



FONDATION
TRI-NATIONAL
SANGHA

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



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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
APDS	Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas
BE	Executive Office
BLAB	Tri-National Anti-Poaching Brigade
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
CA	Board of Directors
CAFE	Consortium of African Environmental Funds
CAWHFI	Central African World Heritage Forest Initiative
COMIFAC	Central African Forests Commission
CTPE	Tri-National Planning and Implementation Committee
CTS	Tri-National Monitoring Committee
CTSA	Tri-National Supervisory and Arbitration Committee
FNN	Nouabalé-Ndoki Foundation
FTNS	Sangha Tri-National Foundation
KfW	KfW Development Bank / German Financial Cooperation
LAB	Anti-Poaching
MINFOF	Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (Cameroon)
MEFCP	Ministry of Water, Forests, Hunting and Fisheries (Central African Republic)
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
PEA	Forest Management and Harvesting Permit
PNL	Lobéké National Park
PNNN	Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park
SINFOCAM	Central African Forestry and Land Management Company
STBC	Central African Timber Processing Company
TNS	Sangha Tri-National
UFA	Forest Management Unit
UGP	Park Management Unit
ULAB	Anti-Poaching Unit
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society

Introduction by the Executive Director



**Dr Théophile
Zognou**

**Executif
Director
FTNS**

The 2025 annual report reflects a pivotal year for the Sangha Tri-national Trust Fund (FTNS). A year marked by significant progress, complex challenges, and a firm commitment to sustainably strengthening our contribution to the conservation of the Tri-National de la Sangha landscape.

In an international context shaped by economic tensions, shifts in conservation financing mechanisms, and growing pressures on forest ecosystems, FTNS has pursued its mission with determination: ensuring sustainable financing for the protected areas of the TNS while supporting local development dynamics and cross-border cooperation.

Throughout 2025, the Foundation consolidated its role as a regional financing and coordination mechanism. Grants allocated to the three segments of the TNS supported surveillance, research, community development, infrastructure, and cross-border cooperation activities. Despite significant constraints – including the reduction of certain international funding flows within the landscape – park teams and their partners demonstrated remarkable resilience in the field.

The year was also marked by significant institutional developments. FTNS undertook several reforms aimed at strengthening its governance, transparency, and organizational performance, in line with international standards applicable to conservation trust funds. At the same time, the Foundation continued its financial modernization efforts, notably through the restructuring of its investment portfolio management and the

strengthening of its control and audit mechanisms.

Strategically, 2025 was also a year of opening toward new horizons. Progress made on the GBFF-TNS project, the ongoing Green Climate Fund accreditation process, initiatives related to innovative finance, and the encouraging results of the BRIDGE and CAPRO-TNS projects all reflect FTNS's ambition to become a leading regional actor in sustainable conservation financing. These results would not have been possible without the steadfast commitment of:

the governments of Cameroon, the Central African Republic, and the Republic of Congo;

- the FTNS Board of Directors;
- technical and financial partners;
- park management teams;
- local communities and indigenous peoples;
- as well as the staff of the Executive Office

I wish to express my profound gratitude to all of them.

The future of the Tri-National de la Sangha will depend on our collective ability to consolidate achievements, strengthen sustainable financing mechanisms, and build innovative responses to emerging challenges. FTNS remains fully committed to this mission in service of biodiversity, communities, and future generations.

About FTNS

Established in March 2007, the Sangha Tri-national Trust Fund (FTNS) is dedicated to ensuring sustainable financing for conservation, eco-development, and transboundary cooperation within the Sangha Tri-National (TNS) landscape.

FTNS supports the 2015–2025 Convergence Plan of the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC), particularly its Strategic Axis 6, which focuses on developing innovative mech-

anisms for sustainable conservation financing, such as environmental trust funds.

As a member of the African Environmental Funds Consortium (CAFE)—an institution bringing together more than 20 environmental funds across Africa—FTNS also belongs to the global network Conservation Finance Alliance, further strengthening its role in innovative and sustainable conservation financing at the international level.



Our commitment

To contribute to the preservation of biodiversity and the socio-economic development of the Sangha Tri-national (TNS), Central Africa's first transboundary forest complex, designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

FTNS' Governance Structure

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors (BoD) is the central body responsible for strategic guidance, coordination, and decision-making within FTNS. Its role is twofold: internally, it oversees the organization's technical, financial, and contractual management; externally, it serves as an ambassador for FTNS, advocating for its interests while avoiding conflicts of interest.

Board meetings are held twice a year, rotating among the three TNS member countries. Board members serve a three-year term, renewable once.

Executive Office

The Executive Office is responsible for implementing the decisions of the Board of Directors, advancing the institution's development, mobilizing funding, and allocating grants. It is composed of an Executive Director, a Program Officer, and an administrative and logistics department made up of three staff members. This team is supported by an accounting firm.



Our financing mechanism

FTNS supports the operations of the TNS parks through two key financial mechanisms:

Endowment Fund Revenues, generated from capital invested in international financial markets

Sinking funds, derived from short-term partnerships and primarily allocated to improving basic park infrastructure

By the end of 2024, FTNS's capital was valued at approximately **€68 million**, invested through a globally recognized portfolio manager, supported by an

investment advisor. The expected annual return is around 4%, of which 3% is allocated to funding the operations of the three TNS parks and supporting tri-national cooperation activities.

FTNS provides an estimated **€4 million** annual support to park operations, combining both endowment and amortization funds. However, this amount represents only one-third of the total budget required, as the parks continue to face significant challenges—including poaching, growing demographic pressures, and a lack of tourism infrastructure.

Key FTNS Figures

68 million €
Endowment Capital

4 million €
of annual grants

03 Countries
Protected Areas

19 yrs
of experience

About TNS

The Sangha Tri-national (TNS) is a transboundary forest complex covering an area of 44,000 km², straddling three Central African countries: Cameroon, the Central African Republic, and the Republic of Congo.

Established in December 2000, TNS was born out of a cooperation agreement between these

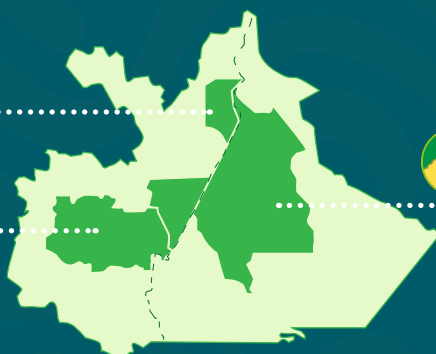
three states, marking a pivotal milestone in the joint management of transboundary protected areas. It represents the first concrete expression of the commitment made by Heads of State in the Congo Basin to collaborate in preserving biodiversity and promoting the sustainable management of forest ecosystems.



Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas
Central African Republic



Lobéké National Park
Republic of Cameroon



Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park
Republic of Congo

Some facts & figures about TNS

2000

date of création

2012

year enlisted on World Heritage List

03

CONTRIES
PROTECTED AREAS

191 000

inhabitants

44 000 KM²

of surface area

TNS organs

1

CTSA

TRI-NATIONAL SUPERVISION AND ARBITRATION COMMITTEE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The CTSA is the supreme decision-making body of the TNS. It is composed of the Ministers responsible for Wildlife and Forestry from the member states, along with the Executive Secretary of OFCAS, who serves as rapporteur.

2

CST

TRI-NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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

3

CTS

TRI-NATIONAL MONITORING COMMITTEE

The body responsible for monitoring the implementation of CTSA decisions.

4

CTPE

TRI-NATIONAL PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

The planning and implementation body.

TNS texts and agreements

To date, six protocols have been ratified by the TNS member governments to regulate transboundary cooperation within the area.

2000

Founding agreement of the TNS for cooperation between the governments of the Republic of Cameroon, the Republic of Congo, and the Central African Republic

2005

Protocole d'accord sur la lutte contre le braconnage entre les gouvernements de la République du Cameroun, de la République du Congo et de la République centrafricaine

2005

Protocol on the Movement of TNS Personnel

2010

Protocol on the Organization and Functioning of the Tri-National Anti-Poaching Brigade

2019

Protocol on the Establishment of the Sangha Tri-National Scientific Committee of the (CST)

Memorandum of Understanding on the Free Movement of Tourists within the Sangha Tri-national

GRANTS & SUBVENTIONS

2025 Grants overview

BREAKDOWN OF FUNDS ALLOCATED BY SOURCE IN 2025 (EN FCFA)

PARC	KFW	CAPITAL REVENUE	TOTAL	TOTAL
DSPAs	409 917 870	546 267 994		956 185 864
FNN	373 620 000	327 978 000		701 598 000
LNP		432 895 490	25 500 000	458 395 490
BE		386 824 142		386 824 142
TOTAL	783 537 870	1 693 965 626	25 500 000	2 503 003 496

BREAKDOWN OF ACHIEVEMENTS BY COMPONENT AND BY PARK IN 2025

COMPONENT	DSPAS	FNN	LNP	TOTAL
Surveillance / Protection	281 994 659	114 514 118	47 025 298	443 534 075
Co-management and Community Development	12 461 912	27 339 135	80 095 598	119 896 645
Research and Ecological Monitoring	22 804 083	30 197 537	6 285 010	59 286 630
Tourism, Marketing, and Communication	0	135 997 508	18 484 450	154 481 958
Infrastructure and Equipment	68 765 131	60 009 531	43 584 295	172 358 957
Transboundary Cooperation	67 165 758	0	5 691 185	72 856 943
One Health	106 272 773	1 249 994	0	107 522 767
Administration, Monitoring, and Evaluation	113 755 195	117 823 980	213 362 380	444 941 555
TOTAL	673 219 511	487 131 803	414 528 216	1 574 879 530

BREAKDOWN OF ACHIEVEMENTS BY COMPONENT AND BY SOURCE IN 2025

COMPONENT	KFW	CAPITAL REVENUE	TOTAL	TOTAL
Surveillance / Protection	0	443 534 075	0	443 534 075
Co-management and Community Development	6 451 400	88 384 957	25 060 288	119 896 645
Research and Ecological Monitoring	0	59 286 630	0	59 286 630
Tourism, Marketing, and Communication	71 693 062	82 788 896	0	154 481 958
Infrastructure and Equipment	68 765 131	103 593 826	0	172 358 957
Transboundary Cooperation	0	72 856 943	0	72 856 943
One Health	1 249 994	0	107 522 767	107 522 767
Administration, Monitoring, and Evaluation	117 823 980	327 117 575	0	444 941 555
TOTAL	1 178 812 896	25 060 288	1 574 879 530	

SANGHA TRINATIONAL TRUST FUND

FTNS Governance Review 2025

2025 was a particularly significant year for FTNS. Between the signing of grant agreements, the deployment of field projects, the strengthening of our governance, and the opening of new financing horizons, the Executive Office worked tirelessly to ensure that every commitment made to our partners, donors, and local communities translated into concrete action. This report is a faithful reflection of that work.

1. Governance, Management and Institutional Performance

1.1 A Consolidated Strategic Management in Service of the TNS Landscape

In 2025, FTNS consolidated its role as the central mechanism for financing, coordination, and management of interventions within the Sangha Tri-National

The Executive Office ensured the implementation of the strategic orientations defined by the Board of Directors, notably through:

- monitoring the execution of grants allocated to the parks,
- coordination of structural projects (BRIDGE, CAPRO, GBFF),
- management of the investment portfolio, support for infrastructure and cross-border activities.

A grant monitoring mission carried out across the three parks between September and October 2025 helped improve data quality, identify operational shortcomings, and strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems.

1.2 An Active and Structured Governance led by the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors held two ordinary sessions in 2025, confirming its central role in the strategic oversight of the Foundation and in guiding major decisions.

These sessions provided the opportunity to:

- review operational and financial performance,
- assess the use of allocated resources,

- adopt the strategic orientations and the 2026 budget,
- and monitor the implementation of previous resolutions.

The Board also played a decisive role in addressing structural matters, including institutional reforms, investment portfolio management, grant performance, and relations with technical and financial partners.

1.3 Renforcement du dialogue institutionnel avec les États du TNS

In 2025, FTNS intensified its dialogue with the governmental authorities of the three countries of the Tri-National de la Sangha, contributing to strengthening the institutional grounding of its interventions.

Cameroon

An FTNS delegation was received in audience on 20 January 2025 by the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife.

Discussions focused on support for protected area governance, the relaunch of the CTSA, and ongoing institutional reforms. FTNS audit reports were submitted to the authorities, demonstrating a commitment to transparency.

Republic of Congo

On 13 February 2025, a delegation led by the Chairman of the Board of Directors and the Executive Director was received by the Ministry of Forest Economy.

ing national policies.

Central African Republic

On 19 March 2025, FTNS was received by the Ministry of Water, Forests, Fishing and Hunting. Discussions focused on the results of the institutional audit and the resolutions of the Board of Directors.

1.4 Institutional Reforms Undertaken to Strengthen Credibility

2025 was marked by the undertaking of reforms aimed at improving the governance, transparency, and institutional performance of FTNS.

These reforms focus notably on:

- improving the functioning of the Board of Directors,
- strengthening conflict of interest management mechanisms,
- and optimizing the organization of the Executive Bureau.

These developments are part of a broader drive to align with international standards applicable to conservation trust funds, and contribute to strengthening the Foundation's credibility with its partners.

1.5 A Financial Management in Transition Toward Greater Performance and Resilience

The management of the investment portfolio — a cornerstone of FTNS's economic model — underwent a major development in 2025 with the recruitment of a new investment advisor, CRYSTAL CAPITAL, who took up the role in October 2025.

Analyses highlighted the need to:

- improve portfolio performance,
- reduce management costs,
- and optimize asset allocation.

1.6 Financial Performance and Grant Execution

In 2025, FTNS allocated a total of 2.12 billion FCFA to the TNS parks.

Analysis of financial execution highlights an overall satisfactory performance:

- Disbursement rate: 95%
- Budget execution rate: 77%

These results reflect a significant improvement in resource absorption capacity and better synchronization between disbursements and

expenditures.

1.7 Resource Mobilization, Partnerships and International Positioning

In 2025, FTNS stepped up its resource mobilization efforts in order to diversify its funding sources, consolidate its economic model, and enhance its capacity to sustainably support the three segments of the TNS.

Several significant advances were recorded. The GBFF-TNS project, entitled "Strengthening the Management of Transboundary Protected Areas in the Tri-National de la Sangha Landscape," was officially approved by the Global Environment Facility. Environmental and social safeguard documents were shared with stakeholders, notably through workshops held simultaneously in the three TNS parks on 3 September 2025. This milestone enabled the launch of the contract negotiation phase and the fiduciary due diligence process relating to FTNS's financial management capacities.

FTNS also submitted several project proposals to international partners, including the African World Heritage Fund and the UNESCO World Heritage Fund. These proposals address strategic themes such as human-wildlife coexistence, harmonization of environmental and social impact assessments, integrated TNS planning, and innovative climate resilience mechanisms. Furthermore, the Foundation continued its accreditation process with the Green Climate Fund. The entry into force of the revised accreditation framework led FTNS to develop an operational action plan to align its approach with the mechanism's new requirements.

On the international networking front, FTNS participated in the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi, as well as the 15th General Assembly of the African Environmental Funds Consortium. These platforms served to raise the Foundation's visibility and explore opportunities in sustainable finance, carbon financing, debt-for-nature mechanisms, and biodiversity capital mobilization.

These efforts reflect an important shift: FTNS is no longer limited to managing existing resources, but is gradually positioning itself as a regional actor capable of structuring new financial mechanisms for the sustainable conservation of the TNS.

1.8 Governance, Audits and Compliance

Strengthening Control and Accountability Mechanisms

In 2025, FTNS strengthened its internal control systems through the completion of two major audits:

a statutory audit conducted under the aegis of the Charity Commission, a compliance audit carried out by the firm CLS between January and February 2025.

These audits covered all of the Foundation's operations, including:

the Executive Bureau,

the three TNS parks,

as well as the CAPRO-TNS and BRIDGE project funding.

The recommendations arising from this work were shared with partners and integrated into a structured institutional monitoring framework.

