



FONDATION
POUR LE
TRI-NATIONAL
DELTA
SANGHA

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ANNUAL REPORT



2020



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Fondation pour
le Tri-national
de la Sangha - FTNS



Fondation pour
le Tri-national
de la Sangha - FTNS



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AFD	French Development Agency
APB	Anti Poaching Brigade
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	African Environmental Funds Consortium
CAWHFI	Central African World Heritage Forest Initiative
COMIFAC	Central African Forestry Commission
CTPE	Tri-national Planning and Implementation Committee
CTS	Tri-national Monitoring Committee
CTSA	Tri-national Supervision and Arbitration Committee
FNN	Nouabalé Ndoki Foundation
FTNS	Sangha Tri-national Trust Fund
KfW	German Development Bank/German Financial Cooperation
LAB	Anti-poaching campaign
MINFOF	Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (Cameroon)
MEFCP	Ministry of Water, Forests, Hunting and Fishing (Central African Republic)
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
PEA	Operating and Development Permits
PNL	Lobéké National Park
PNNN	Nouabalé Ndoki National Park
SINFOCAM	Société Industrielle des Forêts Centrafricaines et d'Aménagement
STBC	Société de Transformation de Bois en Afrique Centrale
TNS	Sangha Tri-national
UFA	Forest management unit
ULAB	Anti-Poaching Unit
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society



A WORD FROM THE BOARD'S CHAIR

MR SAMUEL MAKON CHAIR OF THE BOARD

For the past six years, I have had the honour of serving as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Sangha Tri-national Trust Fund, an institution which has kept growing since its creation in 2007. Today, thanks to the commitment of its members and the dedication of its staff, it is a reference and a key player in the world of biodiversity conservation and ecodesvelopment.

Many were the actions selected since the creation of the trust fund and many have been achieved, equally, many were the projects launched since the beginning of my mandate, given the evolution of the dynamics of the TNS parks within the framework of the new global paradigms. I can only be happy with trust fund's metamorphosis and the achievements that have built and modernised this institution through the major orientations that emerge in the 2021-2031 strategic plan which has just been adopted. This plan will enable FTNS to provide concrete answers to the concerns of TNS parks and contribute to the sustainable management of the Congo Basin forests, without forgetting the populations who live in and around these forests.

I am proud to have actively participated in the conception of this new 2021-2031 strategy which will, I hope, not only permit us to increase the capital to 100 million euros, but above all, to face the new challenges of tomorrow's world.

To do this, however, the FTNS will have to push the parks to improve their funds absorption capacity and support the development of cooperation mechanisms between

TNS actors at the levels of tourism, governance and joint monitoring of this area.

Trusting in the combined efforts of the Board of Directors, our effective investment policy followed by the Executive Office, the financial partners, mainly KfW, who've increased the trust fund's capital from 23 to 64 million Euros by March 31st 2021. We must congratulate ourselves, and it is our fervent hope that the current and future partners will be able to increase our capital to 100 million euros, so that we can fully cover the costs of conserving the biodiversity of TNS parks from the interest earned.

During the 2020 period covered by this report, the COVID-19 pandemic brought about unprecedented challenges to these parks, requiring them to respond quickly to help mitigate the severe disruption to health care, tourism and livelihoods.

The Sangha Tri-national Trust Fund has thus been at the forefront for the response to this global pandemic, mobilizing rapidly for the needed support to the parks ensuring the provision of essential supplies to reduce losses incurred from lives to economic constraints, to protect hard-won conservation gains and to fulfil our mission which is to contribute to biodiversity conservation in the protected areas and ecodesvelopment of the neighbouring populations.

Finally, I warmly thank the Board of Directors, the Executive office and the TNS park managers for the support and trust they gave me throughout my mandate period.

Samuel Makon

Chairperson of the
Board of Directors



A WORD FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

MR. BRUNO SCHOEN KFW ADMINISTRATOR

In a very tumultuous context for financial markets in 2020, the FTNS portfolio performed well, with an absolute performance of +4.94% over the year, less than in 2019 (when it was +9.19%), but still exceeding the objective indicated in the Investment Policy, which aspires to a performance of 4%. The management strategy engaged by FTNS, with asset diversification and a long-term orientation enabling it to stay the course in difficult times, proved its relevance.

There was no new capital input in 2020. The capital, which had passed the €50m figure in 2017, totalled at €63.8m at the end of the year.

New contributions are desired and necessary for FTNS to ensure its significant and sustainable contribution to the financing of conservation in the three parks of the Sangha Tri-national, in support of the efforts of its three member countries, namely the Republic of Cameroon, the Central African Republic and the Republic of Congo.

Let us recall that the FTNS' mandate includes, among other things, the objective - for which I assume responsibility with the other members of the Investment Committee - to securely grow the FTNS capital in order to generate greater revenues to support the financing of sustainable natural resource management activities in the Sangha Tri-national. This gives FTNS the means to achieve its objective of contributing to the specific financial needs of each of the three parks of the transboundary forest complex, both for the sustainable management of its natural resources, the eco-development of its peripheral areas as well as transborder activities.

The year 2021 will be an important and busy one for the FTNS Investment Committee. The Investment Policy will

be 3 years old, and we will be reviewing and potentially revising it. One change is already clear: the responsible investment approach will be enriched and complete, incorporating both exclusionary processes (sectoral, normative) and integration processes (ESG). The Committee will devote a significant part of the year to this work, which must be completed for the second Board of Directors' meeting in November 2021. This will be done with the support of FTNS' financial advisor, Perennium SA, whose mandate was renewed at the beginning of 2021 and whom I would like to thank for their very professional support and their remarkable and more than exceptional commitment.

The steady growth of the capital over the past decade was made possible by, amongst others, the continuous improvement in financial management, having a detailed Investment Policy, a fully functional Investment Committee, a Financial Adviser, a separation of functions between asset custody and asset management, institutional and specialist managers, have been key steps. The work never ends, as the quest for the best possible performance (within the level of risk tolerated) is a constant aspiration.

For the future, beyond the implementation and consolidation of the ESG policy, it will be necessary to identify and encourage other potential contributors to invest in FTNS in order to enable it to better increase its impact. Because the expectations and challenges for the preservation of the remarkable biodiversity of the three parks of the Sangha Tri-national stay numerous, new funds will definitely be welcomed.

Bruno Schoen
Director of the KfW
office in Yaoundé



A TRUST FUND FOR TNS

The Sangha Tri-national Trust Fund (FTNS) was created in March 2007 with the mission of contributing to the sustainable financing of conservation, eco-development and trans-border cooperation activities in the Sangha Tri-national (TNS). It thus supports the 2015-2025 Convergence Plan of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC), in its strategic axis 6, which is to develop innovative mechanisms for sustainable conservation financing, for instance trust funds.

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 Conservation Finance Alliance.

FTNS IN FIGURES

63,8 million €
OF INVESTMENT CAPITAL

1,8 million €
OF ANNUAL GRANTS

13 years
OF EXPERIENCE

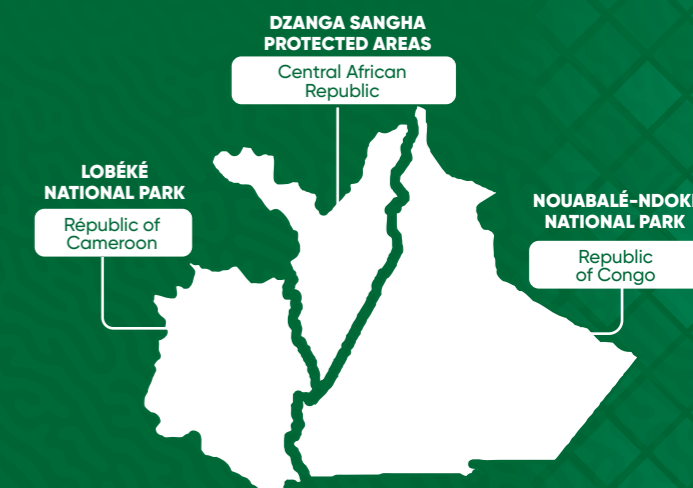
03 COUNTRIES
PROTECTED AREAS

In December 2020, FTNS had an endowment capital of 63.4 million euros from the German Development Bank (KfW) on behalf of Germany and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) on behalf of France (55.5 million euros from KfW and 3 million euros from AFD). FTNS' capitalisation target is set at EUR 100 million.

DISCOVERING FTNS

THE TNS, A WORLD HERITAGE SITE FOR THREE

The Sangha Tri-National (TNS) is a transborder forest complex of 27,000 km² 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 will of Congo Basin countries Heads of States to converge towards a concerted management of these transborder protected areas



CREATION DATE
2000

DATE OF INSCRIPTION ON THE
WORLD HERITAGE LIST
Juillet 2012

SURFACE AREA
27 000 000 ha

INHABITANTS
191 000



©FTNS

OUR COMMITMENT

To contribute to the preservation of biodiversity and socio-economic development in the Sangha Tri-national, the first transboundary forest complex in Central Africa and a World Heritage Site.

THE FTNS GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors (BoD) is the strategic, coordinating 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 its interests without being compromised by conflicts of interest.

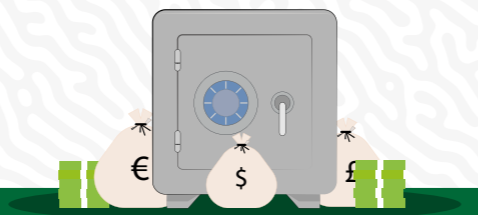
Board meetings are held twice a year in rotation in each of the three TNS member countries. The board's chair has a three (03) year mandate, renewable once.



THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE

The Executive Board is responsible for implementing the decisions of the Board of Directors, institutional development of the FTNS, fundraising and grant provision to the TNS parks. It is composed of an Executive Director, a Programme Officer and an administrative and logistical department made up of 3 people. This team is supported by an accounting firm and technical assistance from AGRECO-INTEGRATION represented within the Executive office by a Technical Advisor.

OUR FUNDING MECHANISM



FTNS supports park operations through two mechanisms: endowment funds, which are revenues generated by the capital invested in the financial markets, and sinking funds, which are one-off contributions from financial partners intended primarily to improve the parks' basic infrastructure. FTNS' capital of about 63 million euros at the beginning of 2020, is invested in the international financial markets through an internationally renowned portfolio manager, assisted by an investment advisor. The expected annual income is around 4% of the capital, of which 3% is taken to finance the operating needs of the three TNS parks as well as tri-national cooperation activities.

In 2020, FTNS' support for the operation of the parks was €1.8 million (and comes from the endowment and sinking funds). This represents only about one third of the budgets of the three parks, which face several growing threats (poaching, gradual demographic pressure, tourism infrastructure to be developed, to name a few).

DISCOVERING TNS



©APDS

THE DZANGA SANGHA PROTECTED AREAS

Central African Republic



The Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas (DSPA) were created on December 29, 1990 and cover an area of more than 400,000 ha (4,000 km²). They are located in the Sangha-Mbaere district, precisely in the south-west of the CAR, and comprise two sectors: the Ndoki sector, which covers 725 km², and the Dzanga sector, which covers 495 km².

As part of the State's heritage, the special reserve is placed under the supervision of the CAR's Ministry of Water, Forests, Fishing and Hunting. The geographical characteristics of the area include a Guinean forest type climate. The classification process began in 1981 when the CAR government recognised the uniqueness of Dzanga Sangha by formally limiting hunting in the area through the creation of an elephant and bongo sanctuary.

tuary.

Subsequently, in 1984, several studies confirmed the rich biodiversity of the area, especially in terms of endangered species such the forest elephant, bongo, forest buffalo, western lowland gorilla and chimpanzee. The open layout of the Dzanga clearing permits a very good and unique view of the wildlife, a major asset for tourism development in the area.

The complex also contains a rich socio-cultural content and serves as a habitat for the BaAka forest pygmies and the Sangha-Sangha fishermen. Dzanga Sangha also offers tourists and the scientific community several exceptional assets such as the imposing elephants of Dzanga Bai, the habituated gorillas of Bai Hokou accompanied by sublime modern infrastructures.

Surface area
400 000 ha

Date of creation
29 decembre 1990

Location
Central African Republic



©Mathias Dhelling

LOBEKE NATIONAL PARK (LNP)

Republic of Cameroon



Located in the extreme south-east of Cameroon part of the and the Congo basin, the Lobéké National Park is an area mainly made up of equatorial forest. It covers an area of 217,854 ha.

Created on March 19th 2001, the Lobéké National Park has a network of swampy clearings, particularly on the eastern side of the park. It also has a varied and very rich biodiversity of fauna and flora. Many of these species are endemic and the park has one of the highest concentrations of elephants and gorillas in the western plains of Africa.

Be it eco or even ethno-tourism, the Lobéké National Park does not lack any attractions. It has been the object of numerous investments to convert it into an eco-touristic site. One can thus find bases with equipped bungalows and trained guides to take tourists through the forest.

Bordered by industrial and artisanal logging concessions and sport hunting concessions that form its peripheral zone, the complex is an integral part of the first Category Technical Operational Unit (UTO Sud-Est) covering an area of about 2300,000 ha.

