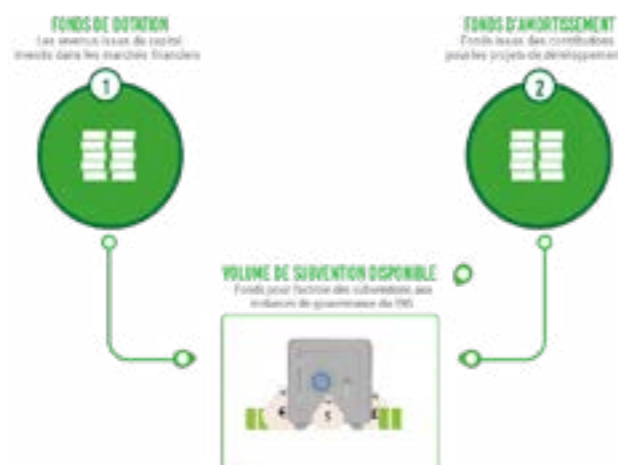
03 COUNTRIES
PROTECTED AREAS



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First and foremost a long-term sustainable financing mechanism

In December 2019 FTNS had an endowment of 62.4 million euros mobilized from the German Development Bank (KfW) on behalf of Germany and the French Development Agency (AFD) on behalf of France (55.5 million euros contributed by KfW and 3 million euros contributed by AFD). FTNS's capitalization target is set at 100 million euros of capital.



Notre mécanisme de financement

A Trust Fund with values and commitment

Our Values



PARTICIPATION & DIALOGUE

Promotion des approches CLIP, mise en œuvre de mécanisme de Plainte.



BONNE GOUVERNANCE

Transparence et audit permanent dans l'utilisation des fonds au niveau du Bureau exécutif et des trois pays.



COMPLÉMENTARITÉ

Complémentarité des autres acteurs et parties prenantes intervenant dans la zone.



RESPONSABILITÉ

La gestion des fonds reçus par la FTNS se fait en respectant les engagements pris auprès des parties prenantes représentées par les bailleurs de fonds, les gouvernements, les populations riveraines et autres acteurs.



FLEXIBILITÉ

Adaptation aux situations de crise

Our commitment

Contributing to the preservation of biodiversity and socio-economic development in the Sangha Tri-national, the first cross-border forest complex in Central Africa and a World Heritage site.

FTNS' Organisation

The Board of Directors

The Board of Directors (BOD) is the strategic orientation, coordination and decision-making body of the FTNS. Its main internal role is to oversee the technical, financial and contractual management of the FTNS. Externally, the Board acts as an ambassador for the FTNS and defends the interests of the FTNS without being compromised by conflicts of interest. Board meetings are held twice a year on a rotating basis and preferably in the three member countries of the TNS. The Director's office term is three (03) years renewable once.

The FTNS Board of Directors structure



Members of the FTNS Board of Directors in 2019



The Executive Office

The Executive Office is responsible for the implementation of the decisions of the Board, the institutional development of the FTNS, the mobilisation of funds and the granting of subsidies. It is composed of an Executive Director, a Programme Officer and an Administrative and Logistics Department composed of 3 persons. This team is supported by an accounting firm and technical assistance from the AGRECO-INTEGRATION firm, represented in the Executive Board by a Technical Adviser.



4

The Management and Performance of the FTNS Investment Portfolio

By Arnaud APFFEL - Managing Director PERENNIUM SA

The year 2018 saw the revision of the Investment Policy, the new version of which was adopted on 22 November. The year 2019 was the year of implementation, with the end of the micro finance allocation, the change of manager for the hedge fund allocation (new management started in July) and the start of a European real estate allocation (invested in September-October-November).

Continued capital growth

Three years earlier, at the end of 2016, FTNS's capital stood at EUR 27.4 million. Thanks to the portfolio's performance and the contributions, the capital reached EUR 62.4 million at the end of 2019. The only contribution in 2019 is of a significant size: EUR 10 million received on 30 December from KfW

An excellent year 2019 on the financial markets...

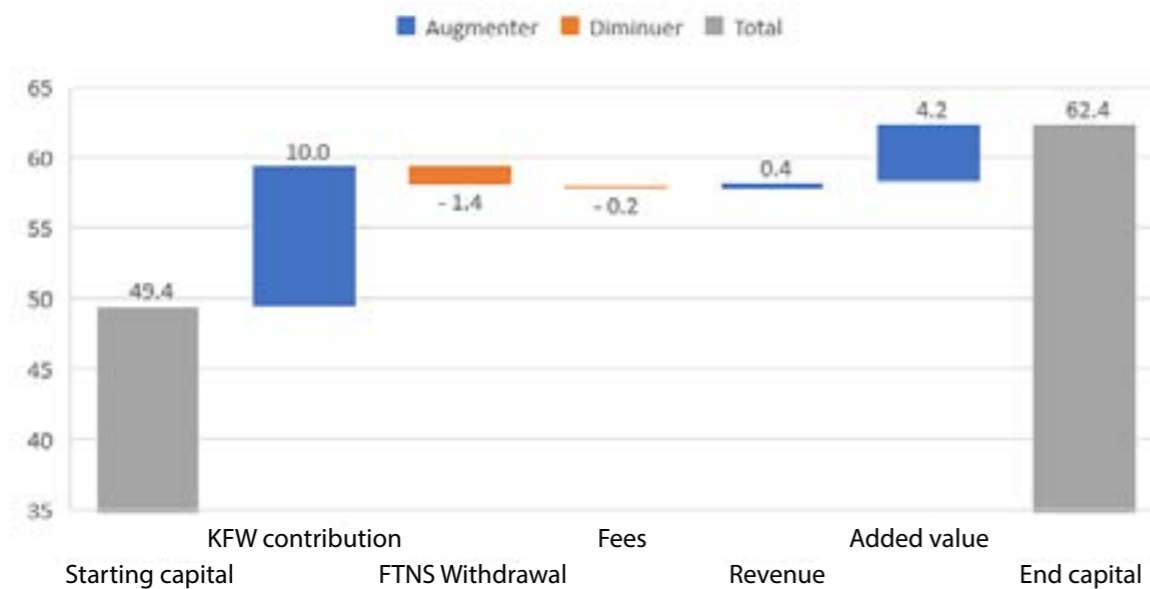
From the beginning of the year, the US Federal Reserve (Fed) initiated a major change in the direction of its monetary policy, a change which was immediately interpreted by the markets as marking the end of rate hikes. From the spring onwards, even rate cuts were anticipated: and hopes were not disappointed, three successive rate cuts took place, from July to the end of October. This reversal of the American monetary policy had as effect the reduction in recession fears. Other central banks followed suit in terms of rate cuts, notably in Brazil but also in Asia and the Middle East. This would not have been possible without the downward trend in inflation rates (around 3% overall year-on-year). There was therefore no recession, and the trade war between the United States and China has instead subsided (phase 1 trade agreement between the two countries). All of this boosted financial assets, all categories of which performed positively or even very positively over the year, despite very weak growth in corporate earnings. On the stock markets, we note +31.5% in the United States (S&P500) and +26.9% in Europe (MSCI Europe). Last remark, although world growth slowed in 2019, it finally remained close to 3%, in line with its average since 1980.

...and for the FTNS portfolio

The foundation's portfolio is up 9.2% over 2019, with capital gains of nearly EUR 4.2 million. In terms of contribution to performance, 82% came from equity exposure (target weighting 35%) and 16% from bond exposure (target weighting 25%). The portfolio's benchmark is +10.9%: the slight underperformance comes from the underweight in equities and the poor positioning on bonds, the manager having favoured a shorter duration to have less sensitivity to interest rate variations (for fear of a rise in interest rates, but the opposite has happened). Over the last 3 years, the average annual performance is 3.3% net of fees. This corresponds to 3.73% gross, almost in line with the objective of 4% gross indicated in the Investment Policy.

The change in capital over the year is shown in the graph below.

Detailed evolution of the capital in 2019 (in Million Euros)



It should be noted that a total amount of EUR 1.4 million was taken by FTNS for the operating costs of the office and the parks.

Perspectives for 2020

KfW's contribution will be invested from January onwards for liquid assets and over the course of the year for real estate. Subsequently, it is planned to further refine the Responsible Investment approach to management, with the aim of raising the qualifying asset ratio to 50%.

The FTNS has provided about FCFA 1.5 billion to the managers of the TNS parks. This amount was apportioned as follows:

Breakdown of funds allocated to each park according to their source in 2019

PARK	Kfw	CAWHFI	Revenus du Capital	Total
APDS	73,294,268	31,286,000	429,009,616	533,589,884
FNN	182,413,632	0	293,303,887	475,717,519
PNL	233,358,034	19,000,000	10,568,903	262,926,937
Total	489,065,934	50,286,000	732,882,406	1,272,234,340