Modernizing Accounting Practices

As part of its efforts to strengthen its financial standards, FTNS has initiated its transition to the Accounting System for Non-Profit Entities (SYCEBNL).

This approach aims to:

- improve resource traceability,
- strengthen the quality of financial information,
- and ensure greater transparency in fund management.

2. Cross-Border Cooperation and Advocacy

2.1 Strengthened Coordination Among the Three Countries

FTNS continued in its role in promoting TNS in Cameroon, Congo, and the Central African Republic, by facilitating and participating in several key regional consultation bodies.

A workshop held in Douala made it possible to consolidate data from the three national segments to produce a joint report on the conservation status of the TNS. This document, validated by the States Parties, was subsequently transmitted to the World Heritage Committee — a collective accountability exercise carried out in a spirit of dialogue and transparency.

In Ouesso, the 38th meeting of the Trinational Planning and Execution Committee (CTPE) brought together stakeholders from the three countries around a shared agenda: assessing what had been accomplished, planning what remains to be done, and moving forward together toward shared and sustainable conservation.

2.2 CAPRO-TNS Project – Knowledge Production for the Sustainable Management of the TNS Landscape

As part of cross-border cooperation, the TNS Scientific Committee (CST), with the FTNS support and the RESSAC programme, continued the implementation of the CAPRO-TNS project (2023-2026), aimed at informing public policies on the sustainable management of the cocoa supply chain.

The results highlight that:

- agricultural expansion accounts for nearly 95% of forest loss ($\approx 495 \text{ km}^2$), primarily around residential areas and road corridors;
- cocoa agroforests show strong conservation potential, with carbon stocks comparable to those of natural forests;

- the TNS landscape demonstrates a high natural compliance with the "zero deforestation" criterion, thanks to existing agroforestry practices.

However, the supply chain continues to be characterized by:

- low productivity,
- and economic constraints that encourage the expansion of cultivated areas.

The research therefore recommends:

- promoting the sustainable intensification of production,
- strengthening diversified agroforestry systems,
- and improving the economic inclusion of producers, notably through adapted financing mechanisms.

3. Human Resources and Technical Support

As part of its partnership with France Volontaires, FTNS welcomed several volunteers with specialized profiles, brought in to strengthen its internal capacities in strategic areas: cartography, fundraising, and economic data analysis.

Rodrigue Da Silva – Cartographer

Since February 2025, Rodrigue Da Silva has been part of the FTNS team, with a mission focused on spatial analysis of the TNS landscape and support for the CAPRO-TNS project. His cartography expertise provides essential territorial insights for understanding and planning the Foundation's interventions.

Mr. Yaovi AZASOO – Fundraising Expert

The Foundation benefited from the support of Mr. Yaovi AZASOO, recruited to assist the Executive Bureau in strengthening its resource mobilization strategy. During his three-month assignment, he facilitated several training sessions covering the fundamentals of fundraising, nonprofit marketing, resource mobilization techniques, partnership development, and proj-

ect writing. He also produced a set of strategic tools and deliverables aimed at strengthening FTNS's autonomy in implementing its financial strategy and building new partnership opportunities.

Dr. Blaise Ondoa – Economist and Data Analyst

Dr. Blaise Ondoa was recruited as a national volunteer in the role of economist and data analyst to support FTNS in the processing and analysis of socioeconomic data for the CAPRO-TNS project. His assignment encompasses the assessment of institutional needs in terms of activity monitoring and data management, the design of a database model suited to the Foundation's operational requirements, as well as the dissemination of scientific results through the writing of articles and content aimed at decision-makers, technical partners, and the general public.

4. Institutional Life

In memoriam – M. David ABOUEM A TCHOYI

This period was marked by a painful loss: the passing of Mr. David ABOUEM A TCHOYI, a member of the FTNS Board of Directors, whose commitment and wisdom left a profound mark on the Foundation's governance. A delegation traveled to Kiki to pay a final tribute to him, bearing witness to the gratitude and affection held for him by the entire team. His memory remains a source of inspiration for all those who continue the work to which he contributed.



This 2025 period illustrates the growing maturity of FTNS: a Foundation that honors its financial commitments, produces useful knowledge, submits to rigorous audits, modernizes its management tools, and opens itself to the world – while remaining deeply rooted in the realities of the forests and communities it serves. The Executive Bureau remains fully mobilized to ensure that every decision made at the institutional level translates, on the ground, into preserved forests and improved lives

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE IN 2025

INVESTMENT CAPITAL PERFORMANCE IN 2025

A Challenging financial environment, but a trust fund that remains on course

A Turbulent financial environment, but a Foundation Holding Steady

2025 was marked by significant turbulence on global financial markets. The US dollar fell sharply – its worst year since 2017 – while equity markets posted spectacular gains, concentrated among a handful of major technology companies.

At the same time, European office real estate continued to depreciate, and gold recorded its best performance since 1979, confirming investors' return to safe-haven assets. It was against this contrasting backdrop that FTNS's assets were managed throughout the financial year.

A Portfolio of nearly 68 million euros

As of 31 December 2025, the Foundation's consolidated assets stood at 67.6 million euros. They are divided between a multi-asset portfolio managed by Crédit Agricole Indosuez in Geneva, representing 95% of the total, and CFA franc deposits held with local banks in Cameroon for the remainder.

The portfolio structure rests on four main asset classes: bonds (31.5%), equities (26.5%),

real estate (17%), and hedge funds (17%), complemented by a limited cash allocation (3.3%). The CFA franc deposits, though modest in volume, delivered the best performance of the year at 5%, contributing positively to the portfolio's geographical and currency diversification.

A Performance of +3.53%, below potential

The consolidated portfolio generated a return of +3.53% over the year – a positive result in a challenging environment, but below what more aggressive currency risk management and better investment selection could have achieved.

The main drag on performance was the depreciation of the US dollar. A significant portion of the portfolio is denominated in USD, and this exposure was insufficiently hedged, which reduced overall performance by 2.35 percentage points.

Furthermore, the portfolio is oriented more toward capital appreciation than toward the generation of regular income – a stance that limited the contribution of dividends and coupons during the year. By asset class, hedge funds delivered the best relative return

(+7.54%), followed by bonds (+3.33%) and equities (+4.53%, though well below a global market up +20%). Real estate was the only asset class in negative territory (-1.49%), weighed down by the persistent correction in the European property sector

What this means for the foundation

The diagnosis is clear: the portfolio is broadly well-structured and adheres to the orientations of the Investment Policy adopted in 2023, but it is not fully exploiting its potential. Three main weaknesses have been identified. First, excessive exposure to the US dollar without adequate currency risk hedging. Second, an overweighting of real estate in an unfavorable market environment. Third, a concentration in relatively costly investment vehicles that generate limited recurring income.

The adjustments planned for 2026

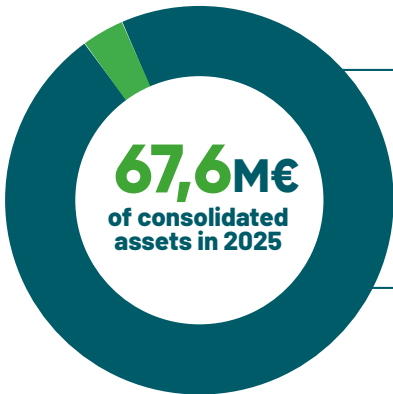
To correct these imbalances, Crystal Capital has proposed a series of concrete rebalancing measures, submitted for approval by the Investment Committee. In essence, the plan involves halving positions in

USD equities and real estate, and redirecting these assets toward emerging market bonds, uncorrelated real assets such as commodities, and a CFA franc mandate that would increase the Foundation's exposure to the African region. At the same time, the most costly hedge fund positions would be partially replaced by a more transparent and liquid alternative mandate. European equities would

in turn be redirected toward a mandate integrating ESG sustainability criteria, in line with the Foundation's values.

These adjustments target a dual objective: improving risk-adjusted performance and strengthening the portfolio's African and responsible investment orientation – a direction fully aligned with FTNS's long-term conservation mission.

Global Overview of our 2025 portfolio



05%
Deposits in local
Cameroonian banks
(FCFA)

95%
Shares managed
by Crédit Agricole
Indosuez Geneva

Portfolio Performance in 2025



67,6M€
of capital
investment



+3,53%
Consolidated
portfolio
performance



2,39M€
gain overgain
over the year

TNS Conservation in 2025

In 2025, conservation activities across the Sangha Trinational (TNS) landscape reached an unprecedented level of intensity and sophistication, driven by the combined efforts of the three parks – Lobéké (Cameroon), Nouabalé-Ndoki (Congo), and the APDS (Central African Republic). More than 700 patrols were deployed across the territory, covering over 100,000 km, with a cumulative effort exceeding 15,000 man-days. This heightened field presence yielded significant operational results: nearly 39,000 traps and snares seized, more than 200 weapons recovered, close to 300 illegal camps destroyed, and over 80 arrests made. In Lobéké, spatial coverage reached 90%, reflecting a scaling up of data-driven surveillance, while the APDS maintained high operational pressure despite a challenging context.

However, this positive momentum masks significant disparities and persistent pressure on wildlife, particularly in certain

areas of the landscape. In Nouabalé-Ndoki, a drastic reduction in funding led to a decline in operational capacity, coinciding with a rise in poaching indicators, especially for elephants. Across the TNS as a whole, more than 40 carcasses were recorded, confirming that the threat remains high, particularly on the periphery of protected areas. In response to these challenges, 2025 also saw a strengthening of structural approaches: increased cross-border cooperation, integration of technological tools such as SMART and EarthRanger, and improved judicial follow-through. These advances reflect an evolution in the conservation model – one that is becoming more coordinated, responsive, and oriented toward long-term effectiveness.

KEY RESULTS IN 2025



701
patrols
carried out



219
weapons
seized



39000
cables seized
dismanteled



29
Ivory tusked
seized



298
camps
observed



569
ammunitions
seized



86
poachers
imprisoned



5 796 KG
bushmeat
seized

NOUABALÉ-NDOKI NATIONAL PARK

A year marked by Resilience

A Year marked by resilience

The year 2025 will be remembered for an unprecedented budgetary shock at Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park (NNNP). In February, the US government's announcement of the termination of its foreign aid subsidies deprived the park of two major funding sources — USAID and USFWS — triggering a reduction of nearly 40% in the annual budget. The immediate consequence: 23% of staff were laid off, including 23 eco-guards. Despite this crisis, conservation teams maintained their activities through remaining funding from FTNS and the European Union, demonstrating remarkable determination.

Poaching Intensifies Beneath the Surface

Raw seizure figures can be misleading. In 2025, eco-guards confiscated 3,720 kg of bushmeat and 4,107 wire snares across the landscape — down 39% and 19% respectively compared to 2024. But this decline primarily reflects reduced staffing and fewer patrols, not a genuine improvement in the situation.

Several converging indicators show that pressure on wildlife has in fact increased:

- Elephant poaching on the periphery rose from 8 individuals killed in 2024 to 11 carcasses in 2025.
- Signs of poaching recorded during patrols jumped from 0.0064 to 0.0107 incidents/km — a 67% increase on the

periphery.

- Passive acoustic units from the Elephant Listening Project (ELP) detected nine gunshots in the southern sector of the park in 2025, compared to zero in 2024.

Of the 20 elephant carcasses discovered, 12 were attributed to poaching. Only one was found inside the park; the other 11 were on the periphery, with 8 located outside Congolese territory. Additionally, Counter Wildlife Trafficking (CWT) teams produced 587 reports on wildlife crime cases in the first half of the year, half of which involved elephant poaching and ivory trade. :

- Elephant poaching in the park's peripheral areas increased from 8 elephants killed in 2024 to 11 carcasses recorded in 2025.
- Signs of poaching recorded during patrols rose from 0.0064 to 0.0107 incidents per kilometre, representing a 67% increase in the park's peripheral areas.
- Passive acoustic monitoring units deployed under the Elephant Listening Project (ELP) detected nine gunshots in the southern sector of the park in 2025, compared with none in 2024.

Of the 20 elephant carcasses discovered, 12 were attributed to poaching. Only one was found inside the park; the other 11 were

on the periphery, with 8 located outside Congolese territory. Additionally, Counter Wildlife Trafficking (CWT) teams produced 587 reports on wildlife crime cases in the first half of the year, half of which involved elephant poaching and ivory trade.

Eco-Guards in the field: 195 patrols despite everything

The anti-poaching unit now comprises 56 eco-guards (53 men, 3 women), alongside 8 MEF agents, 3 support staff, and 2 expatriates — a total of 69 anti-poaching personnel. Despite reduced staffing, they conducted 195 patrols in 2025, representing 9,255 man-days of effort and 43,323 km covered in the field — reaching 35% of the park and 20% of its periphery.

During these missions, 120 individuals were apprehended, of whom 25 were arrested for serious offences and transferred to courts in Impfondo or Ouesso. Eco-guards also destroyed 118 illegal camps, seized 55 weapons and 134 rounds of ammunition, and recovered 6 ivory tusks totalling 21.57 kg.

The issue of armament remains a structurally alarming problem: only 28 of the 56 eco-guards have functioning weapons. This situation, unchanged for several years, takes on a particularly critical dimension as poaching pressure continues to intensify.

Training, technology and intelligence

Despite the suspension of annual

refresher courses — weapons handling, combat, first aid — several targeted training sessions were maintained. Fourteen staff members completed an EarthRanger refresher course, a joint workshop with the CWT brought together 21 participants in Ouessou on wildlife legislation and human rights, and female eco-guards from three Congolese parks took part in a three-day workshop dedicated to conservation technologies.

On the technology front, the year saw a major milestone: the integration of SMART data into the EarthRanger platform, completed in April. Staff at the Bomassa control room can now access all field-collected data in real time, optimising patrol routes and response to threats. This integration is part of the forthcoming SERCA initiative (SMART-EarthRanger Conservation Alliance), to which NNNP intends to contribute actively.

The high-frequency radio network was also upgraded: CODAN stations at the four control rooms and three research sites were updated, and five vehicles were fitted with GPS systems connected to HF radios, enabling live tracking from Bomassa.

On the intelligence side, CWT teams monitored 12 active poaching networks between January and Sept, covering the Ndoki-Likouala landscape and four major cities

in southern Congo. 27 alerts were transmitted to anti-poaching units, within a consolidated system of monthly meetings between the CWT and the anti-poaching teams of the park, PROGEPP, and Lac Télé.

The suspension of aviation: A major operational loss

Up to mid-April, 15 surveillance flights and 9 logistical flights were carried out, covering 12,275 km over 65.5 flight hours. The aviation programme was then suspended due to a lack of funding. The March wildfire incident vividly illustrates what this loss means: it was from the air that the pilot detected several deliberately set fires east of the Ndoki River, enabling the rapid deployment of a response unit from Bomassa. Without an aircraft, such incidents could spread undetected until it is too late.

Justice as a tool for deterrence

The judicial dimension formed an essential pillar of the strategy in 2025. CWT lawyers monitored the cases of 25 individuals who had been apprehended. Of the 16 cases brought to trial, 11 resulted in custodial sentences — a conviction rate of 69% — including one maximum sentence of 5 years. Among those convicted, 7 were nationals of the CAR and 4 of the DRC. They were found guilty of killing protected species, hunting with mili-

tary-grade weapons, and illegally entering a protected area. CWT lawyers also conducted 105 visits to detention facilities, held 92 meetings with law enforcement officers, and produced 15 court hearing reports for anti-poaching teams.

Outlook: The urgency of strengthening capacity

The 2025 review is the story of a park that withstood an unprecedented crisis without yielding. The foundations of protection — patrols, intelligence, technology, judicial action — have been preserved. But the fragility is real: poaching advances where resources fall short, and the armament deficit exposes eco-guards to growing risks from poachers who are sometimes armed with military weapons.

The recruitment of additional personnel is identified as an urgent measure to return to a genuinely preventive and proactive strategy. The establishment of a problem-solving team, supported by technical experts, offers a promising pathway to optimise available resources and better target interventions. The future of NNNP will depend on the ability of its partners to fill the gaps left by the American withdrawal — and on the unfailing determination of the teams in the field.