Surface area
217 854 ha

Date of creation
19 March 1990

Location
Cameroon



©Thomas Breuer

NOUABALE-NDOKI NATIONAL PARK (PNNN)

Republic of Congo



Located at the extreme north of the Republic of Congo, the Nouabalé Ndoki National Park covers nearly 4000 km² of primary forest. It was created in 1993 and is one of the largest reserves in the West Central Africa Forest regions. The park covers almost 2% of Congo's forests.

This virgin area, which has never been exploited by logging companies, is of botanical and biological interest. Rich in fauna and flora, this park has many species of large mammals such as elephants, western lowland gorillas, chimpanzees, panthers, bushpigs, buffaloes, etc. Also, over 300 species of birds, 1000 species of plants and a rich diversity of forests.

Classified as one of the many forest management units that make up the Congo Forest Estate, this area was delimited by natural boundaries, with the exception of its southern and western limits. The western boundary is the international border with the Central African Republic (CAR), the southern boundary is a straight line running east-west. The Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park is of great

importance as an intact forest block that will remain as an island in the ocean of Central African forest concessions. It represents an intact ecosystem whose last human occupation dates back 600-900 years.

Research in the national park by WCS has revealed no signs of recent human habitation in the area, not even the oil palms that often indicate abandoned villages in the heart of the closed canopy forest. In the last decade, all the land around these national parks has been allocated to logging companies and the road network has completely surrounded what were once very isolated forest blocks. These roads allow easy access by vehicle (or on foot) to areas that were once very remote.

According to the researchers, Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park is remarkable for the trust that most animal species show towards humans. Many generations of large mammals have never seen a human hunter and these animals show naive behaviour when they encounter humans.

Surface Area
400 000 ha

Date of creation
1993

Emplacement
Republic of Congo

SOME TNS FLAGSHIP SPECIES



Forest Elephant

Kingdom: Animalia
Class: Mammalia
Subclass: Eutheria
Order: Proboscidea
Family: Elephantidae
Genus: Loxodonta

IUCN Conservation status

Critically 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 transitional savannah zones). It is one of the two species of the genus *Loxodonta* (and of the three elephant species currently existing)



Western Gorilla

Kingdom: Animalia
Class: Mammalia
Phylum: Chordata
Order: Primates
Family: Hominidae
Genus: Gorilla

IUCN Conservation status

Critically Endangered

The Western Gorilla can grow up to 1.7 metres in length for the male and weigh 180 kg, while females grow to 1.3 metres and weigh 70 kg. The Western Gorilla has a life expectancy of 35 to 40 years and its global population is estimated at 80,000 to 100,000 individuals.



Red-tailed Grey Parrot

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Aves
Order: Psittaciformes
Family: Psittacidae
Genus: Psittacus

Statut de conservation UICN

Endangered

The Gabon Grey or Jaco Parrot 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 decreasing 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 international trade is strictly prohibited



Pangolins

Kingdom: Animalia
Class: Mammalia
Subclass: Eutheria
Order: Pholidota
Family: Manidae
Genus: Manis

IUCN Conservation status

Endangered

The Manidae are a family of pholidota mammals that includes all modern pangolins. The following three species are found in the TNS: the Giant Pangolin (*Manis Gigantea*), the White-bellied Pangolin (*Manis Tricuspis*) and the Black-bellied/Long-tailed Pangolin (*Manis tetradactyla*).

THE TNS AGREEMENTS & BODIES

TSAC
Tri-national
Supervision and
Arbitration
Committee

TSC
Tri-national
Scientific
Committee

TMC
Tri-national
Monitoring
Committee

TPIC
Tri-national
Planning and
Implementation
Committee

The supreme TNS decision making body. It is comprised of ministers in charge of Forestry and Wildlife of the State Parties and Executive Secretary of OCFA as rapporteur

The TNS advisory body. It is composed of experienced scientists and researchers

The monitoring body for the implementation of TSAC decisions

The TNS planning and implementation body

06 Memorandum of understanding have been ratified by TNS governments to regulate cross boundary cooperation.

HISTORY OF THE SIGNING OF THE TNS AGREEMENTS

2000

Founding TNS cooperation Agreement between the governments of the Republic of Cameroon, the Republic of Congo & the Central African Republic

2007

Memorandum of understanding on the movement of TNS staff

2019

Memorandum of understanding on the free movement of tourists in the TNS

2005

Memorandum of understanding on the fight against poaching between the governments of the Republic of Cameroon, the Republic of Congo & the Central African Republic

2010

Memorandum of understanding on the organisation and functioning of the Tri-national anti-poaching Brigade (BLAB TNS)

2019

Memorandum of understanding relating to the establishment of the Sangha Tri-national Scientific Committee

OUR FINANCIAL PORTFOLIO IN 2020

INVESTMENT ADVISOR

A GOOD PERFORMANCE DESPITE VERY UNSTABLE MARKETS

ARNAUD APFEL PERENNIUM SA & FTNS INVESTMENT ADVISOR

©UNSPASH

A TUMULTUOUS YEAR IN THE FINANCIAL MARKETS, FOLLOWING THE WORLD'S CRISIS

While 2019 saw a general rise in all types of financial assets, 2020 turned out to be a tumultuous year. The coronavirus pandemic triggered sharp falls in February-March, followed by a sharp rebound from the end of March to the end of August, thanks to unprecedented monetary and fiscal support from the world's major central banks and governments. The second wave of Covid-19 permitted further corrections in September and October, before a year-end upturn linked to excellent news on the vaccine front. According to the IMF, the world economy will have contracted by -4.4% in 2020, making it the worst year since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

On the equity markets, the MSCI Europe index and the American S&P 500 posted respective performances of -2.8% and +18.4%, with very different fates, depending on the nature of these markets (America more growth and technology oriented, Europe more value and cyclical values oriented) and interest rate movements on the Euro and Dollar. On the bond markets, sovereign bonds recorded positive performances on both sides of the Atlantic (European sovereigns +4.0%, US Treasuries +10.1%); and corporate bonds as well, both Investment Grade (US +9.9%, EUR +2.8%) and High Yield (US +7.1%, EUR +1.8%). In each case, the US outperformed Europe.

GOOD RESULTS FOR THE FTNS PORTFOLIO

The FTNS portfolio increased by +4.94% in 2020 (after a record year in 2019, with an increase of +9.19%). In terms of contribution to performance, 72% came from equity exposure (target weight 35%), 14% from Absolute Return strategies (target weight 15%) and 11% from bond exposure (target weight 25%). Real estate (target weight 22.5%) had a negligible contribution (the good resistance to the crisis should be noted, as the performance of this category is still in green).

The portfolio's benchmark is +6.30%: the underperformance is due to the equity manager's delay in repositioning himself following the market rebound in the spring and to the manager's poor positioning on Investment Grade bonds, as he favoured a shorter duration to have less sensitivity to interest rate variations (for fear of a rise in interest rates, but the opposite happened with the pandemic). As a reminder, the objective indicated in the Investment Policy is a performance of 4% in gross terms, an objective that was clearly exceeded not only without surprise in 2019, but also in this last year of the Covid 2020 crisis. The change in capital over the year is shown in the graph below.

In 2020, capital gains and income, net of fees, totalled EUR 3 million.

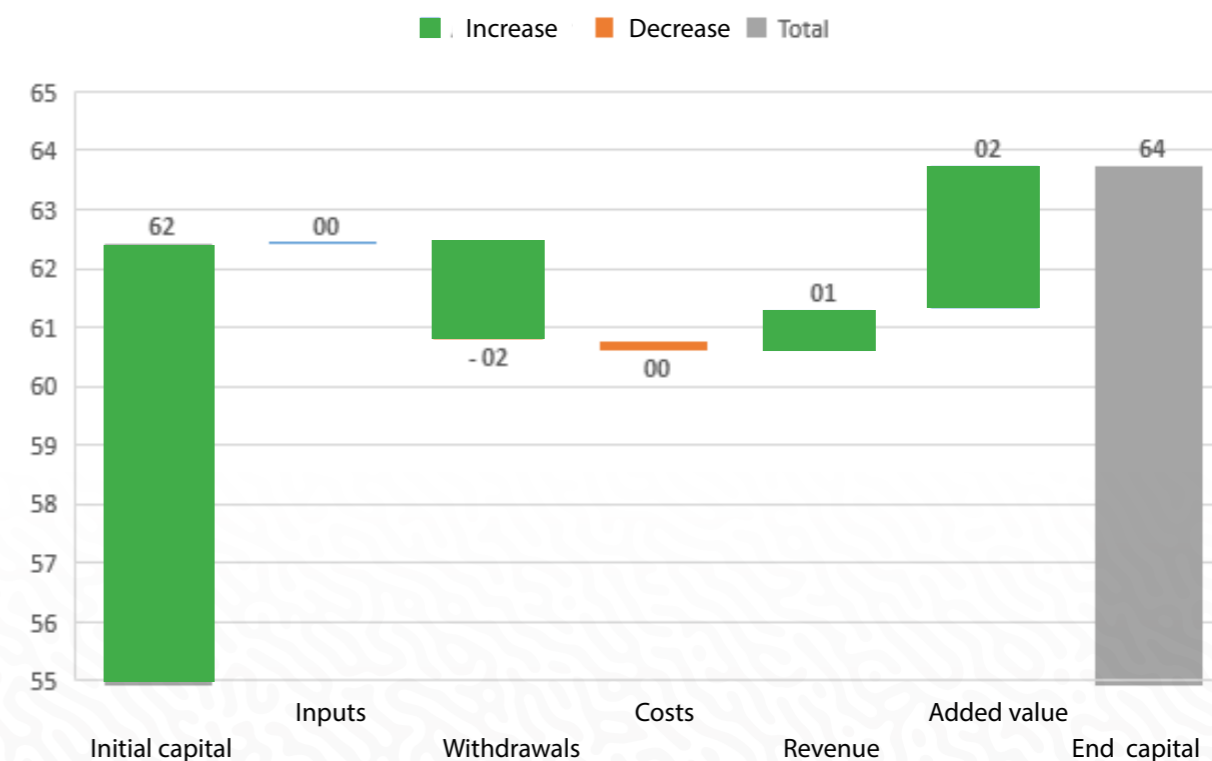
SOME FIGURES & RESULTS IN 2020

+4,94%
INCREASE IN
2020

3 000 000 €
OF CAPITAL GAINS
AND INCOME IN 2020



DETAILS OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE CAPITAL IN 2020 (IN M€)



PERSPECTIVES 2021

As mentioned in "the word from the investment committee's chair", the year 2021 will see the review and revision of the Investment Policy. With regard to the socially responsible investment (SRI) approach, the FTNS has until now had a simple exclusion of arms. The inclusion of SRI will take a giant step forward in 2021, with broad exclusion processes, with these exclusions be-

ing both sectoral (product-based) and normative (conduct-based); and a demand for the systematic integration of ESG criteria (Environmental, Social, and Governance) in all strategies (equities, Investment Grade bonds, High Yield bonds, Real Estate, bearing in mind that this is already the case for this last asset class). This will have an impact on FTNS' choice of investments and service provider.

FTNS SUBSIDY BREAKDOWN IN 2020

BREAKDOWN OF FUNDS ALLOCATED TO EACH PARK ACCORDING TO THEIR SOURCE IN 2020

PARK	KFW	CAWHFI	CAPITAL INCOME	TOTAL
APDS	166 003 020	0	413 939 980	579 943 000
FNN	322 678 662	0	196 763 338	519 442 000
PNL	200 693 435	0	218 976 480	419 669 915
Total	689 375 117	0	829 679 798	1 519 054 915