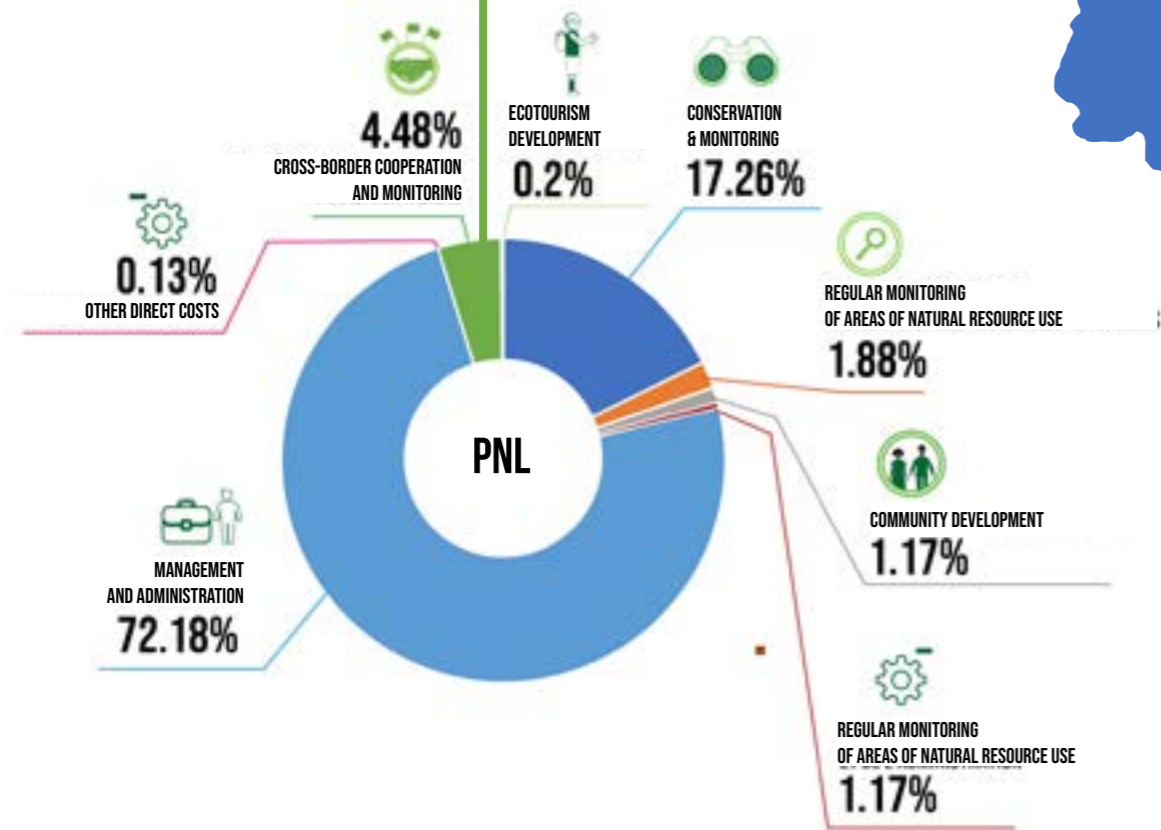
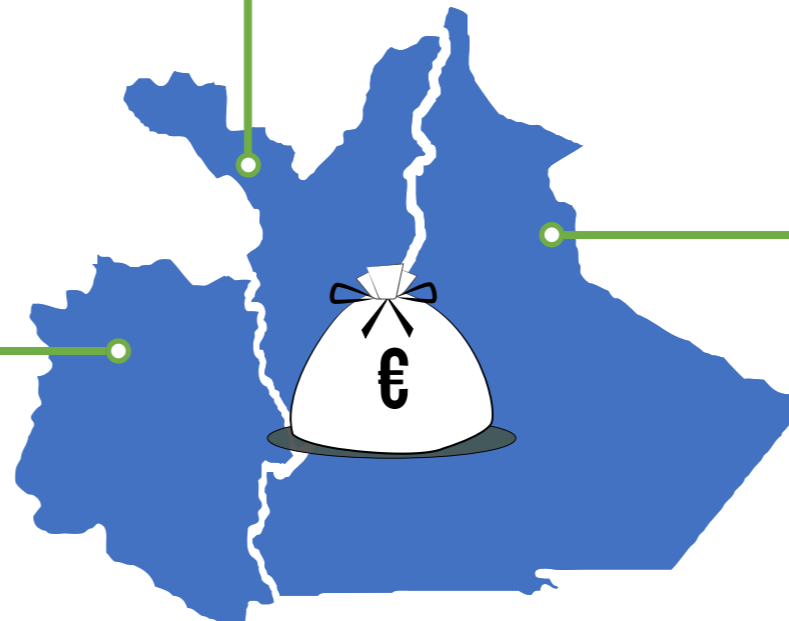
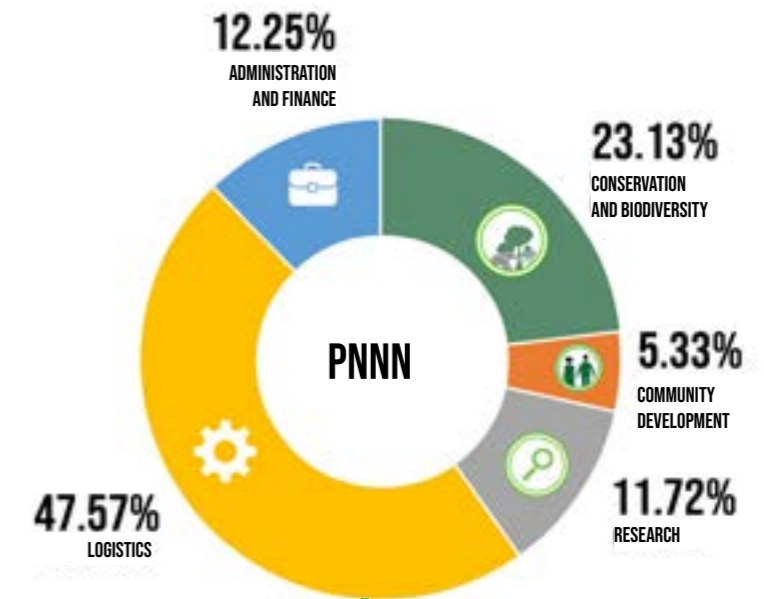
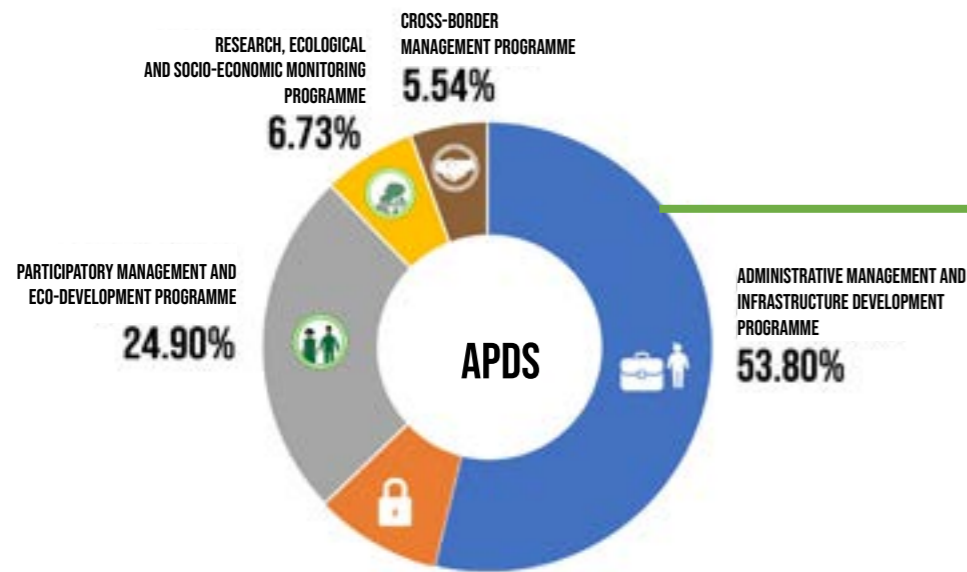
Breakdown of achievements by component per park in 2019

PARK	APDS	FNN	PNL	TOTAL
Management of Parcs	357,177,089	315,579,063	263,006,511	935,762,663
Biomonitoring/ Conservation	112,506,510	183,840,764	104,133,166	400,480,440
Improving tourism	972,000	0	0	972,000
Support for local population	5,557,150	28,128,935	121,703,993	155,390,078
TOTAL	476,212,749	527,548,762	488,843,670	1,492,605,181

Breakdown of achievements by component and source in 2019

PARK	KFW	CAWHFI	Revenus du capital	TOTAL
Management of Parcs	291,036,876	0	644,725,787	935,762,663
Biomonitoring/ Conservation	81,208,493	18,027,257	301,244,690	400,480,440
Improving tourism	0	972,000	0	972,000
Support to local population	116,820,565	11,698,020	26,871,493	155,390,078
TOTAL	489,065,934	30,697,277	972,841,970	1,492,605,181

Breakdown of subventions per parcs



Some FTNS financial results in 2019



10 000 000 €
raised into capital funds

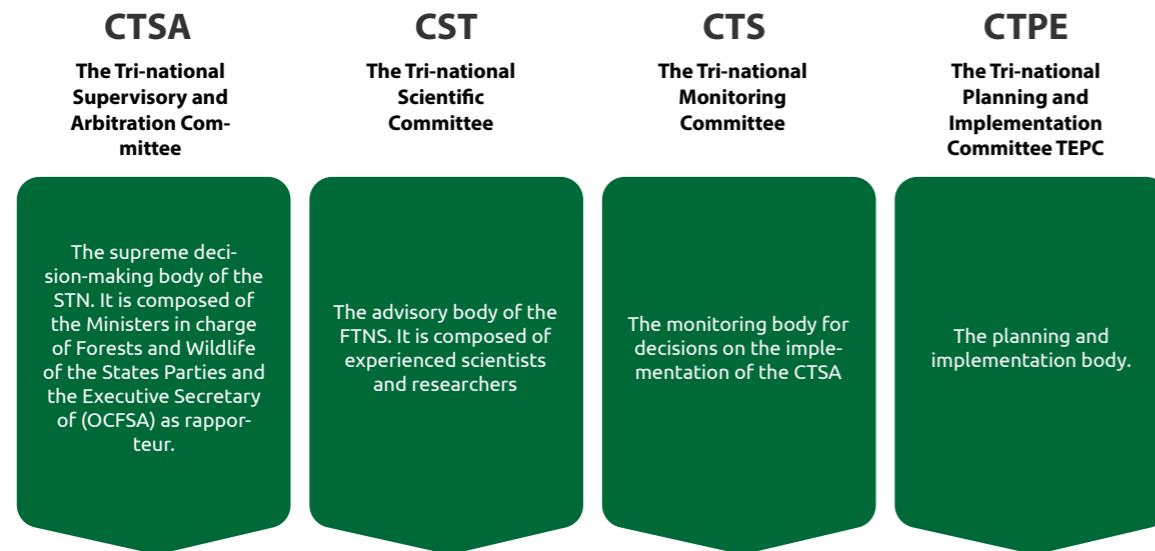


100 000 €
from CAWHFI funds



1,5 000 000 €
grants given

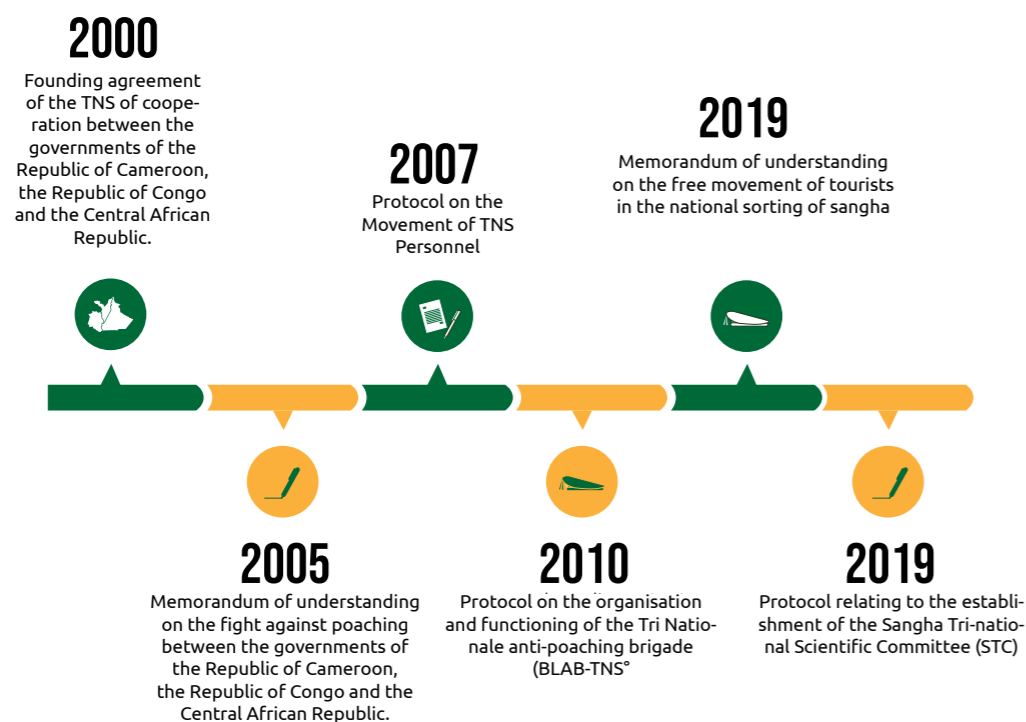
Conventions and bodies for better cross-border cooperation