PARC NATIONAL DE NOUBALE-NDOKI

SOME KEY RESULTS IN 2025



195
patrols
carried out



55
fire arms
seized



4107
cables seized
and dismantled



29
ivory tusks
seized



152
camps
observed



235
ammunitions
seized



25
poachers
imprisoned



3720 KG
bushmeat
seized

DZANGHA SANGHA PROTECTED AREAS

APDS protection and Monitoring: 2025 Review

Eco-guard recruitment and training

The first quarter of 2025 marked the launch of a major recruitment process for new eco-guards, supported by Chengeta Wildlife. The process included awareness-raising campaigns targeting local and Indigenous communities, calls for applications, screening of candidates, and a series of physical fitness tests comprising 2.5 km and 10 km runs, pull-ups, push-ups, sit-ups, and squats.

A total of 251 applications were received, including 72 from Ba'Aka Indigenous candidates and 179 from members of the local Bilo communities. Following the selection process, 60 candidates were shortlisted, and 42 successfully completed an intensive two-month training programme at the Kongana Training Centre.

The graduation ceremony, held on 26 July 2025, officially recognized the "Director Luis Arranz – Makoumba" Class, named in tribute to the former Director of the Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas (DSPA).

Anti-Poaching Operations

On 9 April 2025, an official ceremony marked the destruction of an impressive stockpile of poaching equipment, comprising 157,555 wire snares, 465 artisanal weapons, 141 machetes, 74 spears, and various other items. Presided over by the Minister of Water, Forests, Hunting and Fishing, the operation reinforced the APDS's determination to eradicate illegal practices. Eco-guards also took part in the sixth edition of the Wildlife Rangers Challenge, a pan-African competition bringing together 170 teams from 24 countries, where they distinguished themselves in push-up, sit-up, trail, and 21-km weighted-run events.

Awareness-Raising and Communication

Throughout the year, radio broadcasts on Radio Ndjokou raised awareness among local commu-

nities on conservation, hunting laws, and best practices. In October 2025, filmmaker Alexis Routhier produced a documentary on anti-poaching activities, highlighting operational procedures and field patrols, featuring Modiki Claver, named best African ranger in 2024.

Human resources and discipline

In 2025, 113 personnel — eco-guards and forest wardens — were organised into 17 patrol teams, carrying out 413 missions. A full team was regularly seconded to the Sangha Trinational Anti-Poaching Brigade. Three disciplinary hearings sanctioned eco-guards for abandonment of post, insubordination, and intoxication, with penalties ranging from immediate dismissal to temporary suspension of performance bonuses. Thirteen other staff members received warnings or suspensions. In contrast, two teams were commended for exceptional seizures, including military-grade weapons, wire snares, pangolin scales, and ivory tusks.

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Capacity Building

Several specialised training sessions were organised, covering elephant mortality data collection in Garoua, the MIKE/CITES programme in Douala, EarthRanger use, and canine unit training with Chengeta Wildlife. These sessions improved data collection, operational management, and the effectiveness of dog-handler teams. The Association of Legal Hunting Weapon Holders (ADLAC) also organised workshops and awareness campaigns on self-reported hunting, hunting weapon taxes, protected species, and best hunting practices. A

study revealed that 1,570 animals had been killed over 22 weeks by 22 licence holders.

Key Activities in 2025

Four rounds of essential medication procurement for patrol health kits were carried out at a total cost of 2,763,300 XAF. Through European Union funding via Naturafrica, teams received equipment including mosquito nets, compasses, cots, tarpaulins, power banks, and Garmin GPS devices. These provisions improved the living and working conditions of patrol teams. braconnage ont été recensées, 23 arrestations ont été réalisées et 87 actions de sensibilisation menées.

Conclusion

The year 2025 was one of significant progress for the APDS Protection and Monitoring Department. From the recruitment of new eco-guards and the large-scale destruction of poaching equipment, to participation in international competitions and the strengthening of local capacities, the APDS has consolidated its role as a bastion of conservation in Central Africa.

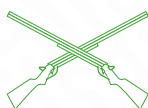
Challenges remain considerable, particularly the persistence of poaching and ongoing needs around staff discipline and motivation. Nevertheless, the joint efforts of authorities, technical partners, and local communities point to a positive momentum toward sustainable and inclusive management of natural resources.

DZANGA SANGHA PROTECTED AREAS

SOME KEY RESULTS IN 2025



417
patrols
implemented



148
weapons
seized



33608
cables seized
ordismanteled



48,5KG
ivory tusks
seized



118
camps
destroyed



335
ammunitions
seized



23
poachers
imprisoned



1 730KG
bushmeat
seized



LOBEKÉ NATIONAL PARK 

2025 Review: A Strengthened Anti-Poaching Effort

Historic spatial coverage

The most notable improvement of the year lies in the expansion of patrol spatial coverage within Lobéké National Park and its periphery. Through an annual review of the monitoring strategy – which identifies poaching hotspots and models risk levels – teams succeeded in covering 90% of the territory, compared to just 29% in 2022, 62% in 2023, and 85% in 2024. This steady progression illustrates the effects of increasingly targeted, data-driven planning.

In total, 89 internal anti-poaching patrols were conducted in and around the park, covering 7,500 km for a cumulative effort of 3,693 man-days. In addition, more than 6,000 km of peripheral patrols were carried out, mobilising a further 2,631 man-days. These missions were deployed in three complementary forms: 85 foot patrols, 12 motorised patrols, and 3 riverine patrols, adapted to the

varied terrain configurations

Concrete operational results operations conducted in

Lobéké National Park yielded significant seizures: 1,500 traps dismantled, 12 locally made weapons and 4 calibre-12 firearms confiscated, along with 98 small-game and 2 large-game rounds recovered. Teams also destroyed 54 illegal camps and discovered 3 animal carcasses, attesting to the persistence of poaching despite increased patrol pressure across the territory.

The TNS Anti-Poaching Brigade (BLAB), of which Lobéké National Park is one of the operational pillars, also delivered a strong performance: 45 foot patrols and 15 riverine patrols, representing 2,331 and 101 man-days of effort respectively. Its results include the seizure of 3,848 traps, 54 steel cables, 2 ivory tusks, and 346.5 kg of bushmeat, as well as the destruction of 26 camps and

5 arrests. Auctions of seized equipment generated an additional 162,000 FCFA. Across the programme as a whole, key figures point to a reduction of over 40% in the number of traps between 2024 and 2025, a total of 16 weapons and 100 rounds of ammunition seized, and an incarceration rate of 60%.

The judicial dimension: strengthened follow-through

The enforcement dimension also advanced around Lobéké National Park. 38 suspects were arrested and 13 individuals were sensitised. The incarceration rate, which had risen sharply around 2021, has stabilised within a satisfactory range, reflecting an increasingly effective judicial system in handling wildlife offences committed in and around the park. 9 weapons and 35 sealed rounds of ammunition were transferred to Bertoua for judicial processing, further strengthening the criminal justice chain in the region.

Conclusion

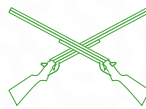
The 2025 review of the Lobéké National Park monitoring and protection programme paints the picture of a strategy that is delivering results. The combination of data-driven planning, near-total spatial coverage, solid cross-border cooperation, and rigorous judicial follow-through positions Lobéké as an increasingly accomplished conservation

model within the TNS. Challenges remain – poaching persists and resources remain under pressure – but the trajectory is resolutely positive, and the achievements of 2025 provide a solid foundation for the years ahead.

LOBEKE NATIONAL PARK
SOME KEY RESULTS IN 2025



89
Patrols
seized



16
firearms
seized



1500
cables
dismantled



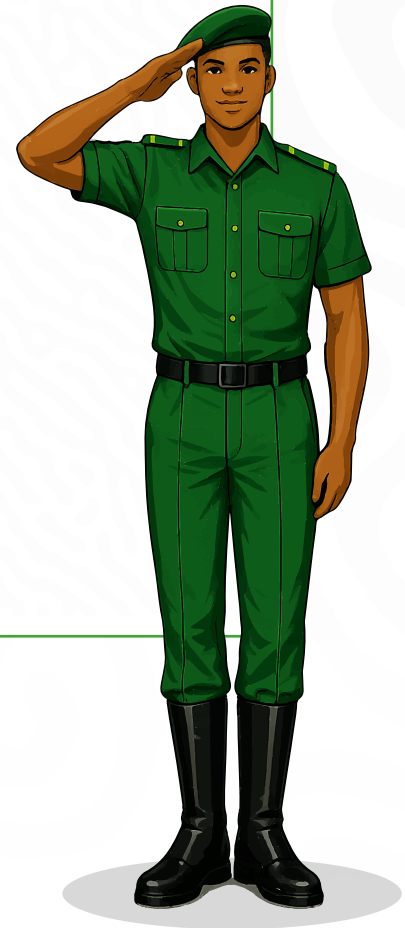
54
fishing camps
observed and
/or dismantled



100
ammunitions
seized



38
poachers
apprehended



Education in TNS in 2025

In 2025, educational initiatives carried out across the Sangha Trinational (TNS) landscape confirmed their central role in the broader conservation strategy. At Lobéké National Park, Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park, and the Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas, interventions helped maintain the functioning of the education system in isolated areas where public services remain limited. Direct support to teachers, coverage of school fees, distribution of learning materials, and scholarship programmes benefited several hundred students, with particular attention paid to indigenous communities.

These efforts contributed to improved school attendance and academic achievement rates, while reducing the risk of dropout.

Beyond access to education, initiatives progressively incorporated a strategic dimension linked to conservation. Environmental awareness activities, immersive internships, and targeted educational programmes exposed young people to the challenges of natural resource protection and the careers associated with it. This approach aims to transform beneficiaries into future conservation actors, reducing their long-term dependence on forest resources. Within the TNS, education is thus emerging as a structural lever – both social and ecological – that is essential for durably consolidating ecosystem protection efforts.

2562

students
supported

+140

teachers
supported

16

secondary
students
supported

100%

success at
first school
exams

07

university
students
supported

+79

school
supported

4 034

young people reached
through environmental
education in the TNS

NOUABALÉ-NDOKI NATIONAL PARK



Investing in Future Generations

494
pupils
supported

11
teachers
supported

16
secondary
students
supported

02
university
students
supported

100%
succes in first
school exams

02
schools
supported

At the heart of the mission of Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park (NNNP), the education of younger generations occupies a strategic place. In 2025, despite a difficult financial context resulting from the termination of American subsidies, the Park Management Unit (PMU) maintained sustained support to the primary schools of Bomassa and Makao, as well as to the secondary school in Makao. This continuity reflects a deep conviction that sustainable conservation also depends on the training and awareness of neighbouring communities, beginning with their children.

Consistent Material and Financial Support to Schools

Throughout the year, the PMU ensured that schools were supplied with teaching materials and office supplies: notebooks, books, pens, chalk, and various school items were regularly distributed to enable the smooth running of classes. Teacher allowances and salaries were also paid regularly, ensuring the pedagogical stability that is essential in isolated areas where the State sometimes struggles to maintain a continuous presence. This logistical and financial support yielded results.

The PMU facilitated the travel of 17 students (11 girls and 6 boys) sitting the Primary School Leaving Certificate (CEPE) from Bomassa school to Kabo, where the examination is held. These students achieved a 100% pass rate in the Sept 2025 sitting — a remarkable

outcome that speaks to the quality of teaching support and the PMU's commitment to academic excellence.

Scholarships: A Tool for Equity and Inclusion

The PMU maintains a scholarship programme for deserving pupils and students from Bomassa and Makao. In 2025, 16 scholarship holders — secondary school pupils and university students — continued to receive their financial support on a regular basis. For the 2024–2025 academic year (January to Sept 2025), 14 secondary school pupils — 10 boys and 4 girls — each received 50,000 FCFA per term. In parallel, 2 female university students each received 150,000 FCFA for the second and third terms.

For the first term of the 2025–2026 academic year (October to December 2025), the programme continued with 14 secondary school pupils — 9 boys (including 7 Bantu and 2 indigenous) and 5 girls (including 4 Bantu and 1 indigenous) — each receiving 50,000 FCFA. The 2 female university students each received 150,000 FCFA. Particular attention is paid to pupils from the Ba'aka indigenous communities. Two indigenous secondary school pupils from Bomassa are continuing their secondary education in Ouesso — one in Year 9 (3ème), the other in Year 7 (5ème). In addition to their quarterly scholarship, they each receive a monthly living allowance of 25,000 FCFA paid by the PMU, to cover their living costs in a city far from their

community.

Encouraging Academic Results The 2024–2025 academic

year concluded in Sept 2025 with broadly positive results. At Bomassa primary school, 145 pupils sat the end-of-year examinations, with 115 passing — a success rate of 79%. At Makao, 329 out of 343 pupils were admitted, for an exceptional rate of 96%.

To reward effort and encourage excellence, the top 3 pupils in each class received prizes comprising books, notebooks, pens, and other school supplies. The top pupil at Bomassa — a Bantu girl in Year 1 (CP1) — received the same kit supplemented by a school bag.

The 2025–2026 school year began on 1 October 2025. Bomassa school welcomed 225 pupils taught by 5 teachers, and Makao 269 pupils with 6 teachers. These figures reflect the vitality of the schools supported by the park and confirm families' commitment to their children's education, including within indigenous communities.

Environmental Education: Building Awareness from an Early Age

Beyond general schooling, the PMU integrates a strong environmental dimension into its educational activities through the Ebobo Club sessions. In 2025, four environmental education sessions were held in Bomassa, bringing together several hundred Bantu and indigenous children in total. The Community Development team of Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park organised four environmental education sessions for pupils in Bomassa, mobilising more than 750 participants in total. On the occasion of

major international awareness days — dedicated to pangolins, forests, biodiversity, and great apes — children were engaged in a playful and hands-on exploration of environmental protection through the distribution of comic books and other reading materials, a forest excursion, the screening of a documentary marking the park's 30th anniversary, and a direct encounter with the scientific team focused on gorillas and chimpanzees.

These initiatives reflect the park's ambition to make younger generations — Bantu and indigenous alike — the foremost ambassadors of conservation at the heart of the Congolese forest.

Bomassa: The Village Primary School Joins the State System

On 6 October 2025, Bomassa primary school reached a symbolic and decisive milestone: its official transition to a state public school, marked by a handover ceremony between Mr. Remy Elanda, former headteacher and employee of Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park, and Mr. Koumou Mokouba Damase, his successor appointed by the national authorities.

Organised under the coordination of Mr. Moukolo Didier, Chief Inspector of the Pokola School District, this ceremony represents far more than a simple change of leadership. It reflects the Congolese government's concrete and growing commitment to education in isolated forest areas, long neglected by public policy.

The school itself is the product of an exemplary partnership between conservation and human development. Built in 2023 by Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park with the financial

and technical support of the Sangha Trinational Foundation (FTNS), it was inaugurated by Ms. Rosalie Matondo, Minister of Forest Economy, before being officially handed over to Mr. Jean-Luc Mouthou, Minister of Pre-school, Primary, Secondary Education and Literacy. This modern facility now serves approximately 300 children, who benefit from fully free schooling.

By coming under State stewardship, Bomassa school enters a new chapter in its history — one of institutional permanence that secures the educational future of generations to come at the heart of the Congolese forest.

A Long-Term Vision for Conservation

Through these combined actions — material support to schools, inclusive scholarships, academic excellence, and environmental education — the PMU affirms a fundamental conviction: the conservation of NNNP cannot be sustainable without the understanding and engagement of the communities living at its doorstep. Educating today's children, Bantu and indigenous alike, is an investment in the forest guardians of tomorrow.

The 100% pass rate at the CEPE, scholarships disbursed without interruption despite the budgetary crisis, and the hundreds of children reached throughout the year are all positive signals in an otherwise difficult context. They reflect the priority the park places on people at the heart of its conservation strategy.