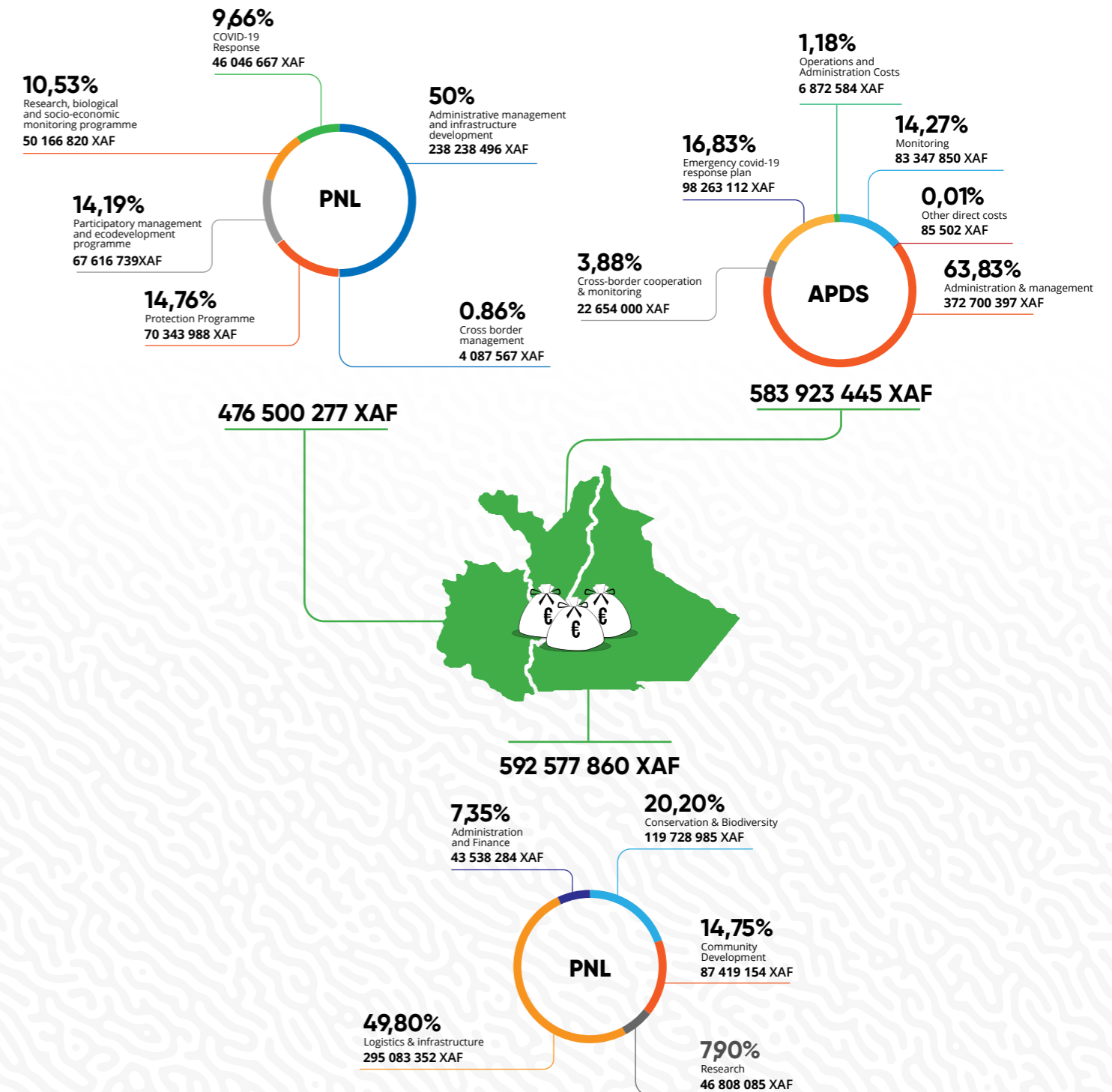
BREAKDOWN OF SUBSIDIES PER COMPONENT BY PARK IN 2020

PARC	DSPA	NNF	LNP	TOTAL
Management of PAs	379 658 483	338 621 636	238 238 496	956 518 615
Monitoring/tracking of biodiversity	106 001 850	166 537 070	124 598 375	397 137 295
Promoting tourism				0
Support to local populations		47 138 999	67 616 739	114 755 738
Covid -19 response	98 263 112	40 280 155	46 046 667	184 589 934
Total	583 923 445	592 577 860	476 500 277	1 653 001 582

BREAKDOWN OF SUBSIDIES PER COMPONENT BY SOURCE IN 2020

PARK	KFW	CAWHFI	CAPITAL INCOME	TOTAL
Management of PAs	340 755 281		615 763 334	956 518 615
Monitoring/tracking of biodiversity	95 796 923		301 340 372	397 137 295
Promoting tourism				0
Support to local populations	68 232 979	1 121 180	45 401 579	114 755 738
Covid -19 response	184 589 934			184 589 934
Total	689 375 117	1 121 180	962 505 285	1 653 001 582

BREAKDOWN OF GRANTS IN 2020



1 655 001 582 XAF (2 523 030 €)
OF GRANTS DONATED TO TNS PARKS IN 2020

OUR KEY ACTIVITIES IN 2020

FEB

- Support to the organisation of a SMART data harmonisation workshop for TNS (7-16/02/2020, Pokola)
- Organisation of a SMART data harmonisation workshop across the TNS landscape in Pokola, Congo February 7-16, 2020.

MAR

- Organisation of the scoping workshop for the implementation of the 2020 PTABs (18 to 22/02/2020, Bertoua)
- Follow-up mission on FTNS grants (infrastructure, audit, communication, VSAT)
- Administrative, financial and accounting audits on various accounts: DSPA, LNP, NNF and the executive office
- FTNS - financial year 2019 (17/02 to 23/03/2020) by the accounting firm CLS.

MAY

- The Statutory Audit of the Executive Board accounts for the year 2019 by Wilkins Kennedy / AZETS) carried out in March 2020. The report was validated by the Board and submitted to the Charity Commission on 21 October 2020.
- Follow-up of grants allocated to the LNP and Follow-up of the Incident on allegations of human rights violations in the LNP that occurred between 12 and 16 May 2020 (7 to 19/07/2020, Mambélé)

AUG

- Organisation of the 24th FTNS Board of Directors meeting in Brazzaville
- Participation and support to the organisation of the first Ad-hoc Committee on the revision process of the Lobéké National Park management plan (17 to 22/08/2020, Bertoua)

SEP

- Evaluation of the effectiveness of the IMET tool for the management of the parks and implementation of a monitoring-evaluation system

OCT

- in the TNS (30/09 to 3/10/2020, Bertoua)
- Follow-up mission of FTNS grants (infrastructure, audit, communication, VSAT)

NOV

- Round up and financial audit of the CAWHFI 2 project
- Support to the organisation of the workshop on the elaboration of the updated report on the state of conservation of the TNS (17 to 20/11/2020, Douala)

DEC

- Organisation of the 25th meeting of the FTNS Board of Directors in Douala
- Participation in CBFP meetings in Kinshasa (DRC)
- 4th ordinary session of the Tri-national Supervision and Arbitration Committee (CTSA), 9 December 2020 in Kinshasa (DRC)

DURING THE YEAR

- Participation in strategic partners' workshops COMIFAC, UNESCO/CAWHFI...
- Support to the process of publicising the signing of the Protocol on the free movement of tourists in the TNS and of the Protocol establishing a Tri-national Scientific Committee (TSC), followed by the launch of the call for applications for the
- Recruitment of the members of the said committee (process still ongoing)
- Continuation of the FTNS accreditation process for the Green Climate Fund (GCF)
- Follow-up of the process of obtaining an establishment agreement with MINREX

FOCUS ON CONSERVATION

NOUABALE-NDOKI NATIONAL PARK - NNNP

PROTECT AT ALL COST!

EBAH AYMARD ASS. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM AND DATABASE MANAGER

2020 was a very difficult year for us due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Considering the pressure of poachers in the area, we tried to maintain our teams on the ground. This enabled us to mobilise 306 patrols (255 mobile and 51 mixed) in 2020. As far as our results are concerned, we seized 76 weapons and 2526 bullets. Also, 190 suspects were apprehended, of which 102 were sensitised, 34 arrested and 16 brought to court. The difference between the number of arrests and the number of transfers is due to the type of offence. Amongst the 34 arrested, only 16 had committed major offences. Of the 16 referred to court, 10 were sentenced to between 2 and 5 years' imprisonment.

THE MAJOR DIFFICULTIES...

We also noted an increase in poaching of small species in the conservation area. A total of 8129 kg of bushmeat was seized in 2020, a figure that is significantly higher than 2019. A gradual increase in the capture of parrots on the Sangha River was also observed around the border area with Cameroon (Lobéké National Park). The park also recorded the seizure of almost 3000 kg of pangolin scales. A rather worrying trend.

Also, for some time, our cross-border area with CAR has been under the control of Central African subjects who

hunt there. As a result, 3,886 metal cables were dismantled in 2020. We are still looking for solutions to this particular case.

For better management of the park following the Covid-19 pandemic, Congo closed its borders with instructions to bring all its elements back to its territory. Thus, from March to December 2020, no elements from the Congo segment were deployed to BLAB TNS for cross-border missions.

OUTLOOK FOR 2021

The big challenge will be to resume the TNS cross-border activities (patrols, trainings and conservation meetings). We also plan to harmonise rangers' training to facilitate joint cross-border initiatives and to combat the increasing practice of wire traps in the three TNS sites.

With the growth of ecotourism, there will of course be an increase in the population. We have, with the support of other departments, managed to alleviate the great human-elephant conflict in the conservation area through electric fence fields that will ensure food security. In addition to this, the park has also set up a commissary with prices standardised to those in Ouesso.

NOUABALÉ-NDOKI NATIONAL PARK

SOME RESULTS IN 2020

306
patrols
carried out

76
weapons
seized

8 129 KG
of seized bushmeat

190
suspects
apprehended

60%
of the park
covered

2526
ammunition
seized

3000 KG
of pangolin scales
seized

3886
metal cables
seized



LOBÉKÉ NATIONAL PARK

ECOGUARDS, "ON YOUR MASKS..."

PENKEM EBEN JOSEPH, DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

REDUCED ACTIVITIES IN 2020

As we all know, this has been a special year, which has made us rethink our strategies and also our resource needs. In 2020, we carried out 130 patrols in the park and its peripheral zone for a cumulative effort of 2888 men/day.

Among the key results, we seized 8 weapons (6 home-made, 1 AK47 weapon and 1 rifle). We also seized 22 bullets and destroyed 123 hunting camps.

THE GROWING THREAT OF STEEL CABLES ...

We noticed that poachers are progressively using steel cables instead of guns. Nearly 17,000 cables were seized and dismantled in 2020, categorising this as the most important threat to our wildlife. Poachers seem to have realised that they can hunt silently with steel cables, giving them the opportunity to kill several animals at once. This challenge has led the conservation department to redirect its patrols from the periphery to the interior of the park.

This is because these poachers live in the surrounding villages from where they access the park. We equally opted to collaborate with the villages and formed the Village Anti-Poaching Committee (COVILAB) for our patrols. Being inhabitants of the peripheral zone where the

threat of traps and weapons is, they inform us and permit us to orientate ourselves better.

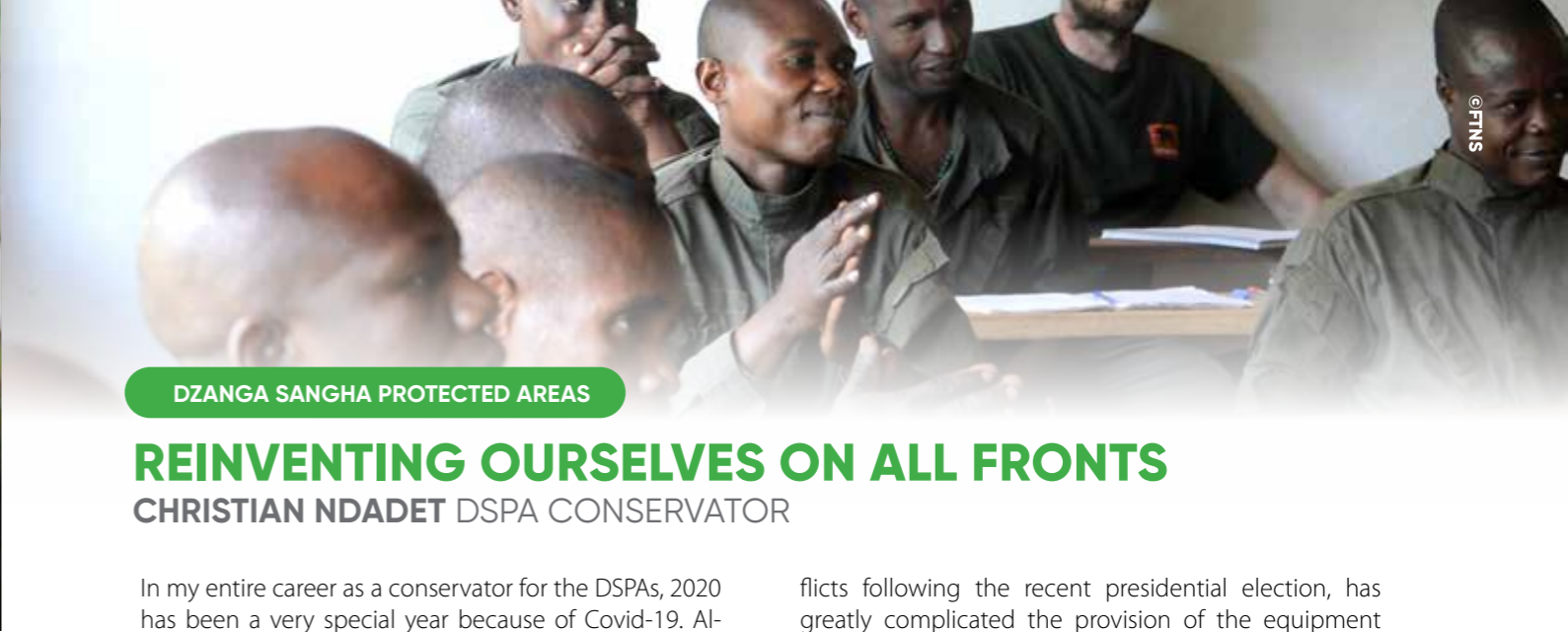
A YEAR WITHOUT CROSS-BORDER PATROLS

For the year 2020, with the spread of Covid-19, we did not carry out any cross border patrols, neither bi-national nor tri-national, nor interventions in the framework of the BLAB TNS. This was due to the restrictions on the movement of men and the closure of the borders with neighbouring countries. We hope that in 2021 this can be improved.

FTNS AID IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The park received a special grant from the FTNS in response to covid-19. In terms of impact on our activities, the pandemic prevented us from carrying out cross-border patrols, resulting in a large deficit for protection. This impact is yet to be determined.