The year 2019 witnessed the signing of 02 new protocols by the TNS governments:

- The Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of the Tri-national Sangha Scientific Committee (TSC)
- Memorandum of understanding on the movement of tourists in the Sangha Tri-national

History of the signing of TNS agreements



Activities carried out by FTNS' Executive Office in 2019

2019's beginning was highlighted by the signature of annual tripartite agreements with each park defining the amounts of subsidies validated by the Board of Directors. Throughout the year, the Executive Board then managed the calls for funds and the payment of subsidies to the parks. Specific activities were carried out or completed, here is a non-exhaustive list of what was achieved in 2019:

- A capacity building workshop for TNS park managers on the new FTNS procedures manual in February 2019 in Bertoua;
- Prolongation of negotiations for an establishment agreement with MINREX in favour of the FTNS;
- statutory audits execution;
- Accomplishment of compliance audits of the parks and the executive office;
- Participation in the strategic workshops of the partners COMIFAC, CAWHFI...
- Support for the process of the solemn signature in March 2019 of the MoU between MINFOF and the Baka communities within the ASBABUK association (Association Sanguia Baka Bma Kpode) for the access and exploitation of resource areas in and around the national parks of Lobéké, Boumba-bek and Nki ;
- Missions to monitor activities in the field and the preparation of infrastructure projects;
- Participation in the annual US FISH workshop organised in Ouesso; Participation in the field mission involving the BMZ, KFW and the German Cooperation office of the embassy in Yaoundé;
- Carrying out topographical, environmental and social impact studies for the various infrastructure projects;
- The organisation of the 23rd session of the FTNS Board of Directors on 21-22 May 2019 in Brazzaville;
- The participation in the 7th session of the tri-national monitoring committee of the STN which was held from 29 to 30 August 2019 in Yokadouma in the Cameroon segment;
- Participation in the 10th Ordinary Session of the Council of Ministers, 9-11 July 2019 in Yaoundé;
- Participation in the consultation workshop on the pilot initiatives of the GIZ project in support of COMIFAC, 15-17 July 2019 in Brazzaville;
- Participation in the framing workshop for the socio-cultural evaluation of eco-systemic services for the indigenous and local populations of the TNS and BSB Yamoussa, 14-16 August 2019 in Douala;
- Participation in the 9th General Assembly of CAFE, with workshops on biodiversity offset, training on financial markets and asset management and on CFA standard practices;
- Participation in the 21st General Assembly of RedLac from 28 to 31 October 2019;
- The organisation of the 24th session of the Board of Directors in Bangui on 18 and 19 November.

An aerial view of the National Park of Lobéké of the Cameroonian segment of the TNS



A new communication strategy for the Trust Fund



©FTNS

A new communication strategy was proposed at the November 2019 Board meeting. It focuses on the following three priority objectives: fundraising, the defence of human rights and/or indigenous peoples, and finally the development of ecotourism in the Sangha Tri-national. Notable improvements have already been made: the redesign of the website, the development of a professional digital newsletter, an online library of documents and reports, the creation of explanatory videos, the expansion of the database of contacts, photos and videos and finally the referencing of key articles on Google.

Emphasis will also be placed on communication to private foundations that can contribute capital.

COMMUNICATION OBJECTIVES



Park infrastructure enhancement

Pascale Bikoi & Nana Jefferson Wandji

Civil Engineers FTNS

Recently rehabilitated
Administrative buildings
of the Lobeke National Park

The project funds provided by KFW have enabled the TrustFund Sangha to place particular emphasis on the development of basic park infrastructure. In 2019, numerous projects were launched to meet the needs of managers and local populations.

©FTNS

In the Lobéké National Park (Cameroon)

Rehabilitation work on the PNL's administrative buildings

The rehabilitation work on the administrative buildings of the Lobéké National Park has been finalised. After a provisional handover on 13 June 2019 in order to integrate park staff into the buildings, final handover was done on 03 August 2019. The buildings are currently being used by the beneficiaries.

100 KWp solar power plant in LNP (FTNS project / Common Fund)

Studies to determine the energy requirements and dimensioning of the solar power plant in the LNP were carried out by a solar energy expert. This project will be financed by the Fonds Commun.

In the NNNP (Congo)

Construction of the school in Bomassa

The CAD (Call for Application Document) for the construction of the BOMASSA Primary School has been completed to ensure the procurement.



Construction of the new housing for the head of the East sector of Makao

The project is being implemented though experienced some delays due to exogenous logistical constraints.

Construction of the Bomassa Ecoguards transit hut

The construction site started in August and will be completed in January 2020.

Construction of a mechanical maintenance workshop in the hangar at Kabo airfield

During the installation of the structure in 2018, the concrete floor of the hangar was damaged, certainly due to the weight of the machinery used, but also due to potential manufacturing defects



Rehabilitation of the BLAB headquarters in Nyangouté

A mixed team from DSPAs and NNNP eco-guardians went to Nyangouté to take stock of basic needs. This made it possible to transmit to the trust funds' Executive Office an estimation of the damaged buildings in order to assess the quantities for construction.



Bobby and Mitch,
the two APDS sniffer dogs

A Green Year for Conservation in the APDS.

Collected from Mr. Christian NDADET, Conservator of the DPAs

©FTNS

Major results in 2019

In terms of execution, we carried out about 396 regular patrols, covering about 32,527 km by our troops for an effort of 14,385 H/D. These efforts enabled us to seize wildlife destruction equipment. In 2019, we seized a total of 136 weapons, including 94 (69%) home-made weapons, 4 hunting weapons, 1,631 rounds of ammunition of all calibres, 18,951 cables, 52 kg of pangolin scales and 11 ivory points. In addition to these seizures, we have put in place a system which better involves the community in conservation activities through voluntary deposits of hunting gear by the communities themselves. «When a person goes to the field and discovers a trap line, for example, they take their time to dismantle it and then take it to the parks against the small incentive we provide». This has enabled us to recover for 2019, 1251 cables and 10 handmade weapons, depicting the community's involvement in conservation activities. We can also talk about the fact that the seizures in 2019 have been very interesting because we signed two collaboration agreements, one with the Chengeta organisation which, in addition to training, brought us two sniffer dogs. These dogs are trained in the detection of ammunition weapons, ivory spikes, etc. And so through this, our search operations have become very profitable because «man cannot discover them through his own eyes», but thanks to these dogs we can manage to discover even what is hidden under the ground. This is truly an important contribution in the fight against poaching via the protocol signed with Chengeta. The second protocol is the one signed with the organisation, Justice Conservation which provides us with a framework that supports everything related to the followup of disputes at the level of the attorney's office. So through this partnership all our pending cases have been handled.

Looking forward to 2020?

With regard to some constraints that have marked the proper execution of the conservation activities throughout 2019, a few areas of intervention deserve to be considered. These are as follows:

- **Increasing community involvement in conservation activities within DPAs.** To do this,

we plan to test the community monitoring system in certain pilot villages that we will identify. In these villages, we seek to identify at least 3 indigenous youths who will provide support to the DSPAs' conservation services, making specific information on poaching activities in their villages available to them on a regular basis. Their main role will therefore be to denounce illegal activities in their villages to the DPA conservation service, in order to guarantee the ecoguards' raids in the field if they have to intervene. They will also help to identify and dismantle wire rope trap lines and bring them back to the DSPA's Conservation Service. The remuneration that will be given to these young officers will be primarily for their community, although a percentage will be rightfully due to them. It will;

- **Promote sustainable wildlife management in community hunting areas that exist, but unfortunately do not have dedicated rules.** This creates too much disorder in the management of these areas. For this to happen, a system will have to be put in place to regulate hunting activities in this part of the Dzanga-Sangha Dense Forest Special Reserve;
- **Equip the existing patrol posts (Dzanga, Mongambé, Kongana, Yobé Barrier) with HF radios;**
- **Continuously strengthen the operational capacities of the ecoguards by providing them with paramilitary and other training;**
- **Develop mechanisms for managing human-animal conflicts;**

New phenomenon «TNS poachers».

We also intend to continue the deployment of our elements at the level of the TNS anti-poaching brigade (BLAB), which justifies everything that is being done on this side in terms of cross-border cooperation. We also intend to strengthen bi-national and tri-national patrols. This is very important, because we realise that the poachers now work in teams and networks, giving rise to a system that we can call «TNS poachers». These TNS poachers represent a group of individuals who are touring the TNS parks, a group we are still studying. This leads us to strengthen cross-border measures and efforts to deal with this new scourge. It is therefore also necessary to strengthen at the local level the arrangements for securing protected areas by creating other checkpoints, particularly at the borders and along the Sangha River, in order to be able to meet this new challenge.

Needs to be met

To conclude, we have certain means at our disposal, but they have proven to be insufficient given the new challenges that are created. New inputs are therefore required to improve the conservation services of the TNS (human, material or financial resources), a priority for the survival of this World Heritage site.

Conservation & anti-poaching

SMART Satellite Tracking, Training & Aviation in the NNNP!

Data collected from M. Marcel Ngangoue, NNNP Conservator - TNS Congo

©WCS

SMART satellite tracking, training & aviation in the PNNN!

The amplification of SMART satellite tracking to boost anti-poaching efforts

In 2019, the Noubalé-Ndoki National Park (NNNP) continued to set up a system consisting of a fleet of Garmin and other communication technologies that enable the Park's biodiversity conservation service to monitor in real time the movements and achievements of its units during their field and patrol missions. With this in mind, the Park has equipped itself with a control room with state-of-the-art technology, operational 24/7.

The development of its system for monitoring the efforts and results of surveillance patrols with the SMART tool also guarantees optimal deployment and coordination of eco-guard units in the field. This system also facilitates the monitoring and evaluation of anti-poaching activities by marking SMART data with clues such as points of arrest, poaching and other important facts, etc. Once analysed, these indications allow the park to identify and reinforce risk areas.

Eco-guards trained in non-violent arrest techniques.