LOBÉKÉ NATIONAL PARK

Investing in Human Capital for Sustainable Conservation

375

vulnerable students supported

49

parent teachers supported

33

schools supported

51

students enrolled on internship

Between 2025 and 2026, Lobéké National Park, with support from the Foundation for the Sangha Trination-al (FTNS), strengthened its commitment to education in the communes of Salapoumbé and Moloundou. This intervention follows a clear logic: reducing social vulnerabilities while building the human foundations necessary for sustainable conservation

Ensuring Educational Continuity and Stabilising School Pathways

One of the key pillars of the intervention involved supporting 49 community teachers (maîtres-parents) deployed across 33 schools, ensuring continuity of teaching in contexts often marked by the absence of qualified, government-appointed teachers. This arrangement directly benefited 375 vulnerable pupils, the majority from Baka communities (318 pupils), alongside 57 pupils from Bantu communities.

Beyond simply ensuring a presence in the classroom, the support provided helped remove several structural barriers to schooling. Coverage of examination fees, contributions to Parent-Teacher Associations (APEE), and allowances paid to community teachers helped secure pupils' educational pathways and reduce the risk of dropout.

At the same time, particular attention was given to the highest-performing pupils, through targeted support aimed at sustaining their progression through to university level. This approach reflects a longer-term ambition: fostering the emergence of local talent capable of contributing to the sustainable management of natural resources and the development of the territory.

Linking Education and Conservation: Preparing the Next Generation

Beyond educational support, the programme sought to establish a direct link between education and conservation. With this in mind, 51 pupils from peripheral areas took part in a holiday camp dedicated to themes of conservation, protected area management, and ecotourism.

This camp introduced participants to environmental issues while giving them an initial exposure to careers in conservation. Motivation incentives strengthened their engagement, while an individualised follow-up mechanism is planned to support their academic and professional development going forward.

This approach marks an important shift: the goal is no longer simply to provide schooling, but to prepare a generation capable of actively en-

gaging in conservation efforts.

**Investing in Human Capital
to Strengthen Conservation**

The results achieved demonstrate a tangible impact, with 375 pupils supported, a stabilised educational framework, and the initial structuring of long-term support. But beyond the figures, these interventions reveal a shift in approach.

Within the Sangha Trinational landscape, this connection between education, development, and conservation now stands out as an essential strategic lever.

DZANGA SANGHA
PROTECTED AREAS



Structuring Investments to Improve Access, Quality, and Equity

In 2025, the Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas (APDS) continued and consolidated their work in the education sector, in a context marked by significant structural challenges. The isolation of rural areas, the weakness of public services, and the economic vulnerability of local populations continue to limit access to quality education. Faced with these constraints, the APDS has positioned education as a strategic lever for supporting local development while indirectly contributing to conservation.

The approach adopted follows a clear logic: improving access to education strengthens community capacities and reduces their dependence on natural resources. Interventions therefore targeted the functioning of the education system, learning conditions, and the inclusion of the most marginalised groups.

Structural Support for School Operations

One of the key pillars of the 2025 intervention was direct support to teaching staff – an essential element in a context where many schools operate with teachers who are not paid by the State.

In total, 93 teachers received a monthly motivation allowance,

spread across 36 schools located in the communes of Yobé-Sangha, Salo, Bilolo, and Nola. Of these, 72 are men and 21 are women, reflecting a still-limited female presence within the local education system. The total investment dedicated to this initiative amounted to 15,490,000 FCFA for the year.

Across the local education system as a whole, data show that the intervention area comprises approximately 115 schools and 397 teachers. Of these, 43 schools receive direct support from the APDS in the form of teaching materials and supplies. This substantial coverage illustrates the structural role played by the APDS in sustaining the education system.

Improving Learning Conditions

In addition to teacher support, the APDS invested in improving learning conditions, in order to create an environment more conducive to academic success.

The distribution of school supplies and teaching materials helped reduce inequalities among pupils, particularly those from vulnerable families. In many localities, the lack of materials represents a major barrier to participation and academic In

2025, an innovative initiative was developed with the selection of eight Ba'Aka pupils to take part in an immersive programme at the Dzanga Bai research camp. Over a ten-day period, these pupils were exposed to research and conservation activities, allowing them to gain practical knowledge about their environment.

Strengthening the Role of Communities

The results achieved in 2025 are closely linked to the involvement of local communities. The APDS worked with community liaison agents responsible for monitoring pupils, raising awareness among families, and promoting school attendance.

These liaison agents played a decisive role in improving school attendance, particularly in the most isolated areas. Their proximity to the population allows them to quickly identify barriers to schooling and provide appropriate solutions.

Awareness campaigns conducted in villages also helped shift perceptions. In some communities, education is not always seen as a priority, particularly due to economic constraints. The actions undertaken helped strengthen understanding of its

importance for children's futures and community development.

Overall Results and Scope of the Intervention

The combined actions implemented in 2025 produced significant results. The APDS directly supported 93 teachers, contributed to the functioning of 36 schools, and provided teaching materials to 43 schools. The intervention thus reached a local education system comprising approximately 397 teachers and 115 schools.

The investment of more than 15 million FCFA in allowances illustrates the scale of resources mobilised to sustain the education system. The improvements observed in enrolment, attendance, and academic success

confirm the positive impact of the actions undertaken.

Challenges and Outlook

Despite these results, several challenges persist. The education system remains heavily dependent on external funding, raising questions about the sustainability of these interventions. The lack of sufficient follow-through from public authorities poses a risk to the continuity of these actions.

Logistical constraints, particularly those linked to village isolation, also continue to limit access to education. In addition, socio-economic factors such as household poverty still influence behaviour and can lead to dropout.

Conclusion

In 2025, the APDS demonstrated that education can play a structuring role in conservation and local development strategies. The investments made helped improve access to education, strengthen the quality of teaching, and promote the inclusion of the most vulnerable populations.



SOME KEY RESULTS

1693

Needy
students
supported

93

Students
supported

28

Ba'Aka
Secondary
School Students
Supported
Through the
New Boarding
Program

05

university
student
supported

TNS Agriculture in 2025

In the Sangha Trinational, agriculture – particularly cocoa farming – stands out as the central point of tension between conservation and development. In 2025, agricultural pressure continued to grow, driven by farmers' precarious circumstances, unstable yields, and losses linked to human-wildlife conflict, particularly around Lobéké National Park. Crop destruction by elephants in localities such as Mambélé and Socambo illustrates the direct vulnerability of livelihoods. But what is fundamentally changing is that this pressure is no longer being passively absorbed: it is now being managed through mechanisms combining surveillance, targeted interventions, and adapted agricultural solutions.

The agricultural response in the TNS is evolving toward a structured model aimed at securing incomes while limiting expansion into forests. Concrete solutions such as chili pepper barriers have helped protect approximately 12 hectares of crops, while the use of technology (camera traps, wildlife movement monitoring) improves risk anticipation.

At the same time, support for cooperatives, access to microcredit, and the promotion of sustainable practices (agroforestry, local processing) are helping strengthen farmers' economic resilience. This shift is strategic: conservation no longer relies solely on protecting spaces, but on the ability to make agriculture viable without destroying the forest.

Following the success of the solar electric fence pilot project in Bomassa, the Elanga project was extended in 2025 to the village of Kabo to strengthen crop protection against wildlife incursions. The site was developed into 225 agricultural plots of 30 m × 30 m and secured with 5,400 metres of solar electric fencing, mobilising a total of 275 beneficiary households between Bomassa and Kabo.

However, at this stage, the scale of these solutions remains limited relative to the magnitude of agricultural dynamics, which clearly raises the question of scaling up.

275

Households involved in the Elanga project

02

Farming spaces protected

5 400

Metres of electric barriers installed

280,5 KG

corn seed distributed

1,6 TONNE/HA

Pilot Cassava Production in Bomassa

+66

villages implicated

381

Agricultural Areas Identified

NOUABALE-NDOKI NATIONAL PARK 

Placing Local Communities at the Center of Solutions

Putting Local Communities at the Heart of Solutions

In the villages surrounding the Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park (NNNP), living alongside wildlife is a daily reality that brings both opportunities and challenges. Elephants destroy crops, wildlife populations are increasingly pressured by hunting, and fisheries resources are often exploited without fully respecting natural balances. In response to these challenges, the Park Management Unit (PMU) implemented several complementary programs in 2025 aimed at reducing conflicts, raising community awareness, and promoting the sustainable management of natural resources through a gradual process of local empowerment.

Human–Elephant Coexistence: Electric Fences Change the Game The Elanga Project in Kabo: A Participatory Approach

Following the success of the solar-powered electric fence project launched in Bomassa, the initia-

tive was replicated in 2025 in the neighboring village of Kabo. The objective is to enable villagers to cultivate their land without fear of elephant incursions, whose high density in the region has made viable agriculture nearly impossible until now.

Land clearing activities began in March with strong community participation: 103 people took part, including 71 women (44 Bantu and 27 Indigenous) and 29 men (18 Bantu and 11 Indigenous). Following the loss of U.S. funding in May, field missions were reduced; however, six community work groups were established to maintain project activities in the absence of the Human-Wildlife Coexistence Officer.

Regular missions resumed in October, accompanied by a student from Marien Ngouabi University who was conducting research for her internship thesis on the project. The field layout resulted in the creation of 225 agricultural plots measuring 30 m x 30 m each, as well as a one-hectare

strip. By the end of the year, the entire electric protection system had been installed: three wires measuring 1,800 meters each, for a total of 5,400 meters, along with approximately one hundred fence posts. A fourth wire, positioned 20 cm above the ground, will be added to deter rodents—particularly the Greater Cane Rat (*Thryonomys swinderianus*), locally known as Sibissi—which farmers identified as an additional threat.

In 2025, 109 households participated in the Elanga Project in Bomassa and 166 households in Kabo.

First Harvest in Bomassa: Food Independence Underway

The Bomassa fencing project reached a historic milestone in March 2025 with its first harvest after more than eight months of cultivation. From a sample of nine plots covering 0.8 hectares, 17 wheelbarrows of cassava were harvested, with an estimated average weight of 1,275 kg, equivalent to approximately 1.6 tons of cassava per hectare.

Although this yield remains modest compared to intensive agricultural production, it represents a major breakthrough: for the first time in years, the people of Bomassa can produce cassava locally without depending on external supplies. The harvest also freed up plots for a new cultivation season coinciding with the return of the rains.*

In 2025, the project was managed almost entirely by villagers themselves, with very limited external support.

Sustainable Hunting: Engaging Hunters in Wildlife Management

The Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) Program continued supporting hunters and governance groups throughout 2025. Eight meetings were organized with local hunting groups, including two awareness sessions on the hunting management plan.

One of the program’s most innovative initiatives is the self-monitoring system for hunting offtake implemented in the villages of Kabo and Gbagbali. Hunters voluntarily report the animals harvested through designated reporting boxes, specifying species, hunting area, and ethnic affiliation (Indigenous or Bantu).

In 2025, nearly 10,549 animals were harvested during 1,433 hunting trips conducted by approximately 609 hunters from the two villages. Overall, 474 hunters (252 Bantu and 222 Indigenous) participated in 16 program meetings.

A Natural Resource Governance

Tool (NRGT) assessment was also conducted during the first half of the year and compared with results from 2023. The findings are concerning: a general decline in the governance capacities of hunting and fishing associations was observed, suggesting that their impact on local wildlife management is becoming less visible to communities. This trend calls for strengthened interventions in 2026.

The year was also marked by the inauguration of the Kabo/Gbagbali Governance Groups Community Center, a facility designed to host meetings of hunters’, fishers’, and livestock keepers’ associations to discuss natural resource management and livestock production within their territory.

Sustainable Fisheries: Strengthening the Governance of Fishers’ Associations

In collaboration with fishing groups, the SWM team organized six awareness-raising meetings on the fisheries mini-charter in several villages, including Kabo/Gbagbali, Leme/Bondzele, and Bomassa/Bon Coin. These meetings aimed to reinforce good practices for sustainable fishing while documenting the challenges faced by fishers.

Following the restructuring of the Bomassa Fishers’ Association executive committee in 2024, the association’s governing documents were officially signed in 2025. A total of 260 participants were reached through these activities, including 234 Bantu and 26 Indigenous community

members.

In April, a four-day training workshop on natural resource governance was organized for fishing and hunting associations, bringing together 32 participants from Kabo/Gbagbali, Leme/Bondzele, and Bomassa, along with representatives from CIB, PROGEPP, and the Forestry Department. Training modules focused on effective organizational management and the fundamental principles of a sustainable association.

In December, the SWM team produced the first draft of a pilot capacity-building plan for fisheries governance groups. This document will serve as a roadmap for fishing associations across the program’s intervention area.

Conclusion: Towards Greater Autonomy and Sustainability

The 2025 results in agriculture, human-wildlife coexistence, and sustainable natural resource management demonstrate growing community engagement and ownership. The first harvest in Bomassa, the 253 microproject proposals submitted by communities, and the hundreds of hunters and fishers who were trained and sensitized all point to a positive trajectory.

Together, these achievements are shaping an inclusive conservation model in which local communities are no longer merely beneficiaries, but full partners in protecting and managing their environment.

275
Households
involved in
the Elanga
project

1,6 TONNE/HA
Pilot Cassava
Production

02
localities
covered

334
farming plots
created

253
micro projects
submittes

5 400
metres of electric
barriers installed

06
community
groups created

LOBÉKÉ NATIONAL PARK



Concrete Solutions to Protect Livelihoods

Human–Wildlife Conflict: Building a Model of Coexistence Around Lobéké National Park

In 2025, human–wildlife conflict around Lobéké National Park, particularly elephant incursions into agricultural areas, remained a major challenge for neighboring communities. In localities such as Mambélé and Socambo, several farms were partially or completely destroyed, highlighting the vulnerability of local livelihoods.

However, this pressure is no longer being endured passively. It is now increasingly managed through a structured framework, reflecting a significant shift toward a more proactive and organized approach to conflict management.

A Structured and Responsive Operational System

The response strategy is based on a system that combines monitoring, detection, and intervention. In 2025, 14 community surveillance patrols were conducted, enabling the identification and documentation of actual elephant incursions into agricultural areas. In response, three elephant deterrence missions were carried out, demonstrating the park's ability to intervene rapidly and effectively.

The system also relies on technological tools such as camera traps and monitoring platforms like EarthRanger, which enhance early detection and incident

management. Together, these efforts reflect the strengthening of a comprehensive operational framework that spans from risk anticipation to active field intervention.

Concrete Solutions to Protect Livelihoods

Beyond incident management, practical measures were implemented to reduce the direct impact of human–wildlife conflict on local communities. The installation of chili fences successfully protected approximately 12 hectares of farmland, including a two-hectare pilot field monitored over several months.

The use of camera traps on agricultural plots also helped improve understanding of wildlife movements and anticipate potential incursions. These approaches—simple, locally adapted, and cost-effective—demonstrate that significant reductions in crop losses can be achieved while maintaining coexistence with wildlife.

Community Mobilization Across the Landscape

The effectiveness of the system depends largely on the active participation of local communities. In 2025, 26 villages were engaged and 450 people were sensitized to issues related to human–wildlife coexistence. A community monitoring team composed of six members conducted regular night

patrols, playing an active role in surveillance and conflict management.

Educational initiatives, particularly targeting young people, were also implemented to promote long-term coexistence practices. This participatory approach strengthens local ownership of prevention mechanisms and reinforces relationships between communities and park management.

Strengthening Governance and Monitoring Systems

Conflict management is embedded within a broader framework of participatory governance. The establishment of a grievance management mechanism, including the registration and follow-up of a collective complaint over several months, demonstrates a commitment to strengthening institutional responses and improving transparency.

In addition, initiatives such as the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between MINFOF and Baka community organizations have enhanced community access to resources and increased participation in park management. Training sessions, consultation workshops, and the structuring of local organizations continue to strengthen a model based on dialogue and inclusion.

Conservation and Development: An Integrated Approach

The year 2025 also marked a stronger integration between conflict management and community development. Through the NaturAfrica project, a participatory wildlife monitoring system was established, including the training of community wildlife guardians, thereby increasing local capacity for natural resource management.

The Conservation Bonus Program, with a budget of 10 million FCFA, funded community projects in education, agriculture, and infrastructure, creating a direct link between conservation performance and improved living conditions.