Internally, we equally faced restrictions due to distancing measures. This stopped us from carrying out certain public activities such as mass sensitisation until the government relaxes the barrier measures.



DZANGA SANGHA PROTECTED AREAS

REINVENTING OURSELVES ON ALL FRONTS

CHRISTIAN NDADET DSPA CONSERVATOR

In my entire career as a conservator for the DSPAs, 2020 has been a very special year because of Covid-19. Although the pandemic did not stop us from carrying out our conservation activities, we had to adapt and reinvent ourselves according to the context. As a result, the protection and surveillance unit was able to function normally, permitting the rangers to achieve results despite several restrictions and quarantines.

For this year, we carried out 440 patrols throughout the Dzangha Sangha Protected Areas. We also deployed 12 teams at the level of the TNS BLAB to guarantee continuity in the absence of elements from other TNS countries due to border closures. The organised patrols facilitated the seizure of approximately 116 weapons (60 of the home-made type). We also seized 44 ivory tips, 70 kg of pangolin scales and 45,000 steel cables.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED.

The first difficulty was the ranger understaffing. Since our protected area is very large, our units are not sufficient to cover it all. Added to this, we have ageing cars and insufficient weapons for the implementation of activities.

The political situation in the country, marked by con-

flicts following the recent presidential election, has greatly complicated the provision of the equipment necessary to carry out our work.

In addition, our development plan has come to an end in 2020. A new plan needs to be developed to facilitate the implementation of activities from 2021 onwards.

CONSERVATION NEEDS & VISION

In terms of perspectives, it is our obligation to continue carrying out activities as normal and try to go beyond. That is, we need to reach the areas that we could not cover in 2020 and have their status.

It will also be necessary for us to recruit staff to complete the workforce in order to carry out protection and anti-poaching activities. There is also the need to continue to deploy rangers to the APB, in other words, to "keep the brigade alive".

Increasing the effectiveness of anti-poaching activities is a key objective for the year 2021. This includes catching up on the training of elements that could not be carried out in 2020 because of the pandemic. We're referring in this context to the partnership with the Chengeta Wild Life organisation, which will carry out recycling of the current rangers and recruitment of new ones.

LOBÉKÉ NATIONAL PARK

SOME RESULTS IN 2020

130 patrols carried out

08 weapons seized

17 000 cables seized & dismantled

123 camps destroyed

22 ammunition seized



DZANGA SANGHA PROTECTED AREAS

SOME RESULTS IN 2020

440 patrols carried out

116 weapons seized

45 000 cables seized & dismantled

44 Ivory tusks seized

70 KG of scales pangolin seized

2526 ammunition seized

12 team mobilised



SANGHA TRINATIONAL

FOCUS ON THE TNS ANTI POACHING BRIGADE 10 YEARS OF CROSS-BORDER ANTI-POACHING FIGHT

©FTNS

CHRISTIAN NDADET DSPA CONSERVATOR

The APB is the special anti-poaching brigade of the TNS to fight against cross-border poaching. A symbol of cross-border cooperation between the TNS countries, this unit is made up of elements from the three protected areas of this World Heritage site. It is important to note that this brigade does not compete with the individual units of the three TNS segments, but rather complements what is being done at their level.

The current location of the brigade, Nyangouté, was at the time a major stronghold for poachers and one of the great achievements of this brigade was the control of the poaching problem that was prevalent on the Sangha River. Since the installation of APB, poachers who were in the fishing camps and other hiding places have moved elsewhere. This demonstrates the vital importance of this unit in complementing all the efforts made by the three segments.

10 YEARS SERVING THE TNS

For the record, the brigade was set up in 2011 following the construction of the hosting facilities in 2010. Since its operationalisation, the brigade continues to function entirely with the support of FTNS funds. Thanks to it, we can see the possibility of controlling poaching on the Sangha River.

THE ANTI-POACHING BRIGADE (APB) IN 2020

The APB's activities were reduced due to Covid-19, which prevented the movement of LNP (Cameroon) and NNNP (Congo) units. Following the mobilisation of 12 teams of Central African rangers, we were able to carry out 48 patrols for a cumulative effort of around 1057 men/days.

SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT IN 2020

In 2020, FTNS, in partnership with the Dzangha Sangha Protected Areas, strengthened the operation of the Nyangouté APB through the supply of:

- 1 generator,
- 2 solar street lamps (electrification and lighting)
- 1 VSAT installation (for an adequate internet connection to the site).

These additions have helped to guarantee better working conditions for the ecoguards of the three sites/countries that make up this tri-national anti-poaching mixed force.

DIFFICULTIES

Among our major difficulties are the ageing infrastructures and the lack vehicles. The poor condition of our outboard engines largely limited our mobility.

NEEDS

Firstly, the assignment of rangers to the 03 parks should be resumed as soon as possible to ensure better functioning. The APB has only been operating with rangers from the CAR segment, which was abnormal and did not reflect the trinational image of this unit. One consequence of this failure was that the Central African rangers could not move alone to cover the Congolese and Cameroonian areas, greatly reducing the scope of intervention.

It will also be necessary to think about renewing the infrastructure and transport equipment, which are largely worn out.

QUALITY LIVELIHOOD AND HEALTH

©FTNS



NOUABALE-NDOKI NATIONAL PARK

GOOD HEALTH FOR ALL, AT ALL COST

YVES LONDZA (NNNP ECO DEV DEPARTMENT) & KEVIN KITA YANNICK (HEALTH CENTRE MANAGER)

ABOUT 2500 PEOPLE CARED FOR IN 2020

During the year 2020, the park supported the functioning of the Bomassa and Makao integrated health centres. This support covered the financial support of health workers and maintenance staff in these health facilities. Thanks to this, these health centres were able to carry out about 2500 consultations, demonstrating their importance to the local communities.

We can't mention health without talking including Covid-19. In terms of actions, sensitisations were carried out in Bomassa and Makao. We also provided alternative masks, surgical masks and hydro-alcoholic solutions to health workers and schools to enable them to prevent this disease. Hand-washing stations were also installed in the two villages.

As a means of communication and awareness raising, a service contract was signed with a local association called "Les jeunes de Bomassa". This enabled us to extend awareness raising through the production of posters, banners, and other materials.

CHALLENGES & NEEDS

Due to the absence of a cold chain to store vaccines, women are obliged to travel about 30 km from Bomassa to Kabo to have their children vaccinated and to have prenatal consultations. As a solution, we plan to equip these two centres with cold chains powered by solar systems so that they can obtain and store their vaccine.

NOUABALÉ-NDOKI NATIONAL PARK

SOME FIGURES & RESULTS IN 2020

2454

consultations performed

23

referred cases

06

employees supported



DZANGA SANGHA PROTECTED AREAS

MORE THAN 9000 PEOPLE CONSULTED IN 2020

FRANK MAVINGA, HEAD OF ECODEVELOPMENT DSPA

In 2020, the DSPAs continued its commitment to guarantee the health of the local population and its staff. In total, 9573 patients were consulted. This figure includes all services, equally health facilities that have been set up by the park in partner sites.

AUDIO VISUALS FOR HEALTH

In terms of health education, we used innovative tools such as audiovisual programs that we showed to communities on hygiene and how to prevent certain diseases. For this, six audiovisual materials were produced on community health.

We also used community radio to broadcast programs. During our visits, we had health workers speak on issues related to health in the DSPA.

OF COURSE, CAMPAIGNS TO FIGHT BACK AGAINST COVID-19

In 2020, we carried out several awareness-raising campaigns, particularly in covid-19 context.. From March onwards, we worked with the community, government structures, associations and churches to raise awareness about the pandemic. We also provided technical support to ensure that they could reach inaccessible areas.

As far as the BaAka are concerned, we worked with community relays who were trained to accompany them and help them live in the forest while respecting the social distancing measures. After this quarantine, sensitisation was carried out for these indigenous peoples to reinforce their knowledge of the pandemic (see special report).

SOME FIGURES & RESULTS KEY 2020

9573

consultations carried out

06

videos produced

10 000

protective masks distributed

68

trained community relays



LOBEKE NATIONAL PARK

THE NEED FOR A HEALTH CENTRE!

ROMUALD NZONGANG ECODEVELOPMENT COMPONENT OFFICER LNP

A PATIENT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM DURING ANTI-POACHING PATROLS

In the Lobeke national park, we have a support strategy to the local population in terms of health. During our various patrols, we equally identify people in challenging health conditions. When a patient is identified, he/she is transferred to a health center and taken care off on the park's expenses.

We frequently receive aid requests from people residing in faraway camps. When these requests are received, they are evaluated and taken care off.

DIFFICULTIES

The major difficulty is the prefinancing of the various cases encountered during the patrols. Some health centres are skeptical to use this 'on credit' treatment method.

Sometimes, when the treatment is carried out, they refuse to give out medications by fear of not being reimbursed. Having a health centre around will give us the possibility to directly take care of the patients and save more lives.

AN AMBULANCE AS A FIRST STEP

The parc was able to acquire last year a medicated ambulance. This will permit us to better cater for the neighbouring communities and our personnel. When a staff member is ill, he generally has to cover at least 60km in order to receive appropriate care.

These are difficult conditions, which depict the urgency of equipping the park with a health centre for its staff and the local population.



SPECIAL REPORT

TNS AMIDST COVID-19

©Freepik

COVID-19 : 300 MILLION FCFA IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

A YEAR UNLIKE ANY OTHER

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact throughout 2020, deeply disrupting conservation programmes in many countries around the world. Its net impact on protected areas, local communities and wildlife is yet to be determined.

Despite the fact that no cases of contamination were detected in the area in 2020, the economic, political, and social consequences did not spare the functioning of Central Africa's first transborder World Heritage site, the Sangha Tri-national. As prevention, the administrative authorities of the parks took all measures in order to combat this pandemic.

The parks were equally forced to suspend many activities. As a result Tourism took a big blow, with a loss of nearly 130 million CFA francs (nearly 200,000 euros) for DSPA, with negative consequences on social

needs of the local population.

In order support the implementation of concrete actions, FTNS, with the support of the German cooperation, made available to the managers of the three TNS protected areas, an additional emergency fund of 450,000 euros (150,000 euros per park), i.e. about 300 million FCFA. More precisely, each park received about 100 million FCFA.

In general, this initiative facilitated sensitisation activities, distribution of hand-washing kits and hydro-alcohol solutions as preventive measures, and the equipping of health centres.

Some parks equally acquired medical ambulances (02 ambulances in total) to strengthen their health care system.

SPECIAL REPORT

TNS AMIDST COVID-19



DZANGA SANGHA PROTECTED AREAS

DSPA: BA'AKA FOREST QUARANTINE

TOTAL CONFINEMENT

The authorities of the DSPAs resorted to a total confinement of the park characterised by the suspension of research and tourism activities! In order to prepare for the covid-19 response, the management teams, staff and ecoguards were sensitised on barrier measures and social distancing.

In order to ensure collaborative coordination, protected area managers also held meetings with the administrative and local authorities of Bayanga town and its surroundings on the mechanism for responding to the Covid-19 Pandemic in DSPA and its surroundings.

VOLUNTARY BA'AKA FOREST CONTAINMENT

Following this, the indigenous Ba'Aka people were encouraged to return to the forest to ensure their health security. In total, 2912 indigenous Ba'Aka people from more than 8 villages were voluntarily confined to 19 camps located in the forest from Bomandjoukou to Kanza. This was an ideal solution to ensure the health security of these vulnerable communities who, given their social lifestyle characterised by intense cohabitation in a restricted space, would find it difficult to respect certain barrier measures recommended by the government. Basic foodstuffs were distributed to them before their departure.

In order to facilitate the implementation of activities with local populations, community relays (CRs) were trained to ensure coordination, travel and monitoring of the installation of the Ba'Aka in the various forest camps. Following a pre-established schedule, 5 training sessions were carried out.

DSPA IN AWARENESS-RAISING MODE

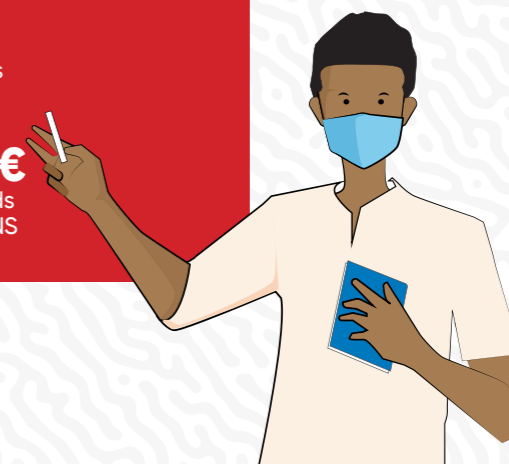
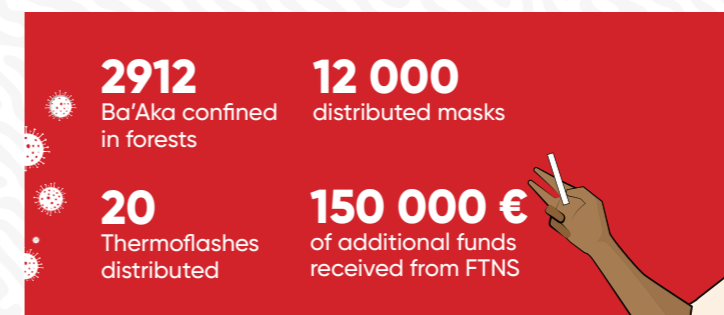
It was also decided to set up health checkpoints in Monasao and Lindjombo. Awareness-raising was carried out through radio Ndjoku and megaphones to promote barrier measures. In addition, we distributed protective masks and installed hand-washing facilities in public spaces.