Another major activity was the training of 25 new eco-guards during the period from 7 October to 22 November 2019. In the NNNP, it is planned that all eco-guards receive refresher training at least once a year and as a result, 02 refresher training sessions were held from 27 February to 09 March 2019 and from 19 to 28 July 2019 and a permanent training not included in the other sessions as well as revision sessions. The FTNS funds were instrumental in the rehabilitation of the training camp as well as the redevelopment of the access road to the park. These achievements have greatly improved the link between the park headquarters and the camp for transit and supply reasons. In order to guarantee and promote respect for human rights, in anti-poaching activities the eco-guards of the NNNP regularly receive training on judicial rights; respect for the intangible rights of a human being; observing the supervised rights of a suspect, the notions of self-defence, and arrest techniques that guarantee the safety of suspects and conservation officers.

Aviation programme in flight, next steps

Aerial surveillance was also on the agenda. In order to detect illicit activities in hard-to-reach areas and to regularly monitor forest clearings that are oases of biodiversity and rivers. FTNS funds facilitated the rehabilitation and electrification of the Kabo airplane hangar and the development of the runway in the same locality. A total of one hundred and sixty-three (163) flights were operated in 2019.



58

Monitoring flights
(134h 23 m,
or an average
of 11h/month)

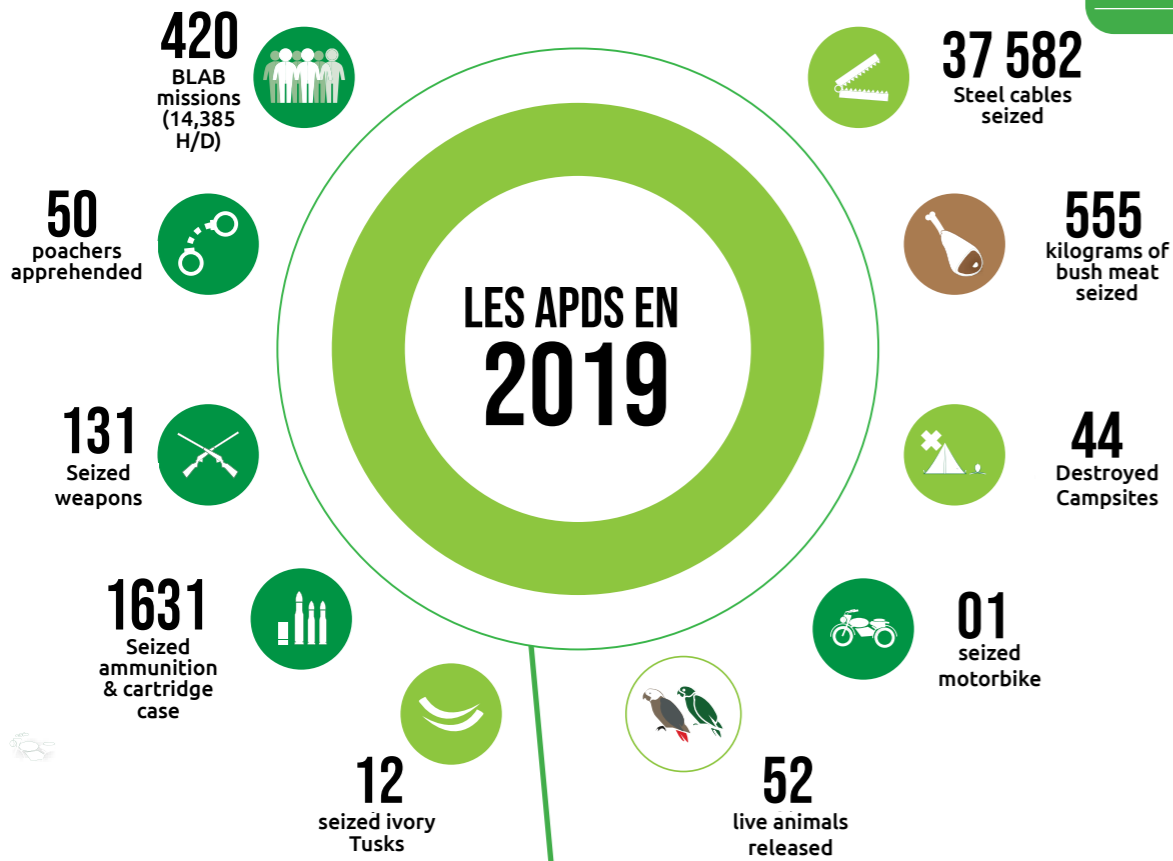


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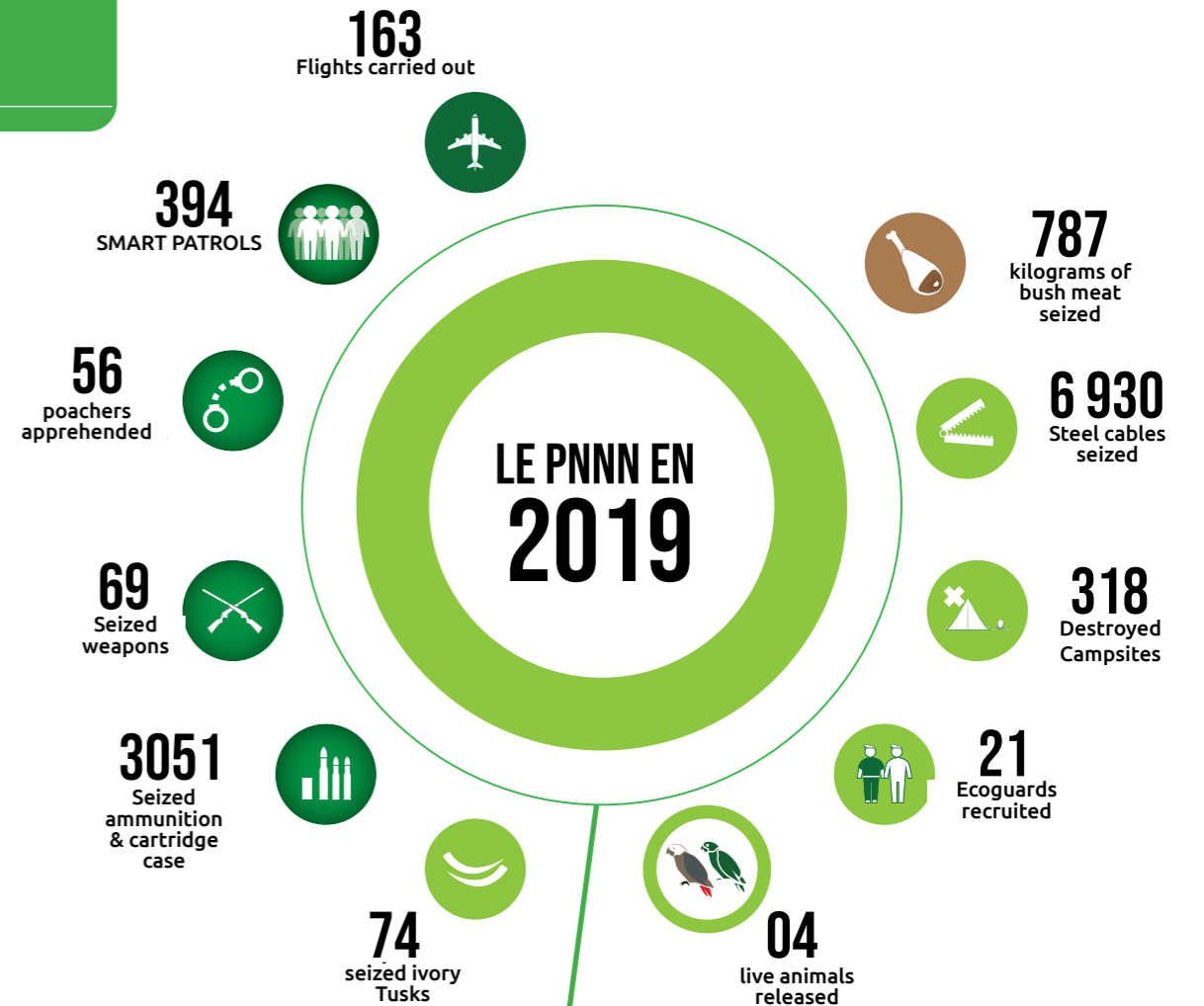
Logistics flights
(152 h 17m)

SMART STATISTICAL DATA ON ANTI-POACHING ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE TNS

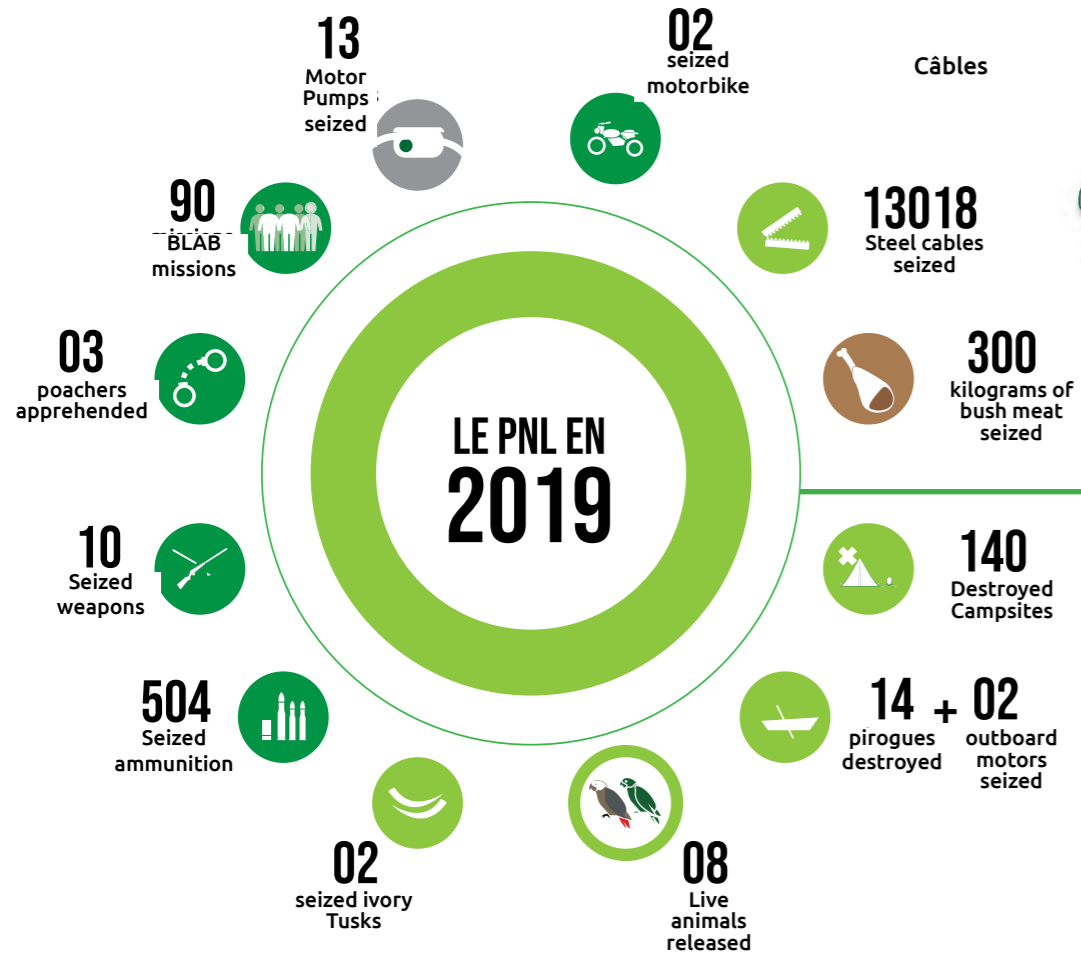
LES APDS EN 2019



LE PNNN EN 2019



LE PNL EN 2019



LA BLAB EN 2019





©APDS/Nuria Ortega



©FTNS

The improvement of the health system of the populations in the STN area has been one of the priorities of the parks for several years. Generally, the parks represent an important base for the health systems of the populations living in them, which is why a large range of their budget in terms of eco-development is allocated to them.

Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas

2019...towards a more efficient and inclusive health system in Bayanga

A total of 21,743 patients consulted and were treated at the Bayanga Health Centre through ADIH health posts in the southern zone of the DPAs and the African Missionary Society (AMS) health posts in the northern zone of the DPAs and its outskirts.

According to Mr. Dangolho Sylvain, the health activity in the DSPAs is divided into three parts: the mobile clinic, public health facilities coverage and patients' attendance by specialised physicians (dentist; ophthalmologist; surgeons, anaesthetist, etc...). It is important to note that the park supports these activities through the implication of FTNS funds, assisted by tourism receipts, with medical staff consisting of a doctor, a laboratory technician, two state-qualified nurses and six health workers, thus guaranteeing the smooth running of the structure.

Despite this notorious effort in terms of staff support, it has proven to be less effective for cases requiring specialised treatment. To compensate for this, the parks, particularly the DSPAs, have taken an important step forward by organising visits whereby health specialists are invited. These visits which cost more than 10 million CFA francs make it possible for the parks to provide dental care and surgery. These operations mobilized several international specialists to provide care in their respective spe-

Health

cialties. A series of health care campaigns were organised, including: the mission polish dentist of Polish intervened at least twice in the 10 villages of the APDS to treat people suffering from dental problems (this enabled 112 patients to consult for a total of 86 teeth extracted and 50 mouth cleanings performed professionally) and the mission of 6 specialists in tropical medicine, which took place from November 19th to December 12th 2019 at the secondary hospital in Bayanga.

The medical aid also made it possible to carry out evacuations in case of emergency. In 2019, nineteen patients were medically evacuated.

As a preventive measure, several awareness campaigns were carried out for the populations of the park, enabling more than 7,223 people to be covered by this programme.

It is clear that, despite the significant progress made, the mobile clinic's assistance has made it possible to observe the resurgence of certain diseases such as leprosy and yaws, infections which have now been declared extinct by the Ministry of Health. This made it possible to alert the health authorities and to take measures.



Lobéké National Park

Towards the construction of the first health centre in Mambélé

The Lobéké National Park has been facing for years a problem of health facilities for the staff and the local population, the nearest health structure being located in Salapoumbé, about 30 km from the park's base.

It is in response to this that the FTNS supported the PNL in carrying out technical studies for the construction of a health centre in Mambélé. The news was received with great enthusiasm by the local population who hastened to dedicate a 6000 m² plot of land for the project. «We have been waiting for this project for a long time, this dream dates back to our parents who left before us, in order to solve the health problem affecting the local population of Mambélé. We are very proud of this initiative that we receive with open arms» says Mr. MIKOLI Valentin, a Mambélé notable and president of the Mambélé Community Forest.

The studies begun will continue in 2020 in order to bring together all the conditions for the realization of the long awaited project.



©FTNS

Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park A functional health centre in Bomassa

In the Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park (PNNN), the main riverside localities concerned are those of Makao and Bomassa with lower demographics (873 inhabitants reside in Bomassa and 943 in Makao according to the 2019 census). These two villages both have a health centre under the direction of the Departmental Directorates of Sangha and Likouala.

«Built with the support of community funds, the building had difficulties maintaining adequate staff and a sufficient supply of pharmaceutical products,» says the head of the health centre. Considering the dept of the situation, the NNNP with the support of FTNS funds assisted the structure in 2019 through a system of monitoring and replenishment of pharmaceutical products. Added to this, FTNS funds also facilitate the payment of an attendance allowance for centre staff consisting of a head of centre, his assistant and a maintenance worker. FTNS funds have also enabled the NNNP to improve the working conditions of the centre through the installation of a solar energy system that guarantees the functioning of the working equipment.



Ensuring long-term, quality education in and around parks

TNS protected areas generally have a high concentration of population around park headquarters and their neighbouring zones. This high population demography is mainly made up of local people and park employees (and their families). With the presence of their offspring comes the problem of establishing optimal school conditions, a reality faced by all the parks.

Although efforts are made by government authorities, this often proves insufficient, which is why park managers, generally supported by the FTNS, make considerable efforts to raise the curve.

Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park

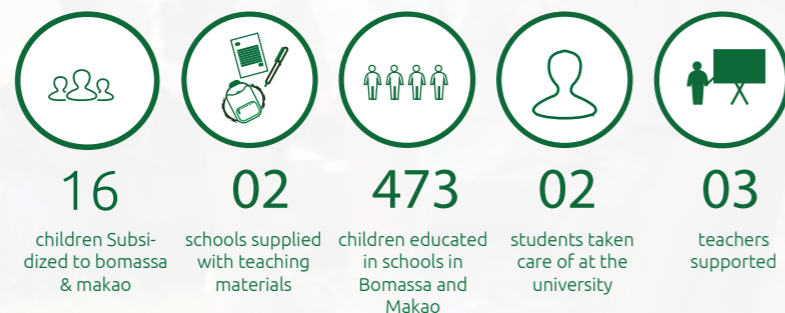
Support for education in the periphery of the park

In the Congolese segment of the TNS, as it does every year, the PNNN through its community development service provides support to the primary schools of Bomassa and Makao for their operation. This includes the supply of teaching materials and wooden benches, repairs and maintenance of school buildings and the provision of temporary teachers. Scholarships have also been granted to pupils and students from Bomassa and Makao. Since 2017, 16 scholarships have been awarded annually, 8 in Bomassa and 8 in Makao.

The current primary school in Bomassa is dilapidated and made of salvaged planks and does not offer appropriate conditions for children's learning. The NNNP, in its ambition to make the local populations benefit from conservation actions, has decided to carry out basic studies for the construction of a new modern school building in Bomassa with the financial and technical support of the FTNS. The new structure will have its own solar panels and will have a rainwater recovery system and a castle for water supply.

According to Mr. Nyaka Russel, a teacher in Bomassa, «the construction of this building will greatly improve teaching conditions, especially for the younger children who cannot contain themselves and tend to look through the holes to see what is going on outside... they are also uncomfortable because of the heat caused by the small size of the classrooms. ».

Work is scheduled to begin in 2020.



Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas

Comprehensive care for Ba'Aka students

In order to improve the conditions of basic education in the DSPAs and its surroundings, financial support is allocated to teaching and auxiliary staff from tourism revenues, following the suspension of the FTNS budget for this sector in 2018. This commitment by the DSPAs to invest in the education sector ensures the smooth running of the various schools in its area of intervention. A total of 34 teachers in 14 schools (including 1 nursery school, 12 primary schools and 1 secondary school) have been supported for a total amount of FCFA 10,350,000 at a rate of FCFA 1,150,000 per month. This assistance supported education access of 4,361 pupils.

The promotion of schooling for indigenous Ba'Aka people was a priority in 2019. «We support all Ba'Aka pupils and students in the Yobé Sangha commune because we know that their parents cannot afford school fees... »said Mr. DANGOLHO Sylvain. Thus, school fees of 688 Ba'Aka students have been subsidized by the DSPAs in 2019 from tourism revenues.

«At the secondary level, the 28 pupils admitted to the various school hostels under the auspices of the DSPAs partners were taken care of, this includes 14 pupils registered in the boys' hostel in Salakombo (Bayanga), 9 in the girls' hostel of the Catholic mission (Bayanga) and 5 in the high school students' hostel in Berberati. This support is accompanied by the provision of teaching materials, cooking utensils and solar lamps to encourage them to study without constraint at night. Also, an education staff is in charge of supervising the school hostel and providing support» reiterates Frank MAVINGA, Head of the Development and Community Rights Department. He also announced the enrolment and tutoring of 4 Ba'Aka adults at Bayanga Secondary School in order to give those who have expressed the desire to continue the courses in order to improve their level of education: for example, language exchange in French and English with tourists.

At the university level, DSPAs also supports 2 Ba'Aka students (one girl and one boy) from the villages of Belemboke and Monasao on the outskirts of Bayanga who are enrolled in the Faculty of Law, the cost of which is 7. 379. 516 FCFA.

In addition to this, the DSPAs, the local and administrative authorities organise an awareness campaign one month before the start of each school year to encourage parents to send their children to school.



Agriculture

Community development in the Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park

Interview with Parfait BAKABANA, Head of Community Development department at the NNNP.

©FTNS

The Nouabalé-Ndoki Foundation's «community development» service facilitates activities that benefit the communities living around the Park, enabling them to reconcile conservation and local development. From this point of view, we carry out several activities, notably in the framework of health promotion, agriculture, education and community tourism. Continuous dedication to the improvement of education.

Continuous dedication to the improvement of education.

In the field of education, scholarships are granted to children from the riverside villages and are aimed at educating tomorrow's decision-makers in the periphery of the protected area. The objective is that local communities will in the future elites capable of mastering conservation issues and work within the protected areas as the primary beneficiaries of these conservation activities.

Agriculture, community fields with an electric fence...

As part of the mitigation of the human-wildlife conflict, an experiment of community fields has been set up through the electrification of a 4 hectare area made available to local populations for their agricultural crops. This is easily reduce of human-wildlife conflicts and to observe the effectiveness of an electric barrier. The first positive results demonstrate the effectiveness of the electric barrier, which has succeeded in preventing undesirable incursions by animals such as field elephants. This area is entirely managed by the local communities, who decide on their operation mechanism and its internal regulations, with the park playing only a moderating role. We were also able to observe the first local harvest of cassava, whose leaves are highly prized food in the region. This has greatly improved the eating habits of the local population, who previously had to rely on neighbouring towns for their supplies. This framework allows us to work with the local communities with the aim of ensuring this frank relationship/collaboration with them.

Health

In terms of health, we organise awareness sessions on hygiene and anthrozoosis and, in the absence of doctors at the health centres, we ensure the transfer of mothers to hospitals for pediatric and obstetric consultations. Vaccination campaigns for the most exposed populations are organised (indigenous trackers, researchers, etc.). In both Bomassa and Makao, we monitor primary health care for the local communities. The local communities can be cared for day and night. This has greatly reduced the number of evacuations to Pokola, a private hospital located 80Km from Bomassa and more than 120Km from Makao.