At the same time, support provided to cocoa farmers' cooperatives through the BRIDGE project helped strengthen the value chain, improve local processing, and facilitate access to microcredit. The construction of storage infrastructure and the distribution of equipment enhanced producer competitiveness, reducing dependence on wildlife

resources.

Results Embedded in a Broader Conservation Strategy

These achievements form part of a wider effort to secure and protect the landscape. The park achieved 90% spatial coverage, accompanied by a reduction of more than 40% in snares between 2024 and 2025. In addition, 16 firearms and 100 rounds of ammunition were confiscated, with a prosecution and incarceration rate of 60%. Participation in Tri-National de la Sangha trans-boundary patrols reached 82%.

These indicators demonstrate that human-wildlife conflict management cannot be separated from broader conservation efforts; rather, it constitutes an essential component of them.

Towards a Sustainable Coexistence Model

The progress achieved in 2025 reflects a gradual transformation in the management of human-wildlife conflict around Lobéké National Park. What was once largely a reactive response is

evolving into a structured system that combines monitoring, intervention, locally adapted solutions, and community engagement.

However, this model remains a work in progress. Its long-term effectiveness will depend on its ability to be strengthened, expanded across the entire landscape, and supported by sustainable financing and governance mechanisms.

At this stage, one thing is clear: coexistence between communities and wildlife cannot rely solely on technical measures. It depends on a broader balance between conservation, development, and recognition of local realities.

And it is precisely this balance that Lobéké National Park is beginning to build.

AGRICULTURE & HUMAN–WILDLIFE CONFLICT



DZANGA SANGHA PROTECTED AREAS (DSPAS)

Co-Management and Community Development: Tangible Progress in 2025

A Structured Agricultural Dynamic in Support of Community Resilience

In 2025, the Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas (DSPA) continued to strengthen their strategy for supporting farmer organization by consolidating an agricultural model based on sustainability, social inclusion, and resilience to environmental pressures. This approach aims to improve community livelihoods while limiting impacts on protected ecosystems.

Launch of the 2025 Agricultural Season: Territorial Planning Based on Ecological Realities

The 2025 agricultural season began with a beneficiary identification mission carried out from 27 February to 5 March across twelve villages in the DSPA. This phase made it possible to select new producers and better target intervention areas according to local constraints. It was followed

by a georeferencing operation of agricultural plots from 24 March to 2 April, ensuring rigorous monitoring of land use. All plots were located exclusively on old fallow land in order to reduce pressure on forests.

This territorial analysis led to a major strategic decision: concentrating agricultural activities in the northern and southern zones, while temporarily suspending seed support in the central villages, which are heavily exposed to human–wildlife conflict. This reorientation reflects a clear effort to reconcile agricultural production with conservation by adapting interventions to field realities.

An Innovative Seed Bank Mechanism

The model adopted is based on a circular seed management system. Beneficiaries receive inputs at the start of the season and commit to repaying an equiva-

lent quantity after harvest. This approach makes it possible to establish sustainable village seed banks and ensure the continuity of agricultural cycles.

In 2025, 179 beneficiaries in twelve villages received support, with a total distribution of more than 305 *Ngawi* of groundnuts and 280.5 kg of maize. A significant share of these seeds—around 180 *Ngawi* of groundnuts and 131 kg of maize—came from reimbursements from the previous season, demonstrating the growing effectiveness of the mechanism.

In addition, the identified cultivated area reached a cumulative total of 381 hectares, involving a diverse range of actors, including Bilo, Ba'Aka, and Fulani communities, with particular attention given to the inclusion of Indigenous peoples.

Agricultural Diversification and Production Security: Cassava

and Yam as Drivers of Resilience

Beyond staple crops, the program strengthened agricultural diversification. A cassava cutting distribution campaign conducted in June 2025 provided 1,426 bundles to 179 beneficiaries. This initiative was coupled with the recognition of agricultural performance, with 58 top producers from the previous season being rewarded, helping to strengthen motivation and community engagement.

At the same time, a pilot yam cultivation project was launched in four villages, with the purchase and distribution of more than 1,400 seed yams to 35 beneficiaries. The introduction of this crop is intended to broaden communities' food and economic options while reducing their vulnerability to climatic and economic shocks.

Strengthening Community Infrastructure: Granaries to Secure Agricultural Gains

The year 2025 was also marked by the construction of two community granaries in the villages of Koundapapaye and Bomandjokou. These infrastructures address a critical need for seed storage and protection, while also fostering the emergence of collective management systems.

The establishment of local management committees in each village reflects a commitment to community ownership, an essential condition for the sustainability of the initiative. These granaries therefore represent a key link in the development of a more stable and autonomous local agricultural economy.

An Integrated Approach Serving Sustainable Development

All the actions carried out in 2025 confirm the relevance of an integrated approach that combines technical support, community structuring, and adaptation to

ecological constraints. By linking agricultural production, natural resource management, and social inclusion, the program helps reduce pressure on protected areas while improving the living conditions of local populations.

In the long term, this dynamic lays the foundations for a replicable model of sustainable rural development in Central African conservation landscapes—one in which food security and ecosystem protection are no longer seen as opposing objectives, but as complementary priorities.

DZANGA SANGHA PROTECTED AREAS

Justice, Dignity and Conservation: DSPA Strengthens the Protection of Community Rights in 2025

Justice, Dignity and Conservation: Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas Strengthen the Protection of Community Rights in 2025

In 2025, the Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas (DSPA) continued their efforts to advance community rights through the Bayanga Human Rights Centre (HRC). In a landscape where Ba'Aka Indigenous communities remain particularly vulnerable to discrimination and legal exclusion, this mechanism serves as a key pillar of the DSPA's social inclusion strategy.

A Fully Operational Centre

The HRC operated throughout the year with a team of seven staff members—a lawyer, an assistant coordinator, a psychosocial assistant, two outreach facilitators, and two guards—supported in the field by 18 community monitors trained in human rights and based in each of the villages covered by the project. This two-tier structure ensures both the quality of interventions and their accessibility for the most remote populations.

214 Cases of Rights Violations Addressed*

Legal and judicial assistance remains at the core of the HRC's work. In 2025, 214 cases of rights violations were recorded and handled through individual support. Among these, 12 formal complaints were filed with law enforcement authorities, and 4 alleged perpetrators of rape were brought before the Nola Public Prosecutor's Office.

Conciliation, which is prioritized in order to preserve the social fabric of communities, played a particularly important role: of the 198 conciliation processes initiated, 157 were successfully resolved. In addition, 44 cases of direct legal assistance and 29 cases of medical support were provided, illustrating

both the scale and diversity of the situations addressed.

To ensure that rights are effectively respected in the villages, the team conducted 120 routine field missions, 11 complaint follow-up missions to the Nola High Court, one mission to the Court of Appeal in Bouar, and 8 missions to Berbérati. This regular presence plays a crucial deterrent role and strengthens community trust in protection mechanisms.

Raising Awareness to Empower Communities

Preventing rights violations begins with awareness of rights. In 2025, the HRC rolled out an extensive awareness-raising program that included 48 radio broadcasts, 39 educational talks on human rights, 11 psychosocial discussion sessions, and 30 mass awareness campaigns. Forty posters were displayed in communities, and a capacity-building workshop for community monitors was organized in December, covering human rights, child and women's protection, the Central African judicial system, and community communication techniques.

The Centre also marked International Women's Day, the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, and the 67th anniversary of the Central African Republic—important opportunities for community mobilization and dialogue.

Making the Invisible Visible: Civil Registration

One of the deepest challenges facing Indigenous communities is the lack of identity documents, which deprives them of many fundamental rights. In 2025, the HRC registered and transmitted 288 birth declarations to the

civil registry services of Bayanga and Salo, resulting in the issuance of 87 birth certificates and 100 substitute judgments. In addition, 50 national identity cards were obtained.

These efforts restore legal identity to individuals and open the door to public services, electoral participation, and freedom of movement—rights that many had never previously been able to exercise.

Grievance Management and Psychosocial Support

The Permanent Secretariat of the Grievance Management Mechanism recorded 78 complaints, of which 69 were resolved, representing a resolution rate of 92%.

At the same time, the psychosocial support service assisted 95 survivors of gender-based violence—including physical and emotional abuse, rape, and sexual harassment of minors—with 33 successful mediations and targeted awareness activities carried out through radio programs.

Conservation and Human Rights: An Essential Balance

The HRC's 2025 results reflect a core conviction of the DSPA: sustainable conservation cannot be achieved without respect for the dignity and rights of neighboring populations. By handling 214 rights violation cases, supporting 95 survivors of violence, restoring civil identity to hundreds of individuals, and training community

monitors, the HRC is building, day by day, the trust that is essential between communities and park managers.

It is within this balance—between protecting nature and protecting people—that the long-term sustainability of the DSPA model lies.

NOUABALE-NDOKI NATIONAL PARK



Promoting Human Rights and Indigenous Peoples' Rights in NNNP: 2025 Review

Social Safeguards in Support of the Most Vulnerable Communities

The Nouabalé-Ndoki Foundation (FNN) places the promotion of human rights and Indigenous peoples' rights at the heart of its community development strategy. In 2025, this work was structured around two main priorities: the operational implementation of the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and a project to support access to citizenship for members of Ba'Aka communities, particularly through the issuance of birth certificates. While the first recorded tangible progress, the second continues to face significant administrative barriers.

The Grievance Redress Mechanism: A Formalized Channel for Community Voice

The GRM is a mechanism designed to enable members of local communities and Indigenous peoples (LCIPs) to report, in a safe and accessible manner, any concern, complaint, or grievance related to park activities or their impacts on daily life. In 2025, its operational rollout continued with the deployment of practical tools in the communities of Bomassa and Makao: grievance boxes, mobile phones, and SIM cards were provided to designated community focal points.

In collaboration with DevCo staff,

these focal points selected the locations of the grievance boxes in their respective villages. The functioning of the mechanism and the role of each stakeholder were also explained to the wider community, in a spirit of transparency and collective ownership.

A Revealing Field Assessment

After several months of piloting, the Social Safeguards and Gender Advisor carried out a field assessment in April and May 2025 to evaluate how the GRM was functioning in practice. She visited the villages of Makao, Bomassa, and Kabo to assess how well potential users understood the mechanism: what types of grievances could be submitted, through which channels, and what the roles and responsibilities of community focal points were.

The conclusions of the assessment were broadly positive. The mechanism was found to be well adapted to local realities and to the specific needs of Indigenous peoples and local communities in the target areas. However, improvements are still needed, particularly in terms of accessibility for the most remote or least literate populations, as well as in the handling of sensitive cases, which require stronger confidentiality procedures.

Overall, these evaluation and awareness-raising meetings reached 254 people across the

three villages: 119 in Makao, 85 in Bomassa, and 50 in Kabo (noted as 63 in some sections of the report). The gender and ethnic breakdown reflects the diversity of the communities: 64 Indigenous women, 51 Bantu women, 64 Indigenous men, and 75 Bantu men.

Access to citizenship for the Ba'Aka: slow progress in the face of administrative obstacles

The second component of this work concerns support for access to citizenship for members of Ba'Aka communities, an Indigenous people of whom a significant proportion still lack official birth certificates. Without these documents, individuals remain in a state of legal invisibility that deprives them of many fundamental rights, including access to healthcare, formal education, justice, and legal recognition of their civil identity.

The project is based on the late birth registration mechanism, which allows the legal regularization of individuals who were not registered at birth. In 2025, progress was made, but it remained limited in light of the scale of the obstacles encountered within public administration.

For the Sangha department, three-quarters of the 194 applications were prepared and submitted to the Kabo sub-prefecture for the issuance of birth certificates. For the Likouala department, all

346 applications were submitted to the relevant sub-prefecture.

A Follow-Up mission to Impfondo

In December 2025, the park's Dev-Co team carried out a follow-up mission to Impfondo to identify bottlenecks and explore ways to address them. This proactive effort made it possible to establish direct dialogue with local authorities. The sub-prefect requested that the team work with the Social Affairs Department, which will need to validate the applications before they can be officially transmitted to the sub-prefecture. This additional step, which had not initially been anticipated, explains part of the delays observed and helps shape the strategy for 2026.

A Commitment to Dignity and Inclusion

The 2025 results of Activity 203 reflect both the progress made and the complexity of the challenges surrounding the rights of the most vulnerable populations. The GRM is now embedded in the daily life of the communities of Bomassa, Makao, and Kabo, and its ongoing improvement phase will help strengthen its effectiveness. The citizenship support project for the BaAka is moving forward, even if administrative bottlenecks continue to slow a process with major human significance.

These actions, carried out with

patience and method, affirm a core conviction of the FNN: truly sustainable conservation cannot be achieved without respect for the rights and dignity of the communities living in and around the park. Making visible those who remain unseen, giving a voice to those who are denied one—this too is part of protecting the Nouabalé-Ndoki forest.



LOBÉKÉ NATIONAL PARK



Concrete Initiatives in Support of Local Communities

Concrete Initiatives in Support of Local Communities

In 2025, Lobéké National Park continued and intensified its support to neighboring communities through a range of initiatives covering local governance, food security, education, well-being, and human rights.

Better Equipped Communities for Managing Their Resources

Under the GEF-funded program, the Forest Resource Valorization Committees (COVAREF) of the Community-Managed Hunting Zones (ZICGCs) received capacity-building support. A six-day practical training course, combined with the provision of field equipment—including GPS units, smartphones, compasses, and tents—enabled them to carry out regular monitoring of wildlife and human activities themselves, thereby strengthening their autonomy in the sustainable management of community forests.

At the same time, the Conservation Bonus scheme, launched in 2023, continued to generate positive results. Villages were assessed by a joint committee bringing together LNP, the COVAREF, and AS-

BABUK, with a total incentive fund of 10 million FCFA allocated according to performance. The selected community projects—covering education, culture, energy access, water, infrastructure, agriculture, and processing—will be implemented in early 2026. This incentive-based approach shows that wildlife conservation can generate concrete and lasting socio-economic benefits for local populations.

Baka Women as Drivers of Their Own Food Security

Launched in 2021 with support from Lobéké National Park and WWF, the community cassava fields initiative for Baka women around Salapoumbé experienced a significant revival in 2025 after a slowdown in 2024 due to governance challenges. Across the eight hectares developed—two hectares per community—activities resumed, with effective harvests and strong community ownership.

This positive momentum paves the way for a capitalization analysis planned for 2026, which will help identify success factors and extend the model to other communities surrounding the park.

Education as an Investment in Future Generations

In the field of education, Lobéké National Park, with support from FTNS, assisted 49 parent-teachers in 33 schools in Salapoumbé and Moloundou, benefiting 375 vulnerable students—318 from Baka communities and 57 from Bantu communities. Support covered allowances, examination fees, and contributions to parent-teacher associations, while a tailored follow-up system was put in place for high-performing students through to university level.

In addition, 51 students from communities around the park took part in a holiday internship focused on conservation, protected area management, and ecotourism, opening up future pathways linked to nature-based professions.

Understanding Well-Being in Order to Act More Effectively

In December 2025, an update of the Basic Needs Survey (BNS) was carried out in eight communities surrounding the park through 36 inclusive focus group discussions. Conducted under the NaturAfrica program, this process identified the main priorities of local

populations: access to safe drinking water, income-generating activities, civil registration, and agricultural inputs.

These updated data now provide a shared baseline to guide conservation and development interventions in the years ahead.

Human Rights: Training to Protect

Finally, in May 2025, a capacity-building workshop bringing together 80 participants—including eco-guards, members of the COVILAB, and representatives of ASBABUK, CEFAID, and ONDH—was organized in Yokadouma. Funded by WWF,

the GEF, ZSL, and Noé, in collaboration with MINFOP, the workshop focused on the intersection between combating wildlife crime and respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs).

Through theoretical presentations, plenary sessions, and practical simulations, participants gained concrete skills to document, report, and address incidents related to poaching while strictly upholding human rights standards. A post-training follow-up plan was established to ensure the sustained application of these skills in the field.