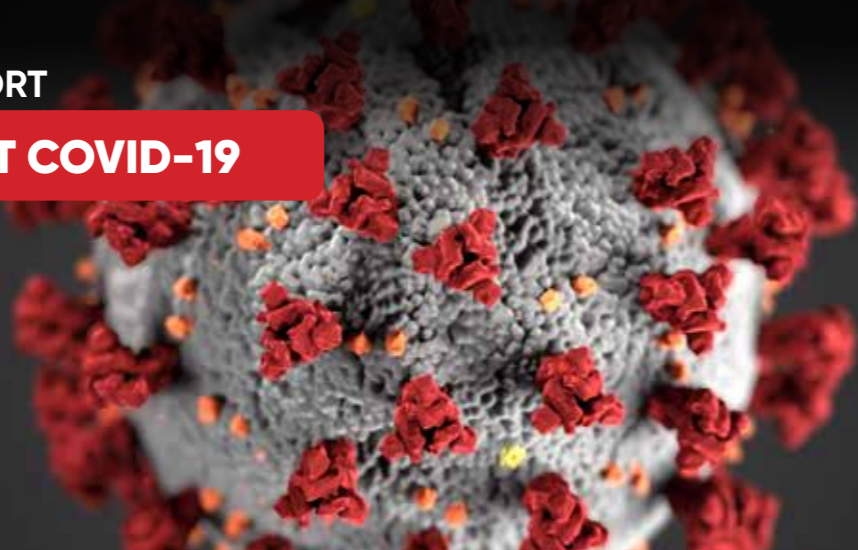
The park services also initiated a mass production and distribution of over 12,000 protective masks. A total of 80 30-litre buckets, cartons of laundry soap, tubes of hydro-alcohol gel, and alternative protective masks were distributed on May 20th 2020 in Bayanga town and its surroundings. 20 thermoflashes were also distributed to health posts and entry and exit points in the communes of Bayanga, Salo and Nola.

A medical ambulance was also acquired with the support of the FTNS emergency funds. This important tool should help facilitate evacuations when necessary.

DZANGA SANGHA PROTECTED AREAS

SOME FIGURES & RESULTS





©Freepik



©APDS

LOBEKE NATIONAL PARK

LNP: STRENGTHENED COLLABORATION WITH ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITIES AND POPULATIONS

In the TNS Cameroon segment, the covid-19 response in Lobéké was characterised by the confinement of the park and the cessation of tourism and research activities. In order to organise an effective response, the Conservation Department put in place an action plan. The objectives were to propose and implement mobilisation actions, to raise awareness among the different social segments and to transmit good preventive practices of the coronavirus in Mambélé village as well as its surrounding.

The park managers also attended technical coordination and implementation meetings for the prevention of the pandemic. These were organised under the supervision of administrative, municipal and health au-

thorities. These gatherings made it possible to set up control committees in each locality (under the supervision of traditional chiefs and local elected officials) for the rigorous application of barrier measures and the acquisition and distribution of prevention materials.

In total, more than 10,000 masks, 200 face protectors, hydro-alcoholic gels, tap buckets, and bleach were obtained with FTNS support and distributed to local populations. The park plans to produce posters and other awareness-raising materials.

A medical ambulance was equally acquired with the support of the FTNS emergency funds.

NOUBALE-NDOKI NATIONAL PARK

NNNP: CAPACITY BUILDING OF HEALTH CENTRES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

In the Congo segment, the confinement alert led the park to confine itself and suspend all tourist activities to prevent the risks posed by Covid-19. In order to ensure continuous management of the park, employees were sensitised and equipped to reduce contamination risks. The park management team also carried out awareness campaigns on the Covid-19 pandemic in the communities of Bomassa and Makao, supported by the installation of some 15 hand-washing points in public places. These social and health initiatives were reinforced by the local production and distribution of more than 1,345 cloth masks.

Considered as opinion leaders, the leaders of the three religious denominations in Bomassa were particularly sensitised on the respect of barrier measures

against the pandemic in order to facilitate the relay of good practices to their communities. They also received individually: a hand washing kit, a pack of latex examination gloves, a bottle of bleach, a bottle of liquid detergent and a bottle of hydro-alcoholic gel. Local health facilities were also reinforced with prevention kits.

More specifically, the Bomassa and Makao health centres were provided with 400 pairs of gloves, 850 single-use nose covers, 10 bottles of hydro-alcoholic gel and 1 thermo-flash per centre. In addition, the park acquired a medical ambulance which will be made available to the Bomassa health centre for its health needs.

LOBEKE NATIONAL PARK

SOME FIGURES & RESULTS

10 000 masks distributed	150 000 € of additional funds received from FTNS
01 medical ambulance acquired	200 face protectors

NOUBALÉ-NDOKI NATIONAL PARK

SOME FIGURES & RESULTS

1345 cloth masks distributed	800 pairs of gloves offered	02 health centers supported
01 ambulance médicalisée acquise	150 000 € de fonds supplémentaires reçu de la FTNS	

PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURE



NOUABALÉ NDOKI NATIONAL PARK

FINALLY CASSAVA, DESPITE THE ELEPHANTS...

YVES LONDZA (ASS. ECODEVELOPPEMENT OFFICER) & CISQUET KIEBOU (RESEARCH & BIOMONITORING ASS.)

A RAY OF HOPE FOR THE THORNY CONFLICT OF MAN VERSUS ELEPHANT

Elanga Bomassa is an experimental 04 hectares farm project surrounded with an electric fence. Since 1998, the park has always sought solutions to the thorny man-elephant conflict. It was impossible to farm in Bomassa because elephants were encroaching on the fields to feed, but with the new electric fence, it is now possible to keep them away through small electrical shocks. Thanks to this initiative, 59 families/households can now benefit from the food produced in these fields.

Plot owners underwent this year, a training course on sustainable and ecological. It covered the production of improved cassava plants, agricultural disease control techniques and soil improvement methods. A total of 60 people took part in the training.

Among the positive impacts of this farm for the local community, is the fact that people have returned to farming. This activity was no longer practiced in Bomassa due to elephants destroying their crops and farms. Thanks to this initiative, parents can once again pass on this culture to their children.

The Elanga project has also facilitated the permanent supply of vegetables to the village. Previously, to get vegetables you had to go to Pokola (more than 130 km from Bomassa), but now vegetables, bananas, maize and even groundnuts are available in Bomassa. This progress has allowed us to fight against food insecurity.

MORE SPACE!

Following beneficiaries requests, we plan to enlarge the plots to meet the needs of their families. We plan to replicate this experience in other localities, thus providing a lasting solution to the thorny human-elephant conflict.

THE PROJECT IN SOME FIGURES

04 Ha of protected farmland
59 families and households settled
60 people trained in 2020

LOBÉKÉ NATIONAL PARK

THE QUEST FOR FOOD SECURITY

ROMUALD DZONGANG
ECODEVELOPPEMENT OFFICER



A DIVERSIFIED DIET

Ensuring food security is one of the goals of the Lobéké National Park. We believe that promoting several food sources would greatly contribute to reducing the pressure on wildlife resources, one of the main causes of poaching. This could in turn equally facilitate job creation and improve the living conditions of local populations.

In order to materialise this vision, the LNP undertook several initiatives in 2020 in different localities located on the outskirts of the park. Specifically, a palm tree nursery was created in Yenga and an a poultry farm in Moloundou (chicks already sold in the various markets). Cows were equally given to a butcher to enable him to sell meat at low prices.

In addition to these, agricultural plantations were made available to some of the groups of people. For example, the women associations in the village of Dioula were gi-

anted a 5-hectare cassava plantation to facilitate the production of cassava "fufu", the most popular meal in the locality.

This initiative was born out of the fact that the people who depend on this foodstuff did not have any cassava fields or processing machines. Previously, traders had to travel to Gari Gombo (more than 300 km from the locality) to obtain supplies of cassava flour, but now they will have it at "their fingertips".

In addition, these beneficiaries received additional financial and technical support. Training was previously provided to these beneficiaries with the support of MINADER, MINEPIA and government delegates.

A SUPPLY PROBLEM

Our major difficulty was the supply of feed for the chickens on the farm. The nearest supply point was in Bertoua (560 km from Mouloundou).





DZANGA SANGHA PROTECTED AREA

OUR FIRST COCAO FRUITS ARE FINALLY HERE!

FRANK MAVIMBA HEAD OF ECODEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEPARTMENT

©FTNS

A BOOMING SECTOR

In 2020, agricultural activities were intensified with the communities. This consisted of supporting farmers organisations in agriculture. Within this context, 7 Ba'Aka households (women in particular to facilitate food self-sufficiency in this community) were supported and provided with cassava seedlings.

OUR FIRST-FRUITS FINALLY SHOW FORTH

With regard to agroforestry, we continued the promotion of cocoa cultivation initiated under the "K project". As a recap, this project initiated in 2017 facilitated the establishment of 60 individual cocoa plots (25 in Bayanga Centre and 35 in Moussapoula).

The production of the first cocoa fruits was the remarkable happening of 2020! We did not expect to achieve such results since our sandy soil, unlike clay soils, is not very conducive to cocoa cultivation. Touching the first cocoa fruits was so satisfying! Despite the prejudices and difficulties, our first fruits were "born".

FISH FARMING IN BAYANGA

Fish farming activities were carried out in order to revive income-generating activities in the villages after the confinement period observed in the DSPAs. To fac-

ilitate this, 18 beneficiaries in the localities of Mona-Sao, Nguengueli, Babongo and Mossapoula were supported with fish and fish feed. This will increase the availability of fish on local markets to reduce human pressure on wildlife.

In this first phase, one of the ponds produced and sold a total of 500 kg of fish. The money earned enabled the pond owner to pay school fees and ensure health care for his family.

THE MAJOR DIFFICULTIES

Some beneficiaries were demotivated due to a lack of understanding of the project and how it works. To address this, we held an emergency meeting with the board members to clarify the project objectives, commitments and responsibilities of the stakeholders. It was made clear to them that the harvest is entirely for the beneficiaries.

One of the challenges we faced was the poor maintenance of the fields. An assessment of the cocoa plots at the beginning of the confinement revealed that only 03 plots out of 48 had been maintained. However, the plants are making good progress.

There have also been difficulties such as bush fires and human-wildlife conflict.

SOME FIGURES & RESULTS IN 2020

60

cocoa plantations created

02

fish ponds supported

500 KG

of fish produced and sold

18

people trained in fish farming

07

households BaAka supported

ECOTOURISM IN 2020



NOUABALE NDOKI NATIONAL PARK

COMMUNITIES AT THE HEART OF ECOTOURISM

ARNAUD LOUBOUNDA COMMUNITY ECOTOURISM FOCAL POINT

©FTNS

For the past two year, the Nouabale Ndoki National Park has recently been collaborating with local communities to help them implement a community-based tourism project. The first phase was characterised by preparation and discussions with the communities to identify domains requiring assistance.

Community-based ecotourism is a new concept for the park and its communities. The project has two challenges; community involvement in conservation activities and the promotion of income-generating activities.

When we started conservation in the area, we found that the communities were 95% dependent on the park. But through this new initiative, we will be able to rely on the people as partners/actors to conservation.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

This year, we worked on identifying a management body. This project is intended for the communities and we only play a supporting role. As part of the project ownership process, we have taken steps to ensure that communities are able to set up a project management body. Our support helped to build the capacity of local communities through the construction of a craft market and the implementation of a capacity building project(-to train community members according to their needs.

We also organised an ecotourism immersion trip to another community that has been running a similar project for the past 4 years. This activity's goal was to provide an experience sharing framework between our community and that community.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

We faced several technical difficulties. For example, the tour guides have difficulties in expressing themselves. To remedy this, we set up an English and French literacy project.

AMBITIOUS PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE

Tourism requires adequate accommodation. In this respect, we are planning to build a tourist accommodation site in the village. The location has already been identified with the support of the local people and the plans are being drawn up. We expect to have two or three units available in 2021.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE SEIZED

The protocol for free movement of tourists in the TNS area is a great advantage for the community tourism project. It will allow us to put in place a circuit where the tourist benefits from a variety of experiences. A tourist will now be able to travel from Cameroon and CAR to Bomassa to enjoy our cultural experiences.

SUCCESS STORY



« I AM NO LONGER AFRAID TO DREAM BIG »

MAMA SAÏDA, RESTAURANT OWNER IN BOMASSA, (USAID FUNDING)

My name is Saida and I am married with eight children and two grandchildren, this is my restaurant "La main de Dieu". This proud achievement is largely due to the Park's support of the park.

With their help, I was able to participate, along with other members of our community, in 02 hospitality trainings in Pokola. They gave me several skills that helped me to expand and improve my restaurant to increase its capacity! Now I can support my husband in taking care of the family and help send my children to school.