The role of FTNS funds.

The FTNS Funds are helping us enormously. Today, we have to recognise that FTNS is a key and important partner in this process. It is these funds that have enabled us to have solar electrification, for the operation of the health centre. This has enabled us to raise the health centre's image and the esteem of the population.



The agroforestry expansion at DSPAs

Collected from Mr Sylvain Dhangholo, APDS

The Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas, with the support of its community development and Rights department, is carrying out activities to develop agroforestry in order to reduce the pressure on forests and wildlife resources. Implemented in 2016 with the financial support of FTNS through the K Project (partly funded by REDLAC & CAFÉ) and the technical coordination of ICRAF, the initiative, among its results, has facilitated the establishment in the TNS-RCA segment of 02 agroforestry sites, one in Bayanga and the other in Mossapoula. As a result of the various training sessions, we now have two (02) demonstration plots, also called community plots, with a total area of 8.7 hectares for forty-eight (48) beneficiaries (25 in Bayanga and 23 in Mossapoula).

Currently, the project has also encouraged each beneficiary to have an individual cocoa plot of 2000 m² thanks to the 600 cocoa pods and 10,000 bags distributed on the Bayanga and Mossapoula sites in an equitable manner, which has enabled the 48 beneficiaries to have a cocoa plantation area of more than 7.7 hectares as well as more than 8,000 plants still available at the nursery level. The objective is to reduce poverty in the communities and enable households to sustain these achievements and benefit other community members. In order to contribute to the fight against soil degradation, more than 2,183 plants, including 450 citrus fruits, 933 palm trees and 800 plum trees, have been distributed to various groups ie Bayanga, Mossapoula and Yandoumbé.

For its functioning, after reception, of the cocoa pods, the nursery is put in place for 6 to 7 months before being transplanted in the beneficiaries' fields. The maintenance of the spaces is entirely carried out by the local populations under the supervision of the park services. In order to guarantee an equitable management of the project, several Ba'Aka representatives are also involved in this activity. FTNS funds also made it possible to equip the beneficiaries and train them in project management and to build two Rural Resource Centres (a building 6m long by 4.50m wide with 3 compartments per site) comprising a meeting room and two shops reserved respectively for storing equipment and packaging products.

Several difficulties were nonetheless encountered, but the training on conflict dynamics and management provided by ICRAF has largely mitigated these. In terms of needs, the beneficiaries list financial expectations in order to extend the work and develop other fish farming and beekeeping activities in the area. The second phase of the project, which consists of training beneficiaries in cocoa harvesting, packaging and marketing techniques, remains to be prepared.



The promotion and implementation of human rights in the Sangha Tri-national

The Sangha Tri-national is a cross-border forest complex shared between Cameroon, Congo and the Central African Republic (CAR). This World Heritage site is very well known for its floristic and faunal potential, but also for the «people of the forest» (commonly known as Baka, Ba'Aka, Mbenzele, etc.), the indigenous people who live there. Since its creation, the FTNS has been subsidising several initiatives to guarantee their well-being and development.

Through these actions, the FTNS not only contributes to the protection of the biodiversity of the TNS, but also to the prosperity of these people, an indispensable aspect for the sustainability of this cross-border complex.

The promotion and implementation of human rights in the Sangha Tri-national

Interview with Martial Yvan Amoet, lawyer and head of the Bayanga Human Rights Center, a civil society structure in Bayanga.



What is the Bayanga Human Rights House?

Initially created in 1995 as part of a project to promote the cultural rights of indigenous peoples, the main purpose of the centre is to promote human rights and access to justice for all in the Dzanga Sangha area. The Centre is managed by the national NGO "Maison de l'Enfant et de la Femme

- The first is access to justice, which includes human rights monitoring and also the legal and judicial assistance we provide to society.
- The second programme is training and awareness-raising, precisely because the population is not sufficiently informed about their rights and obligations.
- The third programme concerns civil status, in collaboration with the town halls of Bayanga and Salo, we have birth certificates issued for BaAka children. We were also thinking of issuing national identity cards, but unfortunately the funds are insufficient and we are obliged to issue these birth certificates for the children so that they can exercise their civic and socio-political rights, but above all to be able to have access to school and move freely.
- The fourth programme is advocacy. When we have opportunities, we raise the profile of what we are doing here and in doing so, we call on international opinion to intervene, to help us extend and popularise the concepts of human rights and those of indigenous peoples, particularly in our Dzanga Sangha protected areas area.

We are also working on a conflict management mechanism. This came about after several reflections, several contacts with communities and park managers. This mechanism is build, on the foundation of traditional conflict management mechanisms to create a platform, a framework for exchange between the community and the parks. We, the Human Rights Centre, are independent of these two entities, for which we play an intermediary role. The cohabitation between the park and the local community can always create problems and if we are able to manage our conflicts, we believe that this is the best thing we can offer. This is actually what we do in terms of promoting human rights and indigenous peoples in particular. We are also working on a conflict management mechanism. This came about after several reflections, several contacts with communities and park managers. This mechanism builds on the foundation of traditional conflict management mechanisms to create a platform, a framework for exchange between the community and the parks. We at the Human Rights Centre are independent of these centres, we play an intermediary role between these two entities. The cohabitation between the park and the local community can always create problems and if we are able to manage our conflicts, we believe that this is the best thing we can offer. This is in fact what we are doing in terms of promoting human rights and indigenous peoples in particular.

How does the complaint management mechanism at the DPAs work?

As far as the complaints management mechanism is concerned, it is based on the traditional conflict resolution system. The centre collects complaints from the park, then transmits them directly to the park administration, which verifies this information and in consultation with the centre (on the basis of the regulations and statute to take appropriate sanctions). This helps to maintain social cohesion while at the same time repressing what can lead to conflict, since the community and the park are obliged to stay together. This is a godsend for the community to peacefully manage conflicts in the park.

What are the current needs of the Centre?

In terms of needs, the Centre will first need capacity building for all members (the lawyer, facilitators and community monitors). Another need is the financial support of all the other partners since the centre only lives on donations/subsidies from partners. For example, we need a vehicle, which will allow us to be closer to the communities and also to transport them to the courts in Nola or Berberati, for example. This is a summary of our needs.

Cameroon

Signing of an MoU between the Government & BaAka Indigenous Peoples



In Cameroon, the foundation contributes annually to the process of taking into account customary and ancestral rights as well as a better participation of the Baka people in the management of the Lobéké National Park. Specifically, a memorandum of understanding was signed in February 2019, between the Ministry of Forests and Wild-life (MINFOF) and the Baka people to organize their access to resource areas in the Lobéké National Park and to guarantee their involvement in the management of the park's activities. Several communication materials on the customs and rites of these peoples have also been produced to raise awareness among those in charge of protected areas, forestry and hunting concessions.

The work carried out with the support of the NGO CEFAID, resulted in the following achievements:

SUPPORT TO THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND CITIZENSHIP -APDS

267 Birth certificates issued

05 Trainings on human rights

93 Rights abuse cases registered have benefited from legal and criminal assistance

75 Legal Kits and manuals distributed to administrative authorities, village chiefs, and camps

32 Radio programmes broadcasted

58 Missions de routine réalisées dans les villages

SUPPORT TO THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND CITIZENSHIP - PNL

01 MOU signed between MINFOF and the Baka Association (ASBABUK)

48 Baka communities bordering the NPs informed and their views collected on how to implement the MOU effectively.

01 complaints mechanism put in place

+1000 communication materials produced/distributed to raise awareness on Baka traditional rites and events and when they take place

04 training sessions organised for eco-guards on human rights

01 Establishment of a human rights office in Mambélé by Mouloundou

26 cases definitively settled, including 19 in favour of the Baka

Establishment of an MoU between the Baka and the government, a glimmer of hope for real collaboration!

Interview with Mr. Ernest Adjina, President of ASBABUK - Lobéké National Park in Cameroon



©FTNS

Interview with Mr. Ernest Adjina, President of ASBABUK - Lobéké National Park in Cameroon

How have you conducted your activities since the signing of the MOU? Since the signing of the MoU, there has been a change whereby communities are carrying out their activities more quietly as before (searching for wild mangoes, collecting medicinal plants, fishing and others). There are no longer any difficulties in relation to this and last season many of us were in the forest. Describe to us what happens when there is a case of abuse? When there is a case of abuse in the forest, we report it to the CEFAID organisation (Centre for Education, Training and Support for Development Initiatives in Cameroon), and it is this organisation that takes charge of the investigations and brings the authorities and updates the WWF organisation concerning the situation. Currently we have small cases of abuse

that arise, linked to land grabbing. The cases are in court and the attorney will give the next step.

What is ASBABUK doing to involve indigenous peoples in the management and preservation of the Lobéké National Park in 2019?

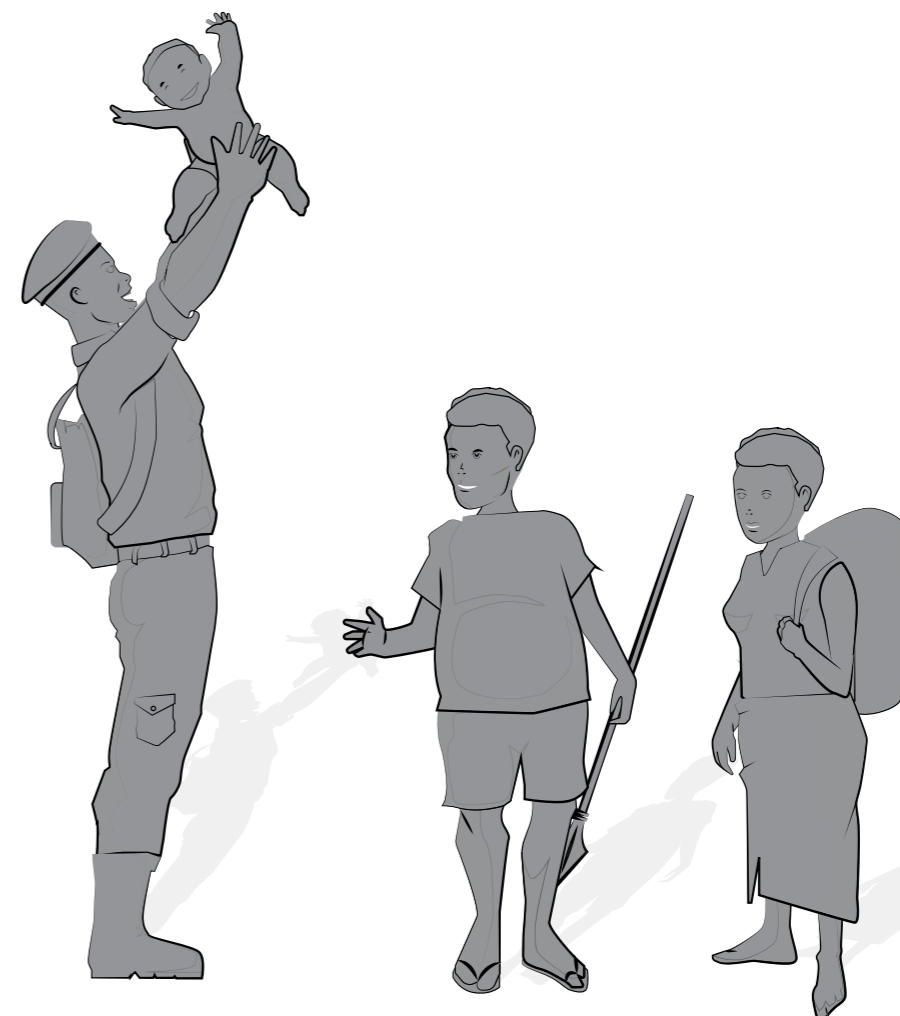
We are raising awareness about forest management in the ZICGC and in the park. We have regulations by which we tell the populations not to exaggerate with hunting, not to destroy the forest, to carry out sustainable management and to practice sustainable traditional agriculture as our ancestors did. This is the awareness message that we pass on to the communities wherever we work.