QUALITY OF LIFE & HEALTH

NOUABALE-NDOKI
NATIONAL PARK



Improving the Living Conditions of Local Communities

3084

consultations
carried out

03

Trained
Community
Focal Points

966

vaccins
administered

02

Health
centers
supported

20

elderly
people
supported

Improving the Living Conditions of Neighboring Communities

The Integrated Health Centres (IHCs) of Bomassa and Makao operated continuously throughout 2025, with healthcare staff present an average of 30 days per month at each facility. A total of 3,084 free medical consultations were provided—2,143 in Bomassa and 941 in Makao—benefiting men and women from both Bantu and Indigenous communities. The most commonly treated conditions were malaria, influenza-like illnesses, and skin diseases.

Strengthening Medical Capacity

In January, the DevCo team donated a substantial package of medical equipment to the Bomassa IHC, financed by FTNS, including sampling and laboratory analysis equipment. Additional equipment, including microscopes, was procured through supplementary funding from the Fondation pour le Développement du Vivant (FDV). These investments enabled the Bomassa IHC to officially open its own medical diagnostic laboratory in May 2025, representing a major milestone in strengthening the centre's diagnostic capacity and autonomy.

In parallel, with financial support from the European Union, plans were advanced to expand

both health centres, including the installation of solar power systems and running water infrastructure. During the first half of the year, the DevCo team held consultations with the Sangha Department health authorities to secure approval for these major infrastructure projects.

Vaccination: Outstanding Coverage

The 2025 vaccination campaign achieved outstanding results. The Bomassa IHC administered 319 vaccine doses, while the Makao IHC delivered 647, also serving children from Bangui Motaba. The success of the Bomassa programme has been such that residents from Kabo now travel there to access vaccination services.

A particularly noteworthy achievement was that 100% of newborns in Bomassa and Makao received their vaccinations within the recommended schedule.

Community Awareness

With support from the DevCo team, both health centres organized several community awareness sessions focusing on the benefits of childhood immunization and family planning, helping to strengthen preventive healthcare practices among neighboring communities.

Dental Initiative: The Smile Star Charity Mission

In April, the NGO Smile Star Charity, composed of volunteer dentists, carried out a mission in northern Congo to provide free dental care to hundreds of people. Organized in collaboration with CIB and Kamba, the mission treated tooth decay and relieved dental pain for 148 patients from Bomassa, Kabo, and among park staff.

Human Resources and Social Assistance

Regarding staffing, one community health worker at the Bomassa IHC was

dismissed by the Departmental Director of Health Care and Health Services for Sangha. Despite this change, the centre remains adequately staffed, with a head nurse, a midwife, and a volunteer responsible for pharmacy services.

Finally, through the programme supporting economically vulnerable people, 10 elderly residents in Bomassa and 10 in Makao continued to receive regular distributions of essential food supplies, reflecting the programme's sustained commitment to supporting the most vulnerable members of neighboring communities.



DZANGA SANGHA
PROTECTED AREAS



DSPA Strengthens Access to Healthcare in 2025

2091

consultations
carried out

148

prenatal
consultations
carried out

319

children
vaccinated

01

health
centers
improved

06

villages
covered by
the mobile
clinic

by fully integrating health considerations into their conservation strategies. In a region characterized by geographic isolation and limited infrastructure, the interventions implemented significantly improved access to healthcare while strengthening local capacities in line with the One Health approach, which recognizes the interdependence of human, animal, and environmental health.

A Mobile Clinic Serving Remote Communities

The most significant achievement of the year was the deployment of a mobile clinic, formalized through the signing of a partnership agreement between the Ministry of Health and the DSPA on September 9. Following a pilot phase launched in June targeting six priority villages—including four with no health facilities whatsoever—the clinic quickly demonstrated its value.

Over six months of operation, the mobile clinic delivered 2,091 medical consultations, with rapid growth in service delivery: 214 consultations in June alone, followed by 1,877 between July and

December. Particular attention was given to the most vulnerable groups, especially children under five and pregnant women, with 148 antenatal consultations recorded.

The most frequently treated illnesses—malaria, diarrheal diseases, and skin conditions—reflect underlying structural challenges related to access to safe drinking water, as many villages continue to rely on unsafe water sources. Higher attendance rates in certain villages also confirmed a simple but fundamental reality: proximity to healthcare services directly influences healthcare utilization.

Persistent Operational Challenges

Despite these encouraging results, the program continues to face significant constraints. Follow-up of patients referred to the Bayanga District Hospital remains difficult, as financial hardships often lead families to discontinue treatment. Population mobility further complicates the monitoring of chronic diseases such as tuberculosis and leprosy, with the first case of drug-resistant tuber-

culosis identified in December 2025.

Some complex medical cases requiring specialized surgery or advanced diagnostic and treatment facilities also exceed the capacity of the mobile clinic, highlighting the need for specialized partnerships and appropriate financing mechanisms.

Strengthening the Local Health System

At the same time, the DSPA strengthened its collaboration with the Bayanga District Hospital, resulting in improved coordination among healthcare teams, active participation in clinical activities, and enhanced support for emergency care management. Between July and December 2025, an additional 116 consultations were conducted within the hospital.

Particular attention was also given to improving health data collection and management through joint validation and data triangulation meetings. However, recurrent shortages of essential medicines remain a major challenge for ensuring continuity of care.

Managing the Monkeypox Outbreak

The year 2025 was also marked by efforts to respond to a Monkeypox outbreak. As soon as the first cases were confirmed, an emergency technical task force was established, bringing together key actors from the local health system.

Joint field missions were deployed to affected villages to identify high-risk areas, raise public awareness, and monitor contacts. Support from partners through the provision of personal protective equipment and nutritional assistance strengthened the local response, demonstrating the DSPA's ability to rapidly mobilize resources during public health emergencies.

Strategic Investments in Healthcare Infrastructure

One of the year's major milestones was the official inauguration in November of the new inpatient ward at Bayanga Hospital, financed with support from the European Union and FTNS. The facility includes an expanded pediatric department, the district's first neonatal care unit, an enlarged internal medicine department, and a training room.

This investment represents a major strategic advancement for healthcare services in the region. In addition, the provision of an ambulance, the distribution of mosquito nets, and the maintenance of biomedical equipment contributed to strengthening the overall operational capacity of the local health system.

Towards an Integrated Model of Health and Conservation

The results achieved in 2025 confirm the relevance of an approach that places community health at the center of conservation strategies. By improving access to healthcare and integrating communities into health surveillance systems, the DSPA is helping to reduce vulnerabilities while strengthening local support for biodiversity conservation objectives.

Sustaining these achievements will require additional investments in infrastructure, human resources, and financing mechanisms. Nevertheless, the experience gained to date already provides a compelling model for aligning public health and sustainable conservation objectives.

The One Health Program **in 2025**

In 2025, the FTNS-supported One Health Program reached a decisive milestone by consolidating an integrated health approach across the Tri-National Sangha landscape. In a context marked by the circulation of Mpox in the Central African Republic and the persistent risk of transmission between wildlife, domestic animals, and human populations, interventions combined community prevention, health surveillance, and the strengthening of local capacities.

Joint action across the Cameroon segment (Lobéké), the Congo segment (Nouabalé-Ndoki), and the Central African Republic segment (DSPA) made it possible to gradually embed a coordinated response, supported by community alert systems, data collection tools, and mechanisms for sharing health information among partners. At the same time, major investments were made in infrastructure through the gradual establishment of diagnostic laboratories in each park, supported by FTNS with assistance from German cooperation, thereby strengthening local capacities for diagnosis and response.

This support also included the funding of technical staff and operational costs related to sample collection, ensuring the continuity and reliability of the surveillance system.

At the same time, the Wildlife Health Program intensified epidemiological and ecological surveillance by combining great ape monitoring, analysis of animal carcasses, and the deployment of rapid diagnostic technologies in the field. The results achieved—no detection of major pathogens, strengthened local capacities, and strong community ownership of prevention messages—reflect a system that is still evolving but is now operational.

This momentum has been reinforced by the structuring of community networks, the expansion of participatory surveillance mechanisms, and the institutionalization of cross-border coordination, laying the foundation for a robust regional system for zoonotic disease prevention and response.

+4900

person's
sensitized

03

laboratories
built

12

carcasses
analyzed

516

biological
samples
collected

03

parcs
supported

26

animals
vaccinated
against
rabies

173

persons
trained

LOBEKE NATIONAL PARK



Awareness, Coordination and Surveillance: An Integrated and Operational Approach

200
persons
sensitized

06
localités
couvertes

14
community
focal points
trained

01
laboratory
in construction

04
campaigns
carried out

Raising Awareness, Building Systems, Monitoring: An Integrated and Operational Approach

In response to the risk of disease transmission between wildlife, domestic animals, and human populations, the One Health Program continued in 2025 to implement an integrated approach built around community awareness-raising, local capacity strengthening, and the establishment of surveillance and response mechanisms.

In a context marked by the circulation of Mpox in the Central African Republic, interventions were deployed on a transboundary scale, particularly between the Cameroon segment (Lobéké) and the Congo segment (Nouabalé-Ndoki), with a coordination meeting held in Bomassa.

Community Awareness: Broader Coverage and Strong Uptake of Key Messages

Awareness-raising activities were conducted in six localities and directly reached 200 participants. The messages focused on zoonotic diseases, risky behaviors, and the preventive measures to be adopted.

A total of four awareness activities were carried out, with particular attention paid to the use of local lan-

guages to ensure that the content was accessible to neighboring communities, especially Indigenous groups.

The results indicate a high level of uptake, with 99% of participants considering the sessions useful and relevant. These activities were carried out in collaboration with institutional and community stakeholders, helping to extend the reach of prevention messages beyond direct participants.

Strengthening Local Capacity and Community-Based Mechanisms

The program made it possible to establish a network of 14 community focal points responsible for disseminating information and reporting health alerts.

A community alert system was put in place in seven villages around the park, enabling the rapid notification of suspected cases, particularly when dead animals are observed in the forest. To support this mechanism, communication credit was provided to the focal points to facilitate information sharing.

In addition, a data collection tool was deployed in six villages, improving the centralization and monitoring of information related to zoonotic diseases.

Structuring the Response Plan and Strengthening Transboundary Coordination

A zoonotic disease response plan, initially developed in 2024 during a workshop in Bertoua, was rolled out in 2025 across seven villages surrounding the park.

This dissemination phase was accompanied by capacity-building for community focal points to make the plan operational at the local level.

In a context shaped by the presence of Mpox cases in the Central African Republic, a joint mission between the Cameroon and Congo segments was organized in the Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park landscape. This mission provided an opportunity to initiate discussions on the establishment of a harmonized transboundary response plan.

Infrastructure and Response Capacity

Alongside community-based

actions, the program continued to invest in infrastructure dedicated to zoonotic disease management. Construction of the laboratory reached 90% completion, with finalization expected in February 2026.

This infrastructure is intended to strengthen local diagnostic capacity by enabling the analysis of samples and the confirmation of suspected cases, while reducing delays associated with sample transfer to distant facilities.

Active Surveillance and Initial Results

The system put in place is built on the articulation between awareness-raising, community focal points, the alert system, and data collection tools.

During the reporting period, no suspected zoonotic disease cases were reported in the covered areas. This result comes within a broader context of progressively strengthened local capacities and improved

community vigilance.

A One Health Approach Taking Shape

The 2025 results of the One Health Program highlight the gradual strengthening of local capacities for zoonotic disease prevention and surveillance.

The interventions reached 200 people, established 14 community focal points, covered seven villages with a functioning alert system, and equipped six villages with data collection tools. The rollout of the response plan and the progress made in laboratory construction have further reinforced the coherence of the system.

These results confirm the relevance of an integrated approach linking human, animal, and environmental health, while also underscoring the need to continue consolidating efforts—particularly in relation to transboundary coordination and the operationalization of infrastructure.

DZANGA SANGHA
PROTECTED AREAS



An Integrated Approach to the Health of People, Animals, and Ecosystems

937

Human
samples
tested for
COVID-19

09

carcasses
analysed

140

Community
members
trained

26

Domestic
animals
vaccinated

14

Villages reached
through aware-
ness campaigns

450

Students
sensitized

166

Primate wildlife
samples collected

An Integrated Approach to the Health of People, Animals, and Ecosystems

In the forest landscapes of the Tri-National de la Sangha, where human populations, wildlife, and ecosystems coexist in close proximity, health issues have become a central pillar of conservation strategies. The circulation of zoonotic diseases and the intensification of human-wildlife interactions require an integrated and forward-looking response. In 2025, the Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas (DSPA) reached a decisive milestone in consolidating their One Health program, built around four complementary pillars: diagnosis, scientific surveillance, community mobilization, and support to public health.

A Fully Operational Field Laboratory

The most significant development of the year was the full operationalization of the DSPA One Health laboratory. Equipment supplied by the Helmholtz Institute for One Health was received, installed, and brought into service with the support of specialized technicians, followed by in-depth training for local staff.

The laboratory can now carry out molecular analyses directly in the field, preserve samples under optimal conditions, and significantly reduce diagnostic turnaround times.

Its official inauguration by the President of the Central African Republic underscored its strategic importance for the region. Throughout the year, proactive equipment management ensured continuity in analytical operations.

Wildlife Health Surveillance: Signals That Must Be Taken Seriously

Health monitoring of primates was a key priority. A total of 166 non-invasive samples were collected from different groups of gorillas and mangabeys, including the Limo group, the Esadu group, and one group currently undergoing habituation. In parallel, nine carcasses from various animal species were collected and analyzed for major pathogens such as filoviruses, orthopoxviruses, and anthrax-causing bacteria. No positive results were recorded, confirming the absence of circulation of these high-risk agents in 2025.

However, clinical surveillance identified several episodes of coughing among gorilla groups, particularly in the Limo group. Analyses revealed the presence of respiratory viruses—respiratory syncytial virus and human metapneumovirus—including cases of co-infection. These findings provide concrete evidence of potential transmission dynamics between humans and great apes in interface zones and highlight the need for continuous vigilance.

A Decisive Contribution to Local Public Health

Beyond wildlife health, the One Health laboratory played a critical role in strengthening the local health system. In 2025, 937 human samples were tested for COVID-19, with five positive cases confirmed by PCR. As part of Mpox surveillance, 30 samples were analyzed, of which 20 tested positive.

These results enabled rapid presumptive diagnosis before confirmation by the Pasteur Institute in Bangui, thereby reducing response times in a context marked by major logistical constraints. Parallel investigations into human

respiratory diseases, conducted in connection with the episodes observed among gorillas, further strengthened the integrated approach linking human and animal health.

Epidemiological Surveillance Rooted in Communities

The rollout of the AVADAR One Health system introduced digital epidemiological surveillance within the DSPA. The system is based on the training of community focal points, health workers, and eco-guards, all equipped with the necessary tools for data collection and transmission.

It makes it possible to monitor a range of priority diseases affecting both humans and animals while ensuring rapid reporting of health alerts from communities to decision-making bodies. This mechanism strengthens local coordination and improves the capacity to respond to emerging risks

Awareness and Prevention: Encouraging Results

Awareness-raising activities were a key lever of the program. Around 450 schoolchildren were sensitized in local schools, with an assessed understand-

ing rate of 89%, reflecting the effectiveness of the educational approaches used. Prevention panels were also installed in 14 villages to disseminate key messages on hygiene and zoonotic disease prevention.

On the ground, 26 domestic animals were vaccinated against rabies, and livestock keepers received support in managing the health of their herds, thereby reducing transmission risks between domestic animals, wildlife, and human populations.

A Model in the Making for Central Africa

By combining scientific surveillance, advanced diagnostic capacity, community mobilization, and support to public health, the DSPA One Health program is shaping an operational model for integrated health risk management that is highly relevant for the wider Congo Basin.

The integration of data from wildlife, human communities, and the environment makes it possible to anticipate threats, strengthen territorial resilience, and sustainably support conservation efforts in one of the world's most valuable forest ecosystems.

NOUABALE-NDOKI NATIONAL PARK



Animal Health and One Health: Progress in 2025

New Bomassa One Health Laboratory
©FTNS/Watsop.E

4727

persons sensitized

07

diseases monitored

3722

Health scans conducted on gorillas and chimpanzees

01

laboratory built

38

People trained in first aid

19

agents trained

12

carcasses tested

In 2025, the Wildlife Health Program (WHP) continued and intensified its health surveillance activities, covering great ape health monitoring, disease detection in animal carcasses, and awareness-raising among neighboring communities.