NEEDS... THEY NEVER RUN OUT...

There are days when I can't cook because I have no place to store food. I used to have a generator and a freezer, but they are all bad. If I could get a generator or a solar panel and batteries, I would be able to better store my food stuff.

I also have a space problem. The current setting only has six tables and twelve seats, which is not enough!



LOBEKE NATIONAL PARK

POTENTIAL TO BE DEVELOPED

KWEBOU CARINE ECOTOURISM UNIT HEAD

©Mathias Dheling

There are no doubts that the Lobéké National Park has incredible ecotourism potential, an aspect that contributed to the inscription of the TNS as a World Heritage Site in 2012. Amongst its special features are the red-tailed parrots, which light up the Jengi bay with their legendary ballet. The site also has several great apes, which beautify the place known as 'Little Savannah'. If you wish to see elephant herds, Bolo and Ndangayé are your destinations!

Among our distinguished guests, we have Prince Philip of England (may he rest in peace) who stayed in the park. He was largely satisfied with his visit, which was marked by an encounter with a family of gorillas, consisting of a mother carrying her baby on her back and the head of the family who clapped his hand on his chest to signify his authority.

In order to promote ecotourism, our unit carried out activities with students from the Moloundou Bilingual High School with whom we hold weekly meetings, awareness-raising and small training sessions. We also took advantage of the presence of an association of craftsmen in the area to train children in weaving and the creation of art objects.

We plan to take about ten students and their teachers on an excursion at the end of the school year.

ECOTOURISM IN 2020

Ecotourism has been largely affected by the quarantine period which has prevented visitors or tourists from travelling. Nevertheless, this has given us the opportunity to work much more with local communities and craftsmen in particular. They were provided with materials for making art objects. A showroom will also be set up by the park, in order to facilitate the showcasing of their work.

DEVELOPING ACCESS ROADS, A MUST FOR THE ECOTOURISM SECTOR IN LOBÉKÉ

Our biggest challenge is the access to the park. Tourists are usually elderly or retired people, but unfortunately, the park does not have adequate access roads. For example, to get to Ndangayé, which is rich in species, you have to walk about 30 km, which is very difficult. The nearest clearing is an 8km walk away, quite a long distance.

A HISTORIC ECOTOURISM BOOM SHATTERED BY AN UNFORESEEN PLAGUE...

NURIA ORTEGA ECOTOURISM UNIT HEAD



A RECORD OF 158 VISITORS IN 02 MONTHS

The DSPAs recorded a total of 158 visitors from January to February 2020 (115 tourists and 43 visitors on mission). Focusing on the tourist attendance data for the first quarter of 2020 (the site being closed to tourists during the last 3 quarters of the year), the DSPAs recorded a total of 115 tourists for 2020 compared to 293 tourists in 2019, a decrease of 43.63%.

However, comparing the 115 tourists recorded in the first quarter of 2020 to the 84 tourists recorded in the first quarter of 2019, there was an increase of 15.57% in the first quarter of 2020 compared to 2019, which reflected a growth in visitation rates before being affected by the global health crisis.

In terms of revenue, the park had achieved an overall revenue of 73,476,960 FCFA in the first quarter of 2020 against a total revenue of 139,896,975 FCFA in 2019. More than half in two months!

At the beginning of the year, the ecotourism department underwent restructuring for greater efficiency. As a result, it was divided into two units: the reception centre and the Doli Logde. Our main objective was to promote national and international ecotourism, especially through tour operators. Our strategy worked well and many more people were interested in our destination... but there was the unpredictable covid-19...

SOME ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

As far as our progress is concerned, we were able to receive several personalities at the national level, notably the Minister of Tourism and the resident minister of the zone. During these visits, we were able to present the current state of the park, its development and its potential.

In terms of infrastructure, we continued with the fairly extensive rehabilitation of the Doli Lodge in order to guarantee an ideal reception environment for tourists and visitors. As a reminder, the Doli Lodge was created in the 1990s and was quite run down when we arrived.

We also maintained the access roads to the ecotourism sites. Thanks to this maintenance, the access time to certain sites has been greatly reduced. This is the case of the access road to Bai Hokou, which has been rehabilitated.

A DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE LOCAL POPULATIONS

Ecotourism is a real support to the population. When the local people see the tourists arriving, they are delighted because it encourages the creation of local jobs (cooks, waiters, maintenance workers, trackers, etc.) and as a result, we receive job applications every day. Our strategy is to recruit local residents as much as possible.

The park will soon benefit from training by the Vatel School, a well-known Rwandan hotel institute. All staff,

including the guides, have benefited from courses in English to facilitate their interactions with tourists.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

The impact of covid-19 on ecotourism in the DSPAs

In 2020, there was an incredible increase in tourist demand for our destination. This included demand from several tour operators, many of whom were unable to travel due to the border closures. There was also a lot of media attention, with three audio visual reporting crews desperate to come to the DSPAs

The pandemic was a disaster for us who were aiming to break our visit record in 2020. The trends were good as many people contacted us and made bookings. But after the borders were closed, we had to refund more than 60,000 euros to people who had already reserved in advance. We hope to be able to receive them in 2021, if possible.

Political instability in CAR

The greatest difficulty for tourism is the insecurity or instability of the country. The CAR is a country that is still

in a red zone according to some diplomatic recommendations, which discourages many people from travelling there. From 2013 to 2020, the situation seemed to be getting better, but got worse after the recent presidential elections. However, we are trying to reassure tourists about access to the park through others means such as Cameroon.

Constant cross-border harassment...

Police harassment at checkpoints is also a barrier to tourism. This year we plan to raise awareness of this issue with the local authorities just before the park re-opens.

THE FREE MOVEMENT AGREEMENT, AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE MAXIMISED...

The free movement agreement presents us with an excellent opportunity to develop ecotourism. Last year, we were able to exchange some tourists with NNNP, to our 02 destinations. Exploiting this agreement could contribute to develop a unique feature to the TNS destination.

158
TOURISTS
RECEIVED IN
02 MONTHS

73 476 960 XAF
OF TOURISM REVENUE
GENERATED IN 02 MONTHS



PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

LOBEKE NATIONAL PARK

INTERVIEW : MORE THAN 600 BIRTH CERTIFICATES ESTABLISHED!

SERGE NYAGUE, FUSION NATURE MAMBÉLÉ FOCAL POINT

WHO ARE YOU AND WHAT DO YOU DO IN LOBEKE NATIONAL PARK?

I am Serge Nyague, the focal point of the NGO Fusion Nature in Mambélé (Cameroon). We have been working with the Lobéké National Park to promote the citizenship of indigenous peoples. As we all know, most of these people do not have birth certificates or identity cards, which prevents them from accessing certain services and exercising their rights.

WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS PROJECT?

Firstly, this is very important because in case of abuse they cannot go and complain to the brigade because the first thing they will be asked is "where is your identity card? This obliges them to suffer injustice in despair because they cannot initiate legal procedures without these identification documents.

Secondly, there are also children who cannot progress academically because they cannot register for national competitions without birth certificates. We are working so that the future generation can go to school properly.

WHAT ARE THE RESULTS SO FAR?

The activities carried out have resulted in 442 birth certificates for newborns (from 0 to 30 months) and 150 for adults. At this point, 150 birth certificates have already been issued, but for fear that these fragile documents might be destroyed, we have taken it upon ourselves to laminate them before distributing them. They will all be handed over at an official ceremony under the direction of our coordination. We are nevertheless continuing to follow up on the 442 remaining records in the two communes of Moloundou and Salapoumbé. We hope to produce 1000 for this first phase.

WHAT DIFFICULTIES HAVE YOU ENCOUNTERED?

As far as the difficulties we encounter are concerned, there is the disbelief of some Baka who are skeptical about this initiative, especially because of the delays. Some even say that we are lying. But we believe that after the distribution of the first certificates faith will be reborn.

We also have a mobility problem because Fusion Nature does not yet have a means of transport. This implies that we have to walk long distances, which is a big obstacle to our activities. Sometimes I have to walk 5 to 10 km for the census.

Another major difficulty we encounter is that of moving the police team to Mambélé so that they can issue national identity cards to those who have already been counted.

HOW ARE THE PEOPLE RECEIVING THE INITIATIVE?

Frankly, wherever we go, they are very happy, but because of the delay in the delivery of certain documents, some people say that the initiative is a fraud. The files are still in progress and we hope to finish them soon.

As for those who have birth certificates but no national identity cards, a census has been carried out to prepare for this second phase.

DZANGHA SANGHA PROTECTED AREAS

A GREAT STEP TOWARDS THE MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN BAYANGA

MAITRE MARTIAL YVAN AMOLET, LAWYER & HEAD OF THE MEFP



©Nuria Ortega

The human rights centre in Bayanga is run by a national organisation called the House of Pygmy Children and Women. The centre's mission is to offer indigenous and local communities of the Dzangha Sangha Protected Areas the means to become actors in the promotion and defence of their rights:

The centre's focuses in 4 main areas:

1. Access to justice
2. Training and sensitisation
3. Citizenship
4. Advocacy

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2020

With regard to access to justice...

76 cases of violations were recorded through collaborative work with village community monitors. Some cases resulted in complaints, mediation or legal assistance.

Training and awareness-raising

Training consists of workshops or focus group sessions. Due to the global health crisis, only 4 trainings were carried out.

In addition to training, awareness raising was carried out through Radio Njoku. Due to restrictions, just 15 radio programmes were produced, broadcasted and rebroadcasted throughout the year 2020.

This activity had more impact thanks to better access to information by the population through their various radio sets. Several topics were discussed on national and international law and different offences were easily explained.

269 birth certificates issued!

In 2020, 269 birth certificates were registered. At the beginning of the project, just about a hundred were established, but through sensitisation, parents are becoming more aware and declaring their children as soon as they are born. These declarations arrive at the centre and are forwarded to the civil registry office, which is responsible for issuing birth certificates.

Advocacy

Through this activity, seminars and foras were organised to present the activities carried out by the centre. It aims to draw the attention of decision-makers to human rights issues in the Dzangha Sangha Protected Areas.

Complaints management mechanism, a major success in 2020...

The cohabitation between the park and the communities can sometimes lead to conflicts. To this end, a complaints management mechanism was tested for two years and validated by the indigenous peoples in September 2020.

This mechanism is an instrument for the peaceful management of conflicts between park managers, communities and the human rights centre acting as an intermediary between these two parties.

AN UNDENIABLES SATISFACTION

We are very proud that the community has started understanding that it has rights and that it can exercise them. An example that marked me was that of the Ba'Aka indigenous people who have lived in a situation of servitude for many years, but who can now complain. If at the end of this project, the community members begin to actively defend their rights, our work will have been productive. The Ba'Aka today is leaving his 'second-class citizen' to take his place as a 'normal citizen'.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

The major difficulty was the restrictions on our activities caused by Covid-19. This was mainly characterised by the confinement of the Ba'Aka populations in the forest, which prevented our regular censuses.

In addition, the lack of personnel and means of transport was a hindrance to the proper implementation of our activities.

AND FOR 2021...

The reinforcement of the team and the creation of a psychosocial assistance programme will be implemented to guarantee better results.



SOME RESULTS IN 2020

269 birth certificates established

04 human rights trainings held

76 abuse cases supported with judicial assistance

15 radio programmes broadcasted

EDUCATION IN 2020

LOBEKE NATIONAL PARK

CONSERVATION THROUGH EDUCATION

ROMUALD NDZONGANG ECODEVELOPMENT UNIT HEAD

The Lobéké National Park also provides social assistance of the parks neighbouring populations. We support them in various fields, amongst which, education.

SUPPORT TO BAKA CHILDREN

Each year, the park grants school subsidies to the Baka populations. These consists of school supplies, PTA fees and examination fees (BEPC, CEPE, probationary or baccalaureate).

Our objective in 2020 was to take care of 200 Baka pupils in the localities of Libongo, Salapoumbe, Moloundou, Tika and Socambo. Our strategy consisted in approaching 5 neighbouring schools to identify beneficiaries.

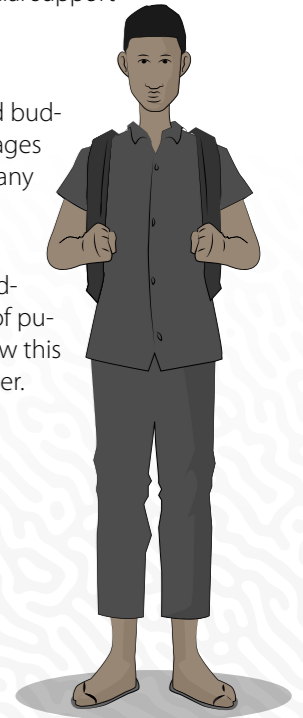
The park also provided support towards the recruitment of parent teachers (temporary teachers). Some schools have only one teacher who acts as both instructor and

director. In order to support the local education system, some local people who have a fairly advanced level are recruited with the material and financial support of the park.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

Our biggest difficulty was our limited budget. The park is surrounded by 22 villages and as many Baka camps in which many would like to be supported.