How are your relations with the eco-guards?

In relation to this, we know that we have signed the MoU that brings us all together. What is the MoU? It's a bond of understanding between the administration and the association. So we have ties of agreement with the ecoguards. Since February 26th 2019, there have been no problems between the communities and the ecoguards!

What are your expectations of the administrative authorities and their partners for the proper implementation of this MoU?

First of all the communities, the indigenous peoples are happy and proud of this MoU signatures. The authorities will have to support them in terms of schooling, IGA (i.e. agriculture) and health. These are the immediate concerns for which we expect their support.



Human rights

Conservation at the core of human rights

Interview with Jean Paul Kevin MBAMBA MBAMBA, Conservator of Lobéké National Park

©FTNS

The MoU between the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF) and the Baka population to organise their access to resource areas was signed in February 2019. At that time not much had been done, but the previous curator nonetheless took time to consult a number of people in the framework of the counselling who stand as the steering committee for this tool. One of our first actions in this framework was to implement all the consultations that were foreseen in the 2019 work plan. Following this, at least 4 meetings took place in the districts of Mouloundou and Salapoumbe. Together with the Baka, we put in place a number of rules for access to their resource areas, which are a kind of security measure to safeguard constant access to the resources on which they depend and which are either in the park or its periphery. Then a Baka team consisting of community relays was set up (intermediaries between the conservation services and local communities) and designated people with the necessary tools to update the Baka space in the Lobéké National Park. This enabled us to obtain maps for the Mambélé zone alone. This activity started in 2019 and will continue in 2020.

The process of setting up a complaint mechanism has also been carried out with the support of a local NGO called CEFAID being starters, as there is still a lot to be done. For example, an ex-

ternal audit in 2019 revealed that the MoU did not have sufficient coverage around the park, so there is a need to strengthen its outreach. A confidence-building measure has already been applied with representatives of the ASBABUK association that is piloting this MoU for the three parks concerned in Cameroon. I would say that this is very ambitious and therefore there is a lot of support that needs to be done to ensure its success.

The relationship between the ecoguards and the Baka people

As far as the eco-guards and the Baka are concerned, it must be understood that this is a framework of human relations that involves people with totally different cultures. The Bakas have their own cultures and traditions and are quite reserved. They are in direct contact with the Bantu populations, who are also different. This creates a discordant relationship between the Baka, the Bantu and the ecoguards which gives the impression that the Baka are marginalised because the Bantu are more accessible to the ecoguards. But we are making efforts to include the Bakas in recruitment for park activities. We are currently organising trainings for the Bakas in various conservation skills to raise their knowledge level. Initiatives have also been implemented to promote Baka tradition and culture. This is why

we organised a mini-festival in 2019, which eld 3 times a year (and will continue). It allows the Bakas to showcase their culture, so that they feel proud of it.

We, as leaders, have the mission to ensure that there is no abuse and we try in several ways to inform ourselves (complaints mechanism, informants, etc.) so that the relationship between the eco-guards and the Bakas is harmonious. There

are also cases of abuse of ecoguards by the Baka, but these are not often publicised in the media. In short, we want to make everyone understand that we are human and that when there is a problem we should talk about it.

«In short, we want to make everyone understand that we are humans and that when there is a problem we should talk about it.»

«In short, we want to make everyone understand that we are humans and that when there is a problem we should talk about it.»

Jean Paul Kevin MBAMBA MBAMBA,
Conservator of Lobéké National Park

Shattering disparities and complexities through the promotion of Culture at the DSPA

Information collected from Mr BETOULET José-Martial, Coordinator Ndima-Kali

©APDS/Nuria Ortega

Created in 2012 under the initiative of WWF Germany, the Ndima-kali project is an association for the cultural promotion of the populations of the region. Dimakali means forests (Ndima) and river (Kali), a combination of words from the places where the main indigenous people on the periphery of the DSPAs, the BaAka and the Sangha Sangha, exercise their cultures and traditions. According to the project coordinator, Mr. BETOULET José-Martial « Sangha Sangha's and Ba'aka have rich cultures, but with modernisation, young people tend to lose out this culture for the benefit of the new culture brought by the new technology». As a mode of operation, the Ndima-kali association creates a framework for social cohesion that

facilitates the integration of individuals from different ethnic and demographic backgrounds for knowledge sharing and social integration

Youths, deans, Sangha-Sanghas, Ba'akas, are all welcome and have the possibility to interact through workshops, excursions and socio-cultural activities. «The African culture is generally transmitted orally by its elders or deans who have this knowledge, our goal is to facilitate the spread of this culture to the youths who are the hope of the future. This will prevent their misuse of this knowledge» adds the Association's Coordinator... being an important pole for ethnic integration and the fight against discrimination despite the fact that the Sangha Sanghas and Ba'akas were the first peoples from

Bayanga and its outskirts and share cultural elements together «they didn't eat together and sleep on the same beds» and did not really have «an equitable social relationship. But thanks to Ndima-kali's actions, the deans who grew up with ideologies of social disparity between «Bilo/Sangha» and Ba'Aka are learning to integrate new thoughts as well as new habits. As a result of the various sensitization programs, it is now possible to raise awareness, to share the same beds and meals during summer camps, which was not possible before. One of the strategies used by the association is the use of mini-workshops and summer camps to facilitate the transfer of knowledge from the elders to the youths. The summer camps are organised during holidays and give room for the BaAka and Sangha Sangha children in school to receive appropriate education about their respective cultures. This generally happens during their spare periods. As for the mini-workshops, they are cultural capacity building frameworks organised during school period for children who don't have the possibility to go to school.

Ndima-kali key actor in human rights' promotion.

Even though Ndima-kali is not a human-rights based association, this does not prevent it from promoting this indispensable topic. According to M Yvol Molet, the person in charge of the house of rights for the Bayanga population, Ndima-kali plays a key role in the

implementation of their human rights promotion activities and this

through their extensive network ranging from communities in and around the DSPAs . The youths belonging to this network play a role

important in raising awareness amongst the population being done after receiving a training. Their participation and know-how are equally fundamental for the identification and denunciation of cases of abuse and violations.

Results in 2019

In 2019, Ndima-kali carried out several activities to raise awareness and strengthen capacities. These include 5 summer camps, 12 mini reinforcement workshops (workshops organised during the summer periods with non-scholars) and about 20 awareness campaigns.

Needs and Shortcomings

Despite all these achievements, Ndima-kali still requires significant resources to guarantee better productivity. Managers identify needs in areas of capacity building, logistics, accounting, project management and reporting. The satisfaction of these needs should enable the association which received FTNS funds in 2019 to efficiently guarantee the preservation and propagation of the culture and tradition of the indigenous peoples of DSPAs.

«However, thanks to Ndima-kali's involvement, the elders who grew up with ideologies of social disparity between the «Bilo/Sangha» and BaAka are beginning to bring in new ideologies transformed to new habits.

«However, thanks to Ndima-kali's involvement, the elders who grew up with ideologies of social disparity between the *Bilo/Sangha* and *BaAka* are beginning to bring in new ideologies transformed to new habits.»

M. BETOULET José-Martial,
Coordinator Ndima-Kali

Agreements and infrastructures to boost and promote the TNS destination

Visit all three TNS parks in one trip? Now a reality!

Visiting the three contiguous sites of the Tri-national de la Sangha (TNS) in a single trip is no longer a dream, but a reality! This becomes feasible following the signing of a memorandum of understanding by the governments of the three TNS countries (Cameroon, CAR and Congo).

A Memorandum of Understanding for free movement in the TNS

Introduced in 2017 and signed in October 2019 by all parties concerned, this text defines and establishes the framework and modalities for the free movement of tourists in all three TNS parks. Thanks to this, international and national tourists will be able to enjoy a tri-national tourist experience

by obtaining a badge (previously signed by the Prefects of the three Departments of the TNS States Parties) and a signage sheet from the conservation services of the national park of the State Party entering the TNS area. In order to facilitate the implementation of this agreement, several activities are currently being set up by the different actors of the TNS for its popularisation. For its part, the FTNS, in collaboration with the CAWHFI (Central African World Heritage Forest Initiative) project of UNESCO/EU, has supported the production of several posters and brochures for this purpose.

Rehabilitation of the Doli Lodge

The Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas Doli Lodge was renovated in 2019 with the support of funds from the European Union. This grant made it possible to rehabilitate the aging bungalows (piping and electrification), change bedding, redo the bathrooms, lay out the access paths and install a solar water heating system in all the rooms. The kitchen and the bar-restaurant have also been renovated. As a result of this transformation, Doli Lodge is positioned as a reference hotel complex for all its guests.