Strengthening Field Diagnostic Capacity

The WHP team continued training field teams at the three research sites of Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park (NNNP) in the use of the Biomeme Thermocycler, a portable PCR device that enables rapid diagnostic testing directly in the field. In 2025, one device was deployed at each of the three sites, and a total of 19 people—including two Indigenous staff members and female field agents—were trained in its use. This represents a major step forward in accelerating Ebola screening of animal carcasses found near the research sites.

Great Ape Health Monitoring and Sample Collection

At Mondika and Goulougo, the team conducted 2,258 health scans for gorillas and 1,464 for chimpanzees. In total, 516 samples were collected across the two sites for the analysis of parasites and pathogens in these populations.

In addition, 12 animal carcasses—including gorillas, chimpanzees,

elephants, buffaloes, monkeys, and civets—were sampled and tested for Ebola, anthrax, and Mpox, both in the field using portable testing equipment and in the laboratory by PCR at the National Public Health Laboratory. All results were negative.

The Bomassa laboratory assistant provided valuable support to these operations, handling carcass sampling, parrot health monitoring, and the management and inventory of samples. A purchase order was also prepared for a solar system for the laboratory, in order to ensure appropriate long-term sample storage and preservation conditions.

Community Awareness-Raising

During the reporting period, the WHP team carried out 12 awareness missions in communities across northern Congo, reaching a total of 4,727 people.

Five of these missions were conducted jointly with CIB, Sangha Music, and a representative from the Ministry of Health, covering 47 villages. Three additional missions were carried out in partnership with the Lake Télé Community Reserve team across 29 villages, focusing on Mpox and strengthening the community surveillance network in the Ndoki-Likouala landscape.

All of these missions also aimed

to reinforce the participatory wildlife mortality surveillance network across the landscape.

Strengthening One Health Collaboration

The year 2025 marked an important step forward in strengthening the One Health dynamic at both regional and national levels. Surveillance data on seven priority diseases—Ebola, Mpox, anthrax, cholera, yaws, yellow fever, and COVID-19—are now shared quarterly among partners across the Tri-National de la Sangha (TNS) landscape.

Quarterly virtual meetings are regularly held between TNS One

Health staff, partners in Congo, Lobéké National Park, and WWF Bayanga. In October, the first joint trilateral One Health mission was carried out in northern Congo together with Cameroonian partners from Lobéké.

In August and September, two wildlife health monitoring workshops were held in Ouessou and Impfondo, bringing together a total of 56 representatives from government, the private sector, and civil society. These workshops highlighted the need to broaden collaboration to include the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment, as well as logging companies operating in Sangha.

Finally, in November, a national One Health workshop was organized in Brazzaville in collaboration with the SWM program and the Ministry of Forest Economy, bringing together 39 participants from multiple sectors. Among the recommendations put forward were improving the sanitary safety of bushmeat and developing a roadmap to combat zoonotic diseases.

Ecological Monitoring in the TNS in 2025

In 2025, research and ecological monitoring activities carried out across the Tri-National de la Sangha (TNS) landscape confirmed the central role of scientific data in the adaptive management of protected areas. Within Lobéké National Park, Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park, and the Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas, teams strengthened ecological monitoring systems through wildlife inventories, the monitoring of forest clearings, and the use of camera traps, acoustic recording units, and digital data management platforms such as EarthRanger and Global Forest Watch. These efforts improved understanding of wildlife dynamics, anthropogenic pressures, and the interactions between human activities and forest ecosystems, while also strengthening the capacity of conservation teams to respond to threats.

The year was also marked by stronger scientific collaboration and capacity building at the local level. The three parks hosted several research missions, technical trainings, and biological and environmental sampling activities as part of ecological and health surveillance efforts. The data generated are now more directly informing patrol planning, the identification of priority areas, and habitat and species management strategies, particularly for forest elephants and great apes.

Despite persistent challenges related to technical capacity, equipment, and the coordination of data systems, the progress recorded in 2025 reflects the growing strength of the TNS scientific monitoring system and reinforces the foundations for more proactive, integrated, and sustainable conservation.





Strengthening the Scientific Foundation for Adaptive Ecosystem Management

Strengthening the Scientific Foundation for Adaptive Ecosystem Management

In 2025, the Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas (DSPA) continued implementing their research, ecological monitoring, and forest management program with a clear objective: to strengthen the production of reliable data in order to guide management decisions and improve the effectiveness of conservation actions.

In a context characterized by growing pressure on forest ecosystems—particularly poaching, resource exploitation, and human–wildlife interactions—these activities provide an essential foundation for evidence-based management. The year was marked by strengthened data collection systems, intensified scientific collaboration, and improved structuring of monitoring systems.

Strengthening Scientific Research Activities

In 2025, the DSPA consolidated their role as a reference site for scientific research in the Congo Basin. Conducted in collaboration with several technical partners and scientific institutions,

research focused on biodiversity studies, monitoring of flagship species, and analysis of interactions between human activities and ecosystems.

Dzanga Bai remained a focal site for this work. Its high concentration of wildlife—particularly forest elephants—makes it an exceptional observation site, and the data collected there continue to feed long-term time series used to track species visitation trends and identify behavioral changes.

Beyond knowledge production, these activities also contributed to strengthening local scientific capacity. Support from international partners, through targeted expert missions, enabled DSPA teams to build skills in research, analysis, and the implementation of rigorous scientific protocols. These collaborations represent a long-term investment that is essential for ensuring the quality and continuity of the data produced in this landscape and for better anticipating future ecological change.

Ecological Monitoring and Monitoring Systems

In 2025, ecological monitoring was a major operational pillar for

the DSPA. Field teams collected regular data on species presence, signs of animal activity, and traces of illegal human activities, making it possible to identify high-pressure areas and adapt surveillance strategies accordingly.

The integration of technological tools such as EarthRanger significantly improved data centralization and analysis, facilitating real-time monitoring and strengthening team responsiveness.

Targeted training sessions were also organized to improve data collection quality, particularly with regard to adherence to protocols and the use of digital tools. As part of ecological and health surveillance activities, 36 fecal samples and 340 flies were collected in logging concessions, contributing to the analysis of environmental and health dynamics. Together, these initiatives improve early threat detection and deepen understanding of the interactions between wildlife, the environment, and human activities.

Integrating Data into Operational Management

In 2025, the DSPA took an im-

portant step toward progressively integrating research and monitoring data into decision-making processes. Information collected in the field is now increasingly used to guide patrol planning, identify priority areas, and adjust management strategies, enabling a shift from reactive intervention to more proactive, data-driven management.

The availability of reliable information also strengthens the DSPA's ability to report on its actions to technical and financial partners. However, this integration remains partial: data analysis and use still require specialized technical skills that will need to be further strengthened in order to maximize the value of the information collected.

Forest Management and Monitoring of Human Activities

Forest management activities were implemented in close connection with monitoring systems in order to ensure better regulation of natural resource use.

The DSPA continued its efforts to monitor activities in logging concessions and peripheral areas, particularly through data collection and surveillance of extraction practices. The information gathered in these zones helps improve understanding of the impacts of human activities on ecosystems and identify potential risks. It also informs awareness-raising efforts

and management interventions.

Forest management is therefore embedded in an integrated approach that combines ecological monitoring, surveillance of human activities, and collaboration with local stakeholders.

Scientific Partnerships and Capacity Building

In 2025, research and monitoring activities benefited from significant scientific support. Several international expert missions were conducted, particularly under the One Health approach, strengthening local team capacities in laboratory analysis, clinical surveillance, and data collection.

At the local level, training sessions organized at the PAPA house enabled 11 people involved in sample collection activities to be trained. These initiatives help strengthen the autonomy of field teams and improve the quality of the data produced.

Limitations and Challenges

Despite the progress made, several challenges remain. Technical and human capacities are still limited in certain areas, constraining both data collection and analysis, which require specialized expertise. From a logistical perspective, maintaining and renewing the equipment, transport means, and technological

tools required for monitoring activities remains an ongoing challenge.

Finally, coordination among the various actors involved in research, monitoring, and forest management still needs improvement. Better harmonization of approaches and tools is necessary to optimize the use of collected data.

Conclusion

In 2025, the DSPA made important strides in strengthening their research, monitoring, and forest management systems. The use of technological tools, the reinforcement of local capacities, and the gradual integration of data into decision-making all point to a shift toward more structured, proactive, and knowledge-based management. These advances confirm the importance of investing in data production and ecological monitoring as a foundation for sustainable conservation.

However, consolidating these gains will require sustained commitment. Strengthening analytical capacities, improving data management systems, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of monitoring mechanisms remain critical priorities for the years ahead. Only under these conditions will the DSPA be able to fully transform knowledge into effective and lasting conservation action.

LOBÉKÉ NATIONAL PARK



Consolidating the scientific foundations of the management of Lobéké National Park.

Consolidating the Scientific Foundations of Lobéké National Park Management

In 2025, Lobéké National Park continued to strengthen its research and ecological monitoring system, further affirming the role of scientific data as the cornerstone of adaptive management and conservation decision-making. Through the simultaneous deployment of field observations, technological tools, and scientific partnerships, the park consolidated a structured monitoring system covering wildlife, flora, and the dynamics of natural resource use.

Monitoring Animal Populations in Forest Clearings

Animal population monitoring relied on regular observation

of wildlife in forest clearings (bais), strategic zones for several emblematic species. Between April and December 2025, six clearings were monitored, mobilizing more than 600 man-days. Observations focused on forest elephants, gorillas, buffaloes, bongos, and several primate species. This approach documented seasonal variations in visitation and refined the understanding of wildlife behavior. The Ndangaye and Djangui clearings recorded particularly high visitation levels, confirming their ecological importance in ecosystem functioning.

Wildlife Inventories and Deployment of Technological Tools

In parallel, a vast wildlife inventory process was conducted between March and December.

More than 200 transects were completed, complemented by the deployment of 120 camera traps and 50 acoustic units. Supported by technical partners, this system strengthened the collection of standardized data on species presence and dynamics. It was accompanied by significant capacity-building efforts, training eco-guards and local communities in the use of these tools. This skill development constitutes a strategic lever, consolidating a reliable and sustainable database essential for long-term biodiversity monitoring.

Mapping Elephant Migration Corridors

Monitoring elephant movements was a major focus of the year. Five field missions mapped 12 migration corridors, includ-

ing three new ones, covering a total of 193 kilometers. This information is essential for anticipating interactions between wildlife and human activities, particularly in managing human-wildlife conflicts. It also provides a decision-support tool for land-use planning and conservation interventions.

Monitoring Vegetation Dynamics and Forest Ecosystems

The park continued analyzing floristic dynamics through permanent plot monitoring. A 900-hectare plot documented fruit species consumed by great apes, highlighting the importance of species such as Gambeya. Another plot under installation aims to monitor forest stand evolution and carbon stocks. These studies strengthen the understanding of links between biodiversity, ecosystem functioning, and climate issues.

Monitoring Forest Cover and Anthropogenic Pressures

Monitoring pressures on forest cover was reinforced through satellite tools such as Global Forest Watch. More than 25,000 deforestation alerts were analyzed inside the park, mostly linked to natural treefalls, with no infractions

detected. On the periphery, more than 212,000 alerts were recorded. While some correspond to legal activities, a significant proportion remains to be verified. The establishment of a dedicated stakeholder platform for forest cover monitoring improves coordination and responsiveness to deforestation risks.

Support for Academic Research and Knowledge Production

The park continued to open its doors to academic research, hosting students and researchers working on diverse topics, including perceptions of monitoring systems, forest dynamics, and evaluation of management tools. These collaborations enrich scientific knowledge and strengthen the link between applied research and operational management.

Towards Adaptive Management Based on Data
The progress achieved in 2025 reflects the growing strength of Lobéké National Park's research and ecological monitoring system. By improving data production, quality, and use, while strengthening local actors' capacities, the park consolidates the scientific foundations necessary for more effective, adaptive, and sustainable conservation.

NOUABALE-NDOKI NATIONAL PARK



A strategic pillar for the conservation of a world heritage.

In 2025, Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park (NNNP), located in the northeast of the Republic of Congo and a key component of the Sangha Tri-National (TNS) landscape, maintained a structured scientific research program despite a budget reduction of approximately 40%. This contraction, linked to the decline of certain international funding streams, represented a critical test of the park's management model resilience.

Despite this constraint, activities were preserved and continued to deliver significant results, confirming the institutional strength of the system and the adaptive capacity of the teams. Research asserted itself as a central lever of conservation, guiding decisions, reducing risks, and optimizing investments. The knowledge produced at NNNP extends beyond the local scale: it contributes to the preservation of a global public good and to the protection of the site's outstanding universal value as a UNESCO World Heritage property.

Scientific Programs with International Reach

The Goulougo Triangle Ape Project (GTAP) remains one of the pillars of research. In 2025, it consolidated exceptional

longitudinal data on chimpanzees and gorillas in intact primary forest, deepening understanding of social structures, ecological behaviors, and adaptive capacities of great apes. These results reinforce the importance of protecting intact habitats at the international level.

At Mbeli Bai clearing, observations documented a progressive increase in bongo visitation, a positive signal of ecological recovery after decades of decline. This trend illustrates the role of forest clearings as indicators of ecosystem health and provides tangible evidence of conservation impact.

The Mondika Gorilla Project continued monitoring western lowland gorillas through habituated groups, refining knowledge of their social interactions and feeding behaviors. These studies contribute to the protection of an emblematic and threatened species, while confirming the park's scientific value as a reference site for primate research.

Technological Innovation and Anti-Poaching Efforts

The Elephant Listening Project (ELP) illustrates the integration of innovative technologies into conservation strategies. Using

passive acoustic sensors, the program detects signals associated with illegal activities, notably gunshots from poaching. In 2025, data revealed increased detections of gunfire in certain areas of the park and its periphery, confirming persistent pressures on elephant populations. The main value of the system lies in its ability to guide patrols in a targeted manner, optimizing resource use and improving the cost-effectiveness of anti-poaching actions.

Long-Term Data, Health Surveillance, and Anthropogenic Pressures

Continuous data collection on wildlife, flora, climate, and human activities forms the foundation of the research system. In 2025, these datasets were enriched, enabling more refined interannual comparative analyses. These time series provide deep insights into ecological changes, facilitate the identification of long-term trends, and allow evaluation of conservation policy impacts. For donors, they represent an essential tool for demonstrating investment effectiveness.

On the health front, significant progress was made in strengthening epidemiological surveillance protocols. Local

diagnostic capacities were improved and carcass monitoring intensified, reducing the risks posed by infectious diseases to great apes and other sensitive species.

Inventories conducted in the Ndoki-Likouala area updated density estimates of large mammals. Analyses confirmed persistent poaching pressures and helped identify priority zones, adapt patrol deployment, and provide concrete accountability on wildlife population trends.

Capacity Building and Combating Wildlife Trafficking

Developing local skills remains a strategic priority. In 2025, training efforts significantly improved the competencies of

national research assistants, fostering local ownership of scientific activities and reducing dependence on external expertise.

The establishment of the Bomassa rehabilitation center marks an important evolution in NNNP's mandate. By integrating the care of seized animals, the park expands its role in combating wildlife trafficking, strengthening its credibility as an actor committed to fighting environmental crime.

Conclusion

The results of 2025 demonstrate that science is an essential pillar of conservation, even under financial constraint. For international donors, supporting research at

NNNP represents a high-leverage investment, transforming resources into measurable and lasting impacts. Within the TNS context, research is not a cost: it is an impact multiplier that guarantees the overall performance of conservation investments.

Ecotourism in TNS(TNS) in 2025

In 2025, ecotourism in the Sangha Tri-National (TNS) landscape evolved within a contrasting environment, marked both by significant structural constraints and by a notable adaptive capacity of the protected areas. Challenges included access difficulties linked to hydrological conditions in the Central African Republic, abrupt funding interruptions in Congo, and the need to revive certain infrastructures. Faced with these pressures, the three parks adjusted their strategies. Despite the constraints, ecotourism activities were maintained, with particular emphasis on rehabilitating existing sites, ensuring continuity of visitor services, and strengthening visibility at both national and international levels.