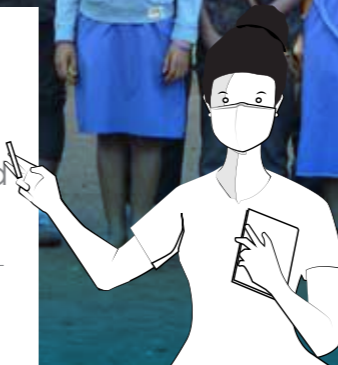
Unfortunately, when we drew up our annual work plan, we had already budgeted fixed amounts and quantities of pupils. There is therefore a need to review this approach in a more contextual manner.



SOME BAKA STUDENTS FROM THE SALAPOUMBÉ, BILINGUAL HIGH SCHOOL, BENEFITING FROM SCHOLARSHIP OF THE LOBÉKÉ NATIONAL PARK

©FTNS

150 pupils sponsored in 2020



ENSURING EDUCATION FOR ALL!

FRANK MAVIMBA HEAD OF ECODEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEPARTMENT

BA'AKA ADULTS RETURN TO SCHOOL

Below, Jean-Seraphin and Richard have unusual smiles on their faces. Well, that is because they were recently able to return to school despite their responsibilities as households heads and community leaders. To help them realise their dreams, the Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas have set up a programme to help adults who had dropped out of school get back on track.

The scholarships provided by this initiative not only cover their fees and school materials, but also provision for their wives and children's livelihoods while they are fully engaged in education.

We have among the 03 Ba'Aka adults supported, a village chief and a youth leader. These three decided to

go back to school with a view to progressing, because they believe that social integration is achieved through education.

It is interesting to know that the chief of the Ba'Aka village of Moussapoula 2, **Mr. MABELI Gabriel (47 years old)**, was able to obtain his secondary school certificate due to this programme. This is an extraordinary result within the Ba'Aka context.

CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR LOCAL EDUCATION

During the year 2020, in terms of basic education, we took charge of 48 teachers in the communes of Bayanga and Salo. If we add to this the temporary teachers in other schools, we have taken on about 50 teachers.

SOME KEY RESULTS IN 2020



530
students on scholarship in 2020

52
teachers supported

02
Baaka University Students supported

03
Baaka adults supported

JEAN-SÉRAPHIN AND RICHARD, ADULT BAAKA STUDENTS SUPPORTED BY DSPA



©FTNS

NOUBALÉ-NDOKI NATIONAL PARK

ENSURING FREE AND QUALITY EDUCATION

YVES LONDZA ECODEVELOPMENT UNIT ASSISTANT

FREE SCHOOLING CONTINUES!

In 2020, the park paid the salaries of teachers in the primary schools of Bomassa and Makao. In total, about 7 teachers and 500 students benefited from this support free of charge. NNNP also supported these schools through the purchase of teaching materials and office equipment.

At the university level, some of the students supported by the park completed their master's degree and entered the professional world. We also awarded 16 scholarships to students who finished primary school and moved on to secondary school.

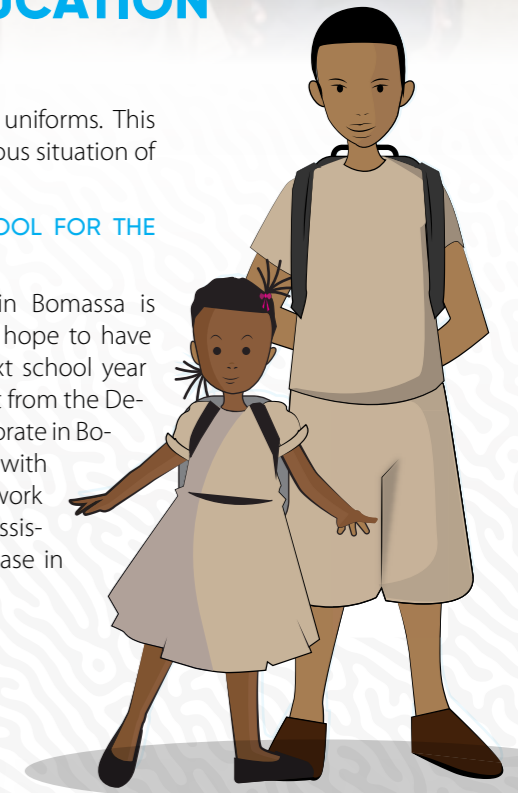
SPECIAL SUPPORT FOR INDIGENOUS MINORITIES

As part of the support for minority populations, we supported 80 indigenous students by providing them with textbooks,

notebooks, bags, pens and uniforms. This helps to alleviate the precarious situation of most of their parents.

VERY SOON, A NEW SCHOOL FOR THE CHILDREN OF BOMASSA!

The new school building in Bomassa is under construction and we hope to have it completed before the next school year starts. We also received a visit from the Departmental Education Directorate in Bomassa and we believe that with this new building, the framework will be established for their assistance and perhaps, an increase in the number of teachers.



QUICK FIGURES & RESULTS IN 2020

525
Pupils and students supported in 2020

07
teachers supported

02
schools supported

80
indigenous students fully supported

DZANGA SANGHA PROTECTED AREAS

RESEARCH IN ADAPTATION MODE!

TERENCE FUH NEBA & FREDERICK SINGHA RESEARCH, MONITORING AND FOREST MANAGEMENT UNIT



A GORILLA HABITATED IN BAI HOKOU

Research and ecological monitoring activities were suspended for a period of 3 months following the covid-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, the department, with the main objective of providing reliable information on the state of the forest and wildlife as well as human pressure to the administration of the Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas, still carried out several activities through its different sub-units.

IN 2020...

With the primate habituation programme,

Two key activities!

Akumba has a new son!

Akumba, the female who exceptionally gave birth to healthy twins in 2016, has had a newborn again this year. This reassures us of the health of the gorillas and their survival in the forest.

Another habituated group

Over the years, the efforts of this unit have facilitated the habituation of three groups of gorillas accessible

to researchers and tourists. This year, one of our major achievements was the provision of a fourth group to support DSPAs' ecotourism ambitions. This additional group ensures the availability of primates for tourists, but more importantly, the continuity of the programme in the event of the disintegration of a regular group

THE ECOLOGICAL MONITORING PROGRAM

The state of the fauna

With regard to the status of the fauna, our objective was to obtain accurate information on the status of the fauna in Dzanga Sangha. To this end, a special wildlife inventory was carried out in the entire park.

For the first time in Dzanga Sangha, we used 02 assessment methods, photo traps and line transects. The use of these methods in a complementary way will permit us to obtain more reliable results from the inventories.

Effective wildlife monitoring

Our work also involves limiting the contamination or

transmission of diseases from humans to apes and vice versa.

During 2020, 20 carcasses were sampled and analysed in the laboratory for anthrax and filoviridae (Ebola). The results showed 6 positive results for anthrax and none for filoviridae. We also captured 1332 flies to help us diagnose the diseases that exist.

DSPA and Cornell University, a key partnership!

An agreement was reached with the Elephant Listening Programme at Cornell University in the USA, which specialises in the sound monitoring of these large mammals (particularly in forest clearings). As a result, their teams will now be permanent at Dzanga Bai, one of the most famous and largest clearings in the area, where 100 elephants can be seen at a glance. Their presence there will promote a better understanding of the bai and also help to scare poachers away from the area.

FOREST MONITORING

We also carried out biological monitoring of forest clearings in the reserve. The park has 4 important clearings frequently used by elephants and other wildlife. Our approach was to place camera traps in these clearings to capture images of the wildlife. As there are logging concessions that feature other human activities, it is important to have a clear view of the impact this has on the animals. About 200,000 videos and photos were collected and will be analysed.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

In terms of forest management, 2 important achievements were recorded this year.

20 hectares of forest restored

In 2020, 20 hectares of degraded forest were restored through the planting of 8,000 trees of high value to the local population and caterpillars. This activity has also allowed the regeneration of degraded soils in agricultural areas.

Accurate knowledge of the agricultural area and hunting area

We also facilitated forest management by determining the status and use of agricultural and community hunting areas. The survey showed that a large part of the agricultural area has already been used by farmers, who are currently penetrating deep into the reserve and the national park. A list of recommendations was sent to the administration to counter this activity.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

The biggest challenge for the research unit was covid-19. The outbreak of this pandemic affected the implementation of the different activities.

Firstly, we had difficulties in paying the staff of the primate habituation programme due to the drastic decrease in tourism revenues due to travel restrictions. This situation largely affected this programme, which was already moving towards self sustainability. Emergency funds were used to resolve these payment difficulties and ensure the continuity of the programme. The mobilisation of these funds has been a great challenge for the department.

Secondly, the wildlife inventory surveys in the park were prolonged due to a three-month suspension due to confinements. As a result, the first phase of the initiative was completed in 9 months instead of 6 months, greatly delaying the data analysis phase.

2021 PLANS...

For 2021 and beyond, the department still maintains its main mission of providing reliable information to DSPAs' administration on the state of the forest, wildlife, and forest management.

In the PHP, in order to maintain the desired level of tourism, the team will be focusing on the habituation of the fourth group, as the vision is to have 4 groups available for tourists.

In the ecological monitoring programme, the analysis of the data collected from 2019 to 2020 will cover a large part of our work. The focus will be on this analysis of the data obtained from the various forest clearings as well as that collected over the last 2 years from the elephants that have received GPS tags.

The vision for the forest management unit in 2021 is to have a good understanding of the forest cover and its evolution over the years. This is something that has not been done for years because we don't have the capacity to do it on the ground. This requires access to high quality satellite images, which we don't have. Through our collaboration, FTNS will facilitate the search for ideal collaborators to provide satellite imagery and good analysis of forest cover so that we can understand forest degradation from a broader perspective.

DIFFERENT NEEDS FOR 2021 ...

Since the primate habituation programme is largely dependent on income from ecotourism (suspended in 2020 due to the pandemic), our biggest challenge will be to make it work otherwise in 2021. Emergency funds

are therefore needed to run the programme to support the 60 staff working for the programme (40 of whom are local BaAka indigenous people). These funds should also provide them with supplies and working equip-

ment. In other words, raising these funds is one of our biggest needs for 2021.

SOME KEY RESULTS IN 2020

01

new gorilla group being habituated

20

carcasses sampled

1332

flies caught

20 HA

of forest restored

8000

trees planted

200 000

Photos and videos collected for the inventory



NOUABALE-NDOKI NATIONAL PARK

RESEARCH AT THE DAWN OF TOURISM!

VITTORIA ESTIENNE, HEAD OF THE BIO MONITORING RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

CISQUET KIEBOU RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Endowed with an invaluable wealth, the NNNP has a research and ecological monitoring service focused in particular on the large mammals living in and around the park. The protected area has three research sites which include gorillas, forest elephants, sitatunga and forest buffaloes among their study targets.

03 INCREDIBLE & UNIQUE RESEARCH SITES...

Among our main sites, we have :

Mbeli Bai with a platform where researchers collect data daily on target species. This site is the oldest and richest in history.

We also have **Mondika**, which focuses on gorillas. Here we monitor three groups of gorillas on a daily basis and collect data on their behaviour and health.

The **Goualogo site** focuses on gorillas and chimpanzees. Our teams monitor these great apes, but also study the fauna and flora.

As far as ecological monitoring is concerned, the park carries out a landscape inventory every five years (the next one will be carried out at the end of 2021). This activity allows us to determine the density of animals. The species particularly targeted are elephants, great apes, duikers, pangolins and buffalo.

CONSISTENT RESULTS DESPITE A DIFFICULT YEAR

Results on the park's weather trends

We installed a climate station in the village, which enabled us to obtain final results on climate trends over the last 15 years in the park.

Using research methods to strengthen anti-poaching strategies...

We also developed a project with the anti-poaching approach called CTAB, which consists of using research methods to strengthen anti-poaching strategies. These

methods consist of using camera traps and acoustic units to provide us with "eyes and ears" in the park. A unit of 6 eco-guards were trained in search methods to strengthen the anti-poaching strategy.

Detection of gunshots using sound sensors.

We continued the ELP (Elephant Listening Project) developed in collaboration with Cornell University in the USA. Very good results were obtained this year, in particular, the recording of all shots fired in the park at our base in Bomassa. This is an important achievement for the anti-poaching service (LAB), which receives an accurate report of shots fired by sector. This allows them to better implement their response strategy.

Several individual projects were also implemented by our young research assistants. Most of these were carried out in the Mondika, Goualogo and Mbeli sites and focused on themes such as gorilla habituation, the ELP project, and inventories. Some of these works were published in international journals.

MAJOR CHALLENGES...

Covid-19 was a big challenge for our research sites in particular. We had a responsibility to ensure the working conditions of our teams, but also to ensure that the disease was not transmitted to the ape population.

Many activities on the site were slowed down as a result of the implementation of a quarantine system to ensure better working conditions. We are in the process of improving our system through rapid screening tests and hope to return to our normal working rhythm in the near future.

Standardising and comparing the data collection methodologies of the wildlife inventories carried out in the three parks is also a real challenge. Achieving this will allow us to have a more global perspective of this transboundary World Heritage forest complex. We be-

lieve that the setting up of the Scientific Committee will be a big step towards this achievement.

THE CHALLENGE, MAKING ROOM FOR ECOTOURISM...

Tourism is an important aspect of the park. That is why the research department is working with the tourism programme to ensure that visitors and tourists have a safe and wonderful time.