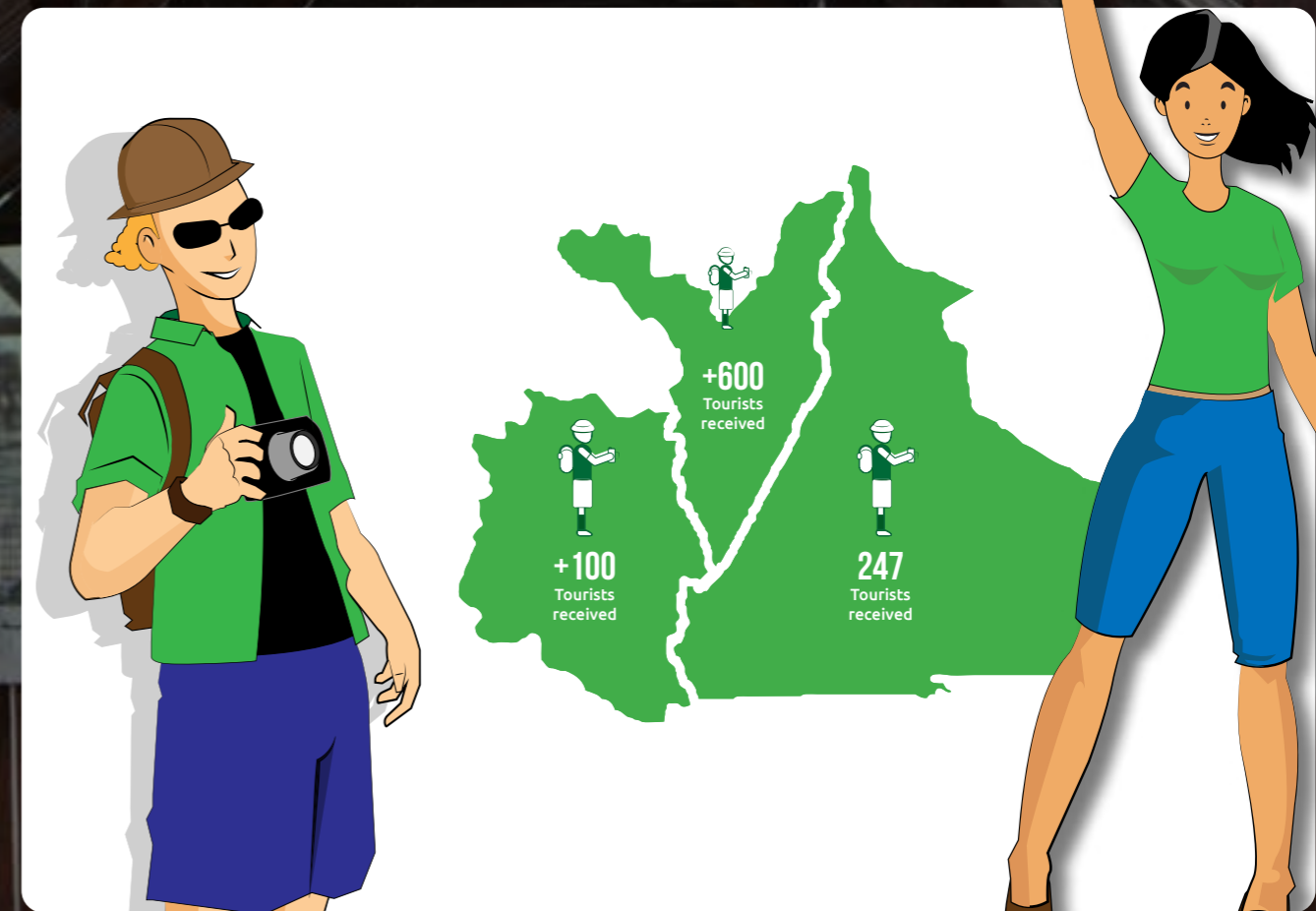
©FTNS

Some bungalows of the Doli lodge



“On my first day at Dzanga Bai, I saw more elephants in one hour than in 14 years in Equatorial Guinea”

Luis Arranz , APDS Director



more than
900

Tourists & Visitors received
in 2019

©FTNS

Immersion in the Research & Monitoring & Evaluation programme in Dzanga Sangha

Write up collected from Terence Fuh Neba, Head of Primate Habitat, Research and Monitoring for WWF Central African Republic, Head of the Department of Primate Habitat, Research and Forest Management at the Dzangh Sangha Protected Aires)



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Write up collected from Terence Fuh Neba, Head of Primate Habitat, Research and Monitoring for WWF Central African Republic, Head of the Department of Primate Habitat, Research and Forest Management at the Dzangh Sangha Protected Aires)

The department of primate habitat, research and forest management at DSPA is divided into three units:

- **Primate Training Programme**
- **The bio monitoring unit**
- **Sustainable Forestry Unit**

In the framework of the primate training programme, we habituate gorillas to human presence for tourism and research. For the bio-monitoring unit; it is actually a question of exactly knowing the numbers of the various species present in the forest, their distribution and their evolution over the years.

As far as the sustainable forestry unit is concerned, we try to work with the forest concessions that are in the reserve to make sure that they comply with the regulations in order to reduce the impact on the environment.

Key events in 2019

The gorilla twins turned 4 years old, and when they were born in 2016, the thoughts weren't towards their survival, as it is difficult for gorilla twins to survive, however, they are 4 years old presently, juvenile and they less dependent on their mother. This implies that they actually will survive.

Gorilla tourism has covered 60% of the park's income, which shows its importance for the development of ecotourism in the park. As far as the logging companies are concerned, we

©APDS/Nuria Ortega

Inguka & Inganda, the two young people emblematic twin gorillas of APDS turned 4 years old this year, thus greatly increasing their chance of survival!

rings. This implies that they must set a limit of at least 200 metres from each forest clearing. It also ensured that the trail must be at least 200 metres from the buffer zone boundaries, which is a good thing. We have also launched a programme to monitor the frequency of large mammals in forest clearings. Four specific forest clearings have been selected and we have installed camera traps around these clearings. This permitted us to monitor the frequency of elephants, bongos, wild cattle and other species in the clearings. This programme was a great success, even though we sometimes lost several cameras because of poachers and elephants. However, this really helped us to have a clear view of what is really happening in Dzanga Sangha in terms of population distribution. For example, we observed that Dzanga Bai, which is the elephant hot spot, was always frequented by elephants. We also observed another forest clearing at Bai Hokou which showed a high frequency of elephants. Meanwhile, camera traps set up in a forest concession were stolen because of the high human frequency. This indicates that the park is more protected than the logging concessions.

Challenges in 2019

This year, one of the biggest setbacks has been the reduction in the number of tourists visiting the gorillas, which I think is linked to the general security situation in the country and also to the fact that the lodges were being rehabilitated. I think this year we are coming back in force.

2020's Perspectives

We plan to maintain the frequency of gorilla trained groups. We are trying to ensure that there are always three groups of gorillas available to tourists every time they come to Dzanga Sangha. At the moment, we have three, one of which has just been opened to tourists in 2019. We are looking forward to training a new group, which will be useful in case one of the current groups disintegrates. In this way, we want to get closer to the great outlook we have for eco-tourism this year, which is welcoming at least 1000 people. We also need to make sure that we are ready for this! In terms of ecological monitoring, we are currently carrying out one of the largest wildlife surveys in Dzanga Sangha. We are using two methods: camera traps and line transects, which will be the first time that these methods will be used at a high level. It is one of the most promising since the end of 2019. All the teams are in the field collecting data and we expect to have the

exact results by September 2020. These actions will provide us the exact population density of all the different species and their distribution in the different areas of the park. We look forward to working with the logging companies in 2020, especially as they are all expected to have new management plans for the coming year, paving the way for serious collaboration in order to minimise the impact of their activities on wildlife and on Dzanga Sangha and biodiversity as a whole.

Project needs

For the Primate Training Programme we lost a large source of funding, which covered most of the expenses. This year, we are struggling to pay the trackers and the people working in this team from tourism revenues and this is not really sustainable. So one of the biggest expectations is to be able to fund the primate habituation programme, otherwise it will be very difficult to make it work.

Research and Bio monitoring in the Lobeke National Park

Interview with Marius Sombambo (Research Assistant WWF)



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TNS FAUNAL INVENTORY OF SOME FLAGSHIP SPECIES IN TNS

FAUNAL INVENTORY AT PNNN

 **2500**
Elephants

 **43 500**
Gorillas

 **11 500**
Chimpanzees

FAUNAL INVENTORY AT PNNN

 **3 518**
Elephants

 **14 992**
Gorillas and chimpanzees

 **188 190**
Duikers

 **3** species of pangolins

 **8** species of monkeys

Source: 2018 PNL inventory

FAUNAL INVENTORY AT PNNN

 **711**
Elephants

 **2215**
Gorillas

 **499**
Chimpanzees

How does ecological monitoring function in the Lobéké National Park?

Bio monitoring is the ecological monitoring of activities which permits the assessment of the health-level of the park's values. To evaluate this, we developed a bio monitoring strategy in Lobéké consisting of 5 major points. The fauna inventory, forest glades follow-up, the monitoring of clearings, monitoring of logging, hunting and mining activities.

Major results in 2019

As key results for the year 2019, the results of the inventory of large and medium-sized mammals carried out in 2018 were analysed and revealed through a restitution workshop. This enabled us to note that elephant populations are stable (3,500 units), we equally noticed an increase in the populations of large apes (15,000 gorillas and chimpanzees) as well as duikers (79,229 units). Unfortunately, poaching activities equally have an evolutionary trend, with poaching indices which penetrated the core of the park.

The park's needs

In terms of needs, the Lobéké National Park and its periphery are quite vast and in order to cover all these areas, there's a need for equipment, especially camera traps. Actually, there's an on-going process of integrating these cameras to monitor clearings and elephant migration corridors. At the moment we only have 30 of the 300 units required. We also need digital cameras. They will permit us have real-time images of the fauna. Moreover, we equally need human resources. Our ecological monitoring activities are implemented with the help of local people and eco-guards. We have recently experienced a mass departure of eco-guards and the communities present are not sufficiently equipped to carry out these activities. Nevertheless, we have trained 10 «Monitoring Assistants» from these communities in data collection, however many more are needed to cover the whole area.

The CAWHFI project in 2019

by Michel Henri Bikat , Technical Assistant CAWHFI-FTNS project



In 2019, the CAWHFI Project received a **\$100,000** budget extension. This amount is mainly allocated to actions promoting human rights of indigenous people living in and around the TNS, to support the development and implementation of tri-national governance strategies in the TNS, and to monitor good social and environmental practices in forest concessions. The project has recorded some convincing results in each of the activities concerned:

Promotion of human rights for the indigenous peoples in the TNS regions

Training and equipping of local relays in monitoring the implementation of the MoU

Collection and processing of data on the impact of the local communities' harvesting in the park

Identification and documentation of Baka cultural activities able to integrate touristic circuits in Lobéké

Support to the elaboration and implementation of tri-national governance strategies in the TNS

Implementation of 91 tri-national patrols for the year 2019 with confiscations (See BLAB synthesis table) Monitoring of good social and environmental practices in forest concessions

Identification, mapping and characterization of legal or illegal mining activities in the Cameroon segment

Support to the consolidation process of the SMART database at the level of the three TNS segments

Objective 100 million € to save the TNS!

For more than 13 years (2007-2020), the FTNS has provided annual financial support of approximately 1-3 million euros to TNS parks (from endowment and sinking funds). However, this represents only about one third of the basic needs of the three parks, who are facing several growing threats (poaching, progressive demographic pressure, etc.).

For this reason, FTNS aims to increase its investment capital from 60 million euros to 100 million euros. This should enable it to generate annual revenues that can cover most of the operating needs of Sangha Tri-national (TNS) parks.

Contributing to the FTNS capital is a guaranteeing the survival of one of the priority regions for conservation in the world and the Congo Basin in particular!