Two research sites will be integrated into the tourism programme: Mondika for the gorillas, and Mbeli for its platform and the possibility to see several species such as elephants.

In Mondika, we plan to have another gorilla group there in 2021 for tourism purposes. This will take a few years to develop as it is a long and delicate process.

Our two programmes (Ecotourism & Research) are moving forward and developing in parallel with the same

joint challenge, the Covid-19. We currently operate a quarantine system for researchers, but it would be almost impossible to tell a tourist to stay confined for 10 days before going to see the gorillas. So our screening system will also be applied to ecotourism.

TRANSBOUNDARY COLLABORATION

We have a functional framework for collaboration with the other parks in TNS. As a result, many of the site's trackers are from the Dzanga Sangha Protected Areas. Our future collaboration includes two projects we are working on. In the framework of the ELP project, our two parks have the prospect of increasing collaboration and exchange between our students, notably through simultaneous observations in Mbeli (Congo) and Dzanga Bai (CAR).

There are also opportunities for collaboration in sharing and harmonising methods for carrying out inventories.



LOBEKE NATIONAL PARK

RESEARCH AND ECOLOGICAL MONITORING ACTIVITIES IN 2020

ALAIN LUSHIMBA, WWF TECHNICAL ADVISOR

ACTIVITIES OF THE RESEARCH AND ECOLOGICAL MONITORING DEPARTMENT IN 2020

Wildlife monitoring

The wildlife monitoring programme carried out in 2020 shows better overall trends compared to those carried out in 2018. For example, previous surveys indicated a population of around 2000 great apes, yet recent surveys show a population of over 3000 individuals.

Phenological monitoring of fruit trees consumed by apes during each production cycle is also part of the wildlife monitoring framework.

Forests clearings Monitoring

Clearings are areas of concentration for large fauna. A regular daily monitoring strategy has been put in place to estimate the trends and frequentation of large species in the monitored clearings.

These different clearings each have their own specificities in terms of wildlife frequentation. Some clearings are frequented by different species, as is the case for 'Ndaganyé', where buffalo, elephants and gorillas abound. Parrots are a particular feature of the clearing known as "Jengi".

Despite the temporary absence of precise figures, we can say that the attendance rates in the park are quite high, based on the activities in the clearings.

RESEARCH FOR ECOTOURISM

Monitoring of fruit trees consumed by apes has been implemented with the aim of identifying the most frequented clearings and passing this information on to the park's tourism department for use in other ways. This research has contributed enormously to the promotion of ecotourism.

THE MAJOR CHALLENGES...

The lack of equipment, staff and training is a major obstacle to the implementation of our activities. We employ monitoring assistants (from local communities) who need capacity building to do their job better.

PROSPECTS FOR 2021

The camera trap approach

In 2020, we intend to strengthen the data collection protocol for ecological monitoring. The use of camera traps throughout the park will allow us to obtain sufficient data to accurately estimate the occurrence or occupation of large mammal species in the park.

Procurement

The park will acquire equipment to facilitate data collection in the forest.



NOUABALE NDOKI NATIONAL PARK

SOON, A NEW SCHOOL IN BOMASSA!

NJENGUE CINDY, FTNS PROJECT MONITORING ENGINEER

If you visit Bomassa, you will certainly see a building of 02 blocks... the most visited building in this peaceful village. This building is the Bomassa Primary school!

Every morning, a swarm of young children head towards this building that has contributed to the edification of the elites of this small conservation village. But... this building built with temporary materials is in full deterioration and does not provide the best learning conditions for our young champions! On a tour of the building, it is not uncommon to see children distracted during lessons or complaining about the heat.

Aware of its crucial importance, NNNP has developed, with the technical & financial support of the FTNS, a project to build a new school for the children of Bomassa.

A MORE MODERN BUILDING FOR THE CHILDREN

The work, which was initiated in December 2020, consists of building a primary school with 03 classrooms, a built-in administration block, an outdoor sanitary block and a football stadium within a contractual period of 12 months. The new school in Bomassa will have the capacity to comfortably accommodate more than 150 pupils.

Located near the future workers' camp, the new building will have to meet certain environmental and technical standards. Hence FTNS' role is to ensure that the building process, the results set out in the contracts and construction standards are met. We want to guarantee that the work can help families and populations in the long term.

The particularity of this site is its proximity to nature. In fact, after a site meeting we were lucky enough to see an elephant coming to have its meal. You don't see that every day on a construction site!

In order to create a building in phase with the environment, a solar electrification system is planned to ensure lighting (natural light will be favoured through adequate openings). We also plan to erect the building in clay bricks and to install a rainwater collection system coupled with a borehole.

THE ENTHUSIASM OF THE PEOPLE

The people are eager to see this building "come out of the ground" as the conditions of the current school are not ideal. Our goal is to complete the building before the start of the school year. We constantly receive questions from local residents and park employees when there is a slight delay in the construction.

CHALLENGES

The town of Bomassa is in a remote area, which affects logistics. For example, the construction company is from Brazzaville as there are none locally, so it could minimise aspects such as supply difficulties. Coupled with this, transporting machinery from the city to Bomassa is extremely expensive. In terms of human resources, specialised labour for the required tasks is scarce in the area. This leads us to recruit some people in Brazzaville, who over time, give up because of the working conditions and the distance from their families in an area with no telecommunications network.



BOMASSA SCHOOL PLAN

WHAT THEY THINK...



KANONGO BONHEUR
4TH GRADE PUPIL

"It is very hot in the current school, which prevents us from learning well. I like the new school because we will be more comfortable there."



LUBUNDA VERDÂTRE
5TH GRADE PUPIL

"I like my new school because there will be no noise from cars and people passing by. Pupils will no longer be able to leave the rooms to go home during lessons because the school is further away from the village centre. This will also allow us to read and study well."



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LOBÉKÉ NATIONAL PARK

BRICKS FOR THE FUTURE CAMP OF WILDLIFE PROTECTORS

IVAN NGAMENI, FTNS MONITORING ENGINEER

On the road leading to the head quarters of the Lobéké National Park, at a place called Lopoundji, is the very first clay brick factory in the area. This FTNS initiative will be used to produce 160,000 clay bricks for the construction of the future eco-guard's camp and train about twenty young people from the surrounding villages.

02 SPECIFIC PHASES...

The project has been subdivided into two essential phases for greater efficiency. Its first phase, launched in 2020, consisted of the production of more than 40,000 clay bricks and the training of several young people in clay brick production techniques. It was carried out in three stages;



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STAGE 01: RECRUITMENT OF LOCAL YOUTHS

Youths from various communities were recruited from the different villages around the NPL. The choice was focused on the two main ethnic groups, the Baka and the Bagando, using quotas to guarantee social balance on the production site.

STAGE 02: LEARNING

This introductory phase consisted of teaching the learners the rudiments of mathematics for counting the bricks produced.

STAGE 03: THE BUILDING PROCESS

At this level, the entire process of making clay bricks was carried out starting with the identification of a suitable clay with a high clay content for their strength and proper firming. Then, the different techniques of clay extraction, fermentation, moulding, classification of the bricks in the different dedicated drying spaces, storage in the firing kiln and firing at a temperature up to 950°C were taught to the apprentices.

The objective of this first initialisation phase was largely achieved. Instead of the planned 40,000 clay bricks, over 60,000 bricks were produced, far exceeding our expectations. In addition, the daily quota of approximately 250 mud bricks per day was increased to 350 bricks by the end of the project.

A second phase will be undertaken in 2021 to produce the remaining 120,000 bricks for the construction of LNP's rangers' camp.

JOB CREATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

In the long term, we hope that the houses in this locality, which are generally made of planks, will be replaced by clay brick models. Clay bricks are very strong and have the ability to regulate temperature. We believe that people will benefit enormously from the use of this more comfortable, environmentally friendly and durable material.

Through the second phase of this project, these young people will also be trained in brick construction techniques. The skills acquired could also enable them to set up a brickworks or a production and construction company later on.

A SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION...

The initiative has also helped to improve the living con-

ditions of the learners, who have been paid weekly. This enabled them to feed their families, send their children to school and initiate several small projects. "The brick project has helped our community a lot, especially the young people who were unemployed," declared the Chief of the village of Loupounji, Mr MBONGO PASSI Rigobert Dagobert.

In addition to the direct contribution made by the workers, a local economy has also developed enabling some women to sell food and other commodities on the production site.

A TOOL FOR SOCIAL COHESION

This project has also helped to create social cohesion between the Baka and the Bangados, which is usually very difficult. One of our strategies was to rotate the appointment of team leaders between these two ethnic groups to promote a team & equality spirit. If you visit the production site, you will see how harmoniously these individuals from different backgrounds fit together. Through their efforts, the future ecoguard camp will also be an immortal symbol of a strong and fruitful cooperation between the Baka and the Bangando.



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LOBEKE NATIONAL PARK

KEY PROJECT RESULTS

21
youths
trained

02
mechanical
pressing
machines

60 000
bricks produced
out of 40,000
expected



NOUBALE NDOKI NATIONAL PARK

MANY MORE INFRASTRUCTURES IN 2020

ARISTIDE NGANZIAMI, ASS. HEAD OF THE LOGISTICS AND INFRASTRUCTURE ASSISTANT DEPARTMENT

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In recent years, the Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park has undergone a literal transformation in terms of infrastructure. In 2020, FTNS largely consolidated its position as the park's leading donor in this area of investment for the benefit of the park's staff and local populations.

INCREASING ACCOMMODATION AND OPERATING CAPACITY

In order to improve the park's accommodation capacity, a new 04-room VIP house was built opposite the Sangha River to guarantee an exceptional view for our distinguished guests. In order to improve the working conditions of the consultants and visitors, two new huts were built.

We also built an accommodation house for the head of the East Sector in Macao. The construction of the workers' camp initiated in 2020 will continue in 2021. The construction of a fuel station also started and the tanks have already been ordered.

One of our masterpieces is now our new bar-restaurant. Initiated in 2019, the construction of this building was finalised and delivered in 2020. Made entirely of wood, the structure enhances the park's image while ensuring the comfort of its staff and visitors.

THE PEOPLE AT THE HEART OF OUR INFRASTRUCTURE...

The local population of Bomassa have been expecting a new primary school for their children for a long time.

The construction of the new Bomassa school actually started in 2020 and will be completed in 2021. The contract was awarded to the construction company "Mvoula Mvoula et fils" and will be carried out under the supervision of an FTNS control mission.

We have also drilled two water wells, one in Bon Coin and the other in Makao village. New boreholes will also be built in the Bomassa village to replace the current one which is no longer in good condition.

The Park has also rehabilitated the Wali watchtower located 03 kilometres from the park. This watchtower, which was completely defective, was entirely rebuilt with the support of FTNS funds to increase our ecotourism destinations. The rehabilitation of the Ndoki training camp is also underway (plumbing and rehabilitation of the water tower).

DIFFICULTIES

The health situation was our biggest challenge in 2020. Several suppliers had difficulties in meeting deadlines due to quarantines and movement restrictions between Brazzaville and Ouesso.

SOME NEW INFRASTRUCTURE IN NOUBALÉ-NDOKI EN 2020



The craft market of Bomassa ©WCS



The new VIP passage hut ©WCS



02 wooden platforms set up to install safari type tents for an original accommodation ©WCS



The new PNNN bar and restaurant ©WCS



New accommodation for the Head of Sector East at the Makao base ©WCS



The construction site of the hut for the ecoguards of the Makao base ©WCS



The Kabo airplane hangar after the ground surfacing works ©WCS



Six community latrines have been installed in Bomassa and BonCoin ©WCS



The construction site of the Bomassa primary school is now a reality ©WCS



Wali Bai watchtower ©WCS

SOME NEW INFRASTRUCTURES IN DSPA IN 2020



A washing station has been built at the entrance of the Park's vi-base in Bomassa ©WCS



Bomassa hillside and access roads repairs ©WCS



Construction of the new bridge at Bai Hokou©APDS



Une connexion VSAT et 02 lampes solaires installées à la base BLAB, Nyangouté, ©APDS



Purchase of a King-Fisher 750 Maxi boat model ©WCS



Earthworks on the site of the future workers' housing estate ©WCS



Renovation of guest houses ©APDS



Embellishment of the various pavements ©APDS



Park life base ©WCS



Installation of outdoor lighting on the Makao Park life base ©WCS



01 weather station installed ©APDS



Continuation of work on the Bayanga stadium ©APDS



Rainwater channelling and construction of residential entrances ©APDS



Maintenance of several access roads ©APDS



Renovation of electrical ©APDS



Installation of fibre optics ©APDS

You too can contribute
to our mission

#SupportTNS

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OBJECTIVE: €100 MILLION TO SAVE THE TNS!

With more than 10 years of experience (2007-2019), FTNS provides annual financial support of about € 2 million to TNS parks (from endowment and sinking funds). However, this represents only one third of the budgets of these three parks, which face several growing threats (poaching, gradual population pressure, etc.).

It is for this reason that FTNS aims to increase its investment capital from €60 to €100 million. This should enable it to generate annual revenues that could cover the bulk of the operating needs of the Sangha Tri-national Parks (TNS).

Contributing to the TNS capital means contributing to the sustainable preservation of TNS, one of the priority ecoregions of the Congo Basin, the second largest green lung in the world.



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