At the same time, a more structured dynamic emerged, built on diversifying the tourism offer, fostering community engagement, and promoting cultural values. Lobéké National Park consolidated its positioning through major regional events such as the Baka-Bantu Festival, while Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park initiated a shift toward a more participatory model rooted in local initiatives. In the APDS, efforts focused on enhancing visitor experience and promoting the site internationally.

This convergence of approaches is gradually shaping a resilient ecotourism model that integrates conservation, local development, and cross-border cooperation, despite a still fragile context.

+800
visitors
received

02
new gorilla
groups
habituated

+30
carcasses
analysed

01
visit by a
President of
the Republic



LOBÉKÉ NATIONAL PARK



A strengthened dynamic serving the park's attractiveness

A Reinforced Dynamic to Enhance the Park's Attractiveness In 2025, Lobéké National Park significantly strengthened its efforts in tourism, communication, and cultural promotion, with the long-term goal of positioning itself as a leading ecotourism destination within the Sangha Tri-National (TNS) landscape. This dynamic is part of an integrated approach combining promotion, structuring of the tourism offer, and mobilization of local stakeholders, with particular attention to the transboundary dimension.

Baka-Bantu Festival: A Driver of Cultural Promotion and Regional Integration

The Baka-Bantu Festival (Festibaba), held between July and August 2025, was one of the year's highlights. The event brought together more than 400 participants, including delegations from the Central African Republic and Congo, illustrating the park's potential as a cultural convergence space within the TNS. Beyond its festive dimension, the festival served as a strategic platform to promote ecotourism. A dedicated workshop gathered village

chiefs, the Regional Tourism Council, and regional and departmental delegations, addressing opportunities for ecotourism development, particularly in its cross-border dimension. The conclusions were shared with a broad audience, mobilizing nearly 300 people from localities between Salapoumbé and Moloundou. The festival thus reinforced cultural exchanges, promoted traditional knowledge, and consolidated community involvement in conservation and sustainable development.

Structuring the Ecotourism Offer and Reviving Infrastructure

Significant progress was also made in structuring the ecotourism offer, notably through the rehabilitation of the Djembé visitor site. The preparation and submission of the Tender Document (DAO) marked a key step toward reviving ecotourism accommodation in this strategic area, known for its logistical role and attractiveness potential. This initiative reflects a broader effort to strengthen tourism infrastructure, essential for improving visitor experience and increasing the park's hosting capacity.

Community Mobilization and Environmental Awareness

The year 2025 was marked by strong mobilization around international days, including International Women's Day, International Day of Forests, and World Environment Day, which brought together more than 200 participants for awareness and reforestation activities. Other major events contributed to this dynamic, such as International Workers' Day, which mobilized around 40 participants from eco-guards, WWF, ASMO, and COVILAB, strengthening collaboration among stakeholders. The International Day of Indigenous Peoples (JIPAU) gathered nearly 200 participants, highlighting traditions, knowledge, and the central role of indigenous communities in conservation. World Ranger Day was celebrated through communication campaigns on social media, showcasing the essential role of eco-guards in protecting natural resources and enhancing their recognition.

Strengthening Communication and National Visibility

On the communication front, several structuring initiatives were implemented to improve the park's visibility nationally and internationally. The development of the official website — www.parcnationallobeke.org — marked a major step in digitalizing institutional communication. In parallel, the park's digital platforms (Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, YouTube) were energized, expanding audience reach and engagement around conservation activities. Monthly newsletters were produced consistently throughout the year, ensuring regular and struc-

tured communication. Promotional materials were also produced, including over 100 embroidered polos, 320 printed t-shirts, 100 badges and lanyards, 300 personalized pens, and two roll-ups, reinforcing the park's image during events and field activities. A visit by CRTL led to the production of a nationally broadcast documentary, offering significant visibility for the park's actions and strengthening its reputation among the general public.

Towards a Sustainable and Inclusive Ecotourism Model

All actions undertaken in 2025 reflect Lobéké National Park's

growing momentum in tourism and communication. By combining cultural promotion, structuring of the tourism offer, community mobilization, and enhanced visibility, the park is laying the foundations of a sustainable ecotourism model. This model rests on a clear articulation between biodiversity conservation, local economic development, and regional integration. It positions the park not only as a protected area but also as a territory of value, capable of attracting visitors, mobilizing partners, and generating positive impacts for communities.

PARC NATIONAL DE
NOUABALÉ-NDOKI 

A sector severely affected by the budget crisis

Le dos argenté du
groupe nouvellement
habitué à Mondika
(©P. Zoubek/WCS)

A Sector Severely Affected by the Budget Crisis

The tourism department of Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park (NNNP) was among the hardest hit by the suspension of U.S. funding in 2025. As early as late January, all training activities were halted by order of USAID, and the American project was officially discontinued in February before being closed in May. This abrupt interruption led to the suspension of two major construction projects — Ngolio Camp and the rehabilitation of the Mbeli Bai observation platform — as well as the cancellation of all planned capacity-building initiatives for tourism staff and local communities.

A meeting was held at the end of January with the community to explain the suspension of activities and its causes. Despite this difficult context, most of the department's staff were retained, and the team demonstrated adaptability by reorienting its strategy.

A New Approach: Fewer Infrastructures, More Community Participation

Faced with financial constraints, the tourism team chose to adopt an approach less dependent on large infrastructure projects, focusing instead on direct community involvement. The Village Development Fund (VDF) was identified as the main tool to advance in this direction, supporting income-generating microprojects initiated by local residents.

Several meetings were organized throughout the year with the communities of Bomassa and Makao to co-design this new approach. Participants submitted a large number of concrete proposals: 174 micro-project proposals in Bomassa and 79 in Makao, grouped into four main categories — agro-pastoral projects, service provision, small trade, and small-scale fishing.

In parallel, the park submit-

ted two funding proposals to donors for the implementation of tourism infrastructure projects at Mbeli and Wali Bai, as well as other developments in the park, with the aim of resuming investments once resources become available.

134 Tourists Welcomed and \$40,000 in Revenue Generated Despite the absence of dedicated tourism funding, the park continued to welcome visitors. In 2025, NNNP and its surrounding sites received 134 tourists. Since July, these visits generated approximately USD 40,000 (CFA 24 million), mainly from park entry fees, gorilla viewing permits, and visits to Wali Bai.

Revenue distribution follows clear rules: 70% of entry fees go to the Congolese Wildlife and Protected Areas Agency (ACFAP), while 30% go to the park. In contrast, 100% of gorilla viewing permit revenues are retained by the park, directly covering salaries of tourist guides and gorilla

trackers.

Additionally, in 2025, the park issued 243 TNS tourist badges to visitors traveling from Congo to neighboring protected areas — APDS in the Central African Republic or Lobéké National Park in Cameroon — allowing them to move freely between the TNS parks without additional visas.

Presence on the National and International Tourism Scene
In 2025, aware that visibility is a key lever to attract visitors and partners, the NNNP tourism team participated in several carefully selected promotional events. In January, the tourism development officer represented the park at the International Tourism Fair (FITUR) in Madrid, presenting the tourism assets of NNNP, TNS, and Congo to about fifty sector professionals. She established contacts with ten travel agencies and held discussions with the Congolese Minister of Tourism on development prospects.

On the national stage, two team members took part in November in the first edition of the Nabemba Tourism

Expo in Brazzaville, a fair dedicated to tourism in Central Africa. The project manager participated in a panel on sustainable tourism alongside the Minister of Forest Economy, offering the park a valuable platform to assert its positioning in the regional tourism landscape.

Beyond professional fairs, the team also highlighted the cultural and community dimension of the territory. In August, it accompanied thirteen members of the Lih Ngolio association to the Baaka-Bantu Festival (FestiBaBa) organized at Lobéké National Park in Cameroon. The delegation won the Conservator's Prize and gave interviews to two Cameroonian television channels, CRTV and Canal2, concretely illustrating the vitality of the partnership between local communities and NNNP.

An Intact Ambition Despite Obstacles

The 2025 tourism record reflects a sector under strain but not resigned. The absence of dedicated funding did not prevent the park from maintaining its attractive-

ness, generating revenue, and strengthening its presence on the international stage. The shift toward a more participatory community approach, supported by the VDF, opens promising prospects for building more autonomous and resilient local tourism.

Tourism remains a sustainable source of funding identified as a priority for the park's future. The resumption of infrastructure projects — Ngolio Camp, Mbeli Bai, Wali Bai — once funds are available, combined with the emergence of microprojects led by the communities themselves, outlines a model of community-based tourism that could, in time, reduce the park's dependence on external funding and strengthen local populations' long-term commitment to conservation.

DZANGA SANGHA
PROTECTED AREAS



Ecotourism and Enhanced Visibility.

Ecotourism and Enhanced Visibility

In the Sangha Tri-National landscape, ecotourism represents a strategic lever at the intersection of biodiversity conservation and the socio-economic development of local communities. In 2025, the Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas (APDS) operated in a particularly demanding context, marked by the loss of habituated gorilla groups, environmental constraints, and logistical disruptions. Despite these challenges, the combined efforts of field teams, authorities, and partners initiated a gradual recovery of the sector, laying the foundations for a more resilient and diversified model

This dynamic translated into significant progress in tourism offerings, international promotion, and economic performance. It illustrates the APDS's ability to transform a structural crisis into an opportunity for strategic repositioning, drawing on innovation, local expertise, and community integration within the ecotourism value chain.

A Recovery Structured Around Gorilla Habituation

One of the year's major milestones was the official opening

of the "Limo" gorilla group to visitors in July 2025. This achievement marked a decisive turning point for ecotourism recovery in the APDS, after several years of losing habituated groups and halting gorilla visits. The habituation of this new group in just two years – compared to the average three to five years – highlights the expertise of field teams, many of whom are Ba'Aka trackers. Beyond the technical success, this advance restored a flagship tourism product, essential for site attractiveness and revenue generation, while rebuilding confidence among tour operators and visitors.

Institutional Strengthening and Strategic Repositioning

The recovery of ecotourism was accompanied by institutional reinforcement, notably through the appointment of new staff at the Tourist Reception Center. This development improved sector governance, optimized activity coordination, and further professionalized visitor services. The year also saw several high-level visits by national authorities and international partners, boosting the political visibility of the APDS and consolidating their positioning as a strategic destination for ecotourism and conservation in

Central Africa.

Cultural Promotion and International Outreach

The APDS intensified promotion efforts through cultural, media, and digital initiatives. Participation in the fourth edition of the Ba'Aka-Bantu Festival (FESTIBA-BA) in Cameroon was a highlight, showcasing the cultural heritage of indigenous and Bantu communities within the TNS landscape. The event strengthened community ties and promoted an integrated vision of ecotourism rooted in local knowledge and traditions.

In parallel, the APDS hosted several film crews and audiovisual productions, contributing to international visibility. The series *The Guardians*, highlighting the role of eco-guards and local communities, along with documentaries on pygmy peoples and the One Health approach, expanded the site's global reach. This strategy was reinforced by an increased presence on social media, reaching over 106,000 people on Instagram and building a steadily growing community.

Improved Infrastructure and Visitor Experience

Targeted investments improved

688

visitors
received

+30

nationalities
received

529,5 M

tourism
revenue

106 474

Organic views
on Instagram

02

Organic
views on
Instagram

the quality of services and visitor experience. At Doli Lodge, the main accommodation hub, rehabilitation works strengthened safety, particularly through consolidation of the retaining wall affected by rising waters of the Sangha River. Upgrades were also made to bungalows, common areas, and landscaping, in line with ecological principles.

Maintenance and development of tourism infrastructure — including hiking trails and river circuits — diversified activities and improved site accessibility. The construction of footbridges and clearing of waterways enhanced visitor safety while facilitating wildlife and landscape observation.

Tourism Performance and Economic Contribution

Despite constraints, including low water levels in the Sangha River disrupting navigation, APDS tourism performance demonstrated notable resilience. In 2025, the site welcomed 688 visitors from around 30 nationalities, generating a total of 2,547 overnight stays. These results reflect a gradual recovery in visitation, though still below the site's potential.

Ecotourism revenues reached 529.5 million CFA francs (approximately €808,456), driven mainly by three segments: accommodation (notably at Doli Lodge), park activities (including gorilla and elephant viewing), and air transport, which together

accounted for more than 76% of revenues. This structure confirms the centrality of flagship products in the APDS economic model, while highlighting the growing contribution of community-based activities — particularly those led by the Ba'Aka — to revenue diversification and local anchoring of ecotourism.

A Model Consolidating Amid Challenges

Ecotourism in the APDS in 2025 illustrates a model in transition, characterized by consolidation and adaptation in the face of structural challenges. Dependence on key products, vulnerability to environmental variability, and accessibility constraints remain major issues.

In this context, continued diversification of the tourism offer, strengthening of local capacities, and ongoing infrastructure improvements emerge as strategic priorities. The challenge for the coming years will be to transform this recovery phase into sustainable and inclusive growth, capable of generating tangible benefits for biodiversity conservation and the well-being of local communities.

TNS Infrastructures in 2025

In 2025, the infrastructure and logistics component of the Sangha Tri-National (TNS) landscape demonstrated notable operational robustness despite a highly constrained environment. At Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park, continuity of operations was ensured despite recurring fuel shortages and reduced activity levels, with 1,329 missions maintained across road and river routes. This performance was underpinned by rigorous priority management, optimization of the vehicle fleet (88% availability), and a structured maintenance effort. At the same time, targeted investments in infrastructure and energy – notably the reinforcement of solar systems covering up to 95% of needs – consolidated the resilience of operational bases and improved working conditions for teams.

At the TNS scale, observed dynamics confirm a gradual transformation

toward more integrated, digitalized, and sustainable systems. The introduction of stock management tools, modernization of equipment, and structural investments across the three sites strengthened the overall efficiency of the logistics chain. In the APDS, more than 200 projects were launched (CFA 1.2 billion), accompanied by major advances in social, energy, and mobility infrastructure. Meanwhile, Lobéké National Park consolidated its capacities with critical infrastructure such as the eco-guard camp (98% completed) and improvements to strategic access routes.

Together, these results illustrate a shift toward a more resilient logistics system, capable of supporting conservation operations and cross-border activities, despite a still fragile context.

+222M

FCFA injected
into the local
economy

+200

FCFA injected
into the local
economy

+10

new
vehicles

+700

jobs
created

01

Community
solar power
plant under
construction





DZANGA SANGHA PROTECTED AREAS

Reinforcing the Logistics System and Infrastructure of the APDS in 2025

Strengthening Logistics and Infrastructure in the APDS in 2025 In 2025, the Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas (APDS) continued to reinforce their logistics systems and infrastructure in a context of intensified field activities. A total of 200 projects were undertaken during the year, with an overall progress rate of 65% and an estimated value of approximately CFA 1.2 billion. These investments significantly improved the site's operational capacities while generating tangible economic benefits for local communities.

Progress in Key Infrastructure Projects

More than 37 major projects recorded significant advances. Among them, the rehabilitation of the Kongana training camp reached 57% completion. In the accommodation sector, two new

staff houses for WWF personnel were completed, while construction of two new bungalows at Doli Lodge was launched to strengthen tourism capacity. The technical building for the garage – including changing rooms, solar plant equipment, and administrative archives – reached 90% completion.

Social infrastructure also benefited from major investments. The completion of the hospitalization building at Bayanga's secondary hospital was one of the year's most notable achievements. Equipped with pediatric and neonatal services, a 100-seat training room, and a 12-bed internal medicine unit, the facility was financed with FTNS support and officially inaugurated in November by the President of the Republic.

Solar Energy: A Lever for Oper-

ational Sovereignty

Advances in the Bayanga hybrid solar power plant represented another structural milestone. By year-end, the project had reached 50% completion, with installed equipment including an 81 kWp solar array, 50 kVA solar inverters, 36 kVA battery inverters, and an 88 kVA back-up generator. Remaining steps include solar field cabling, installation of approximately 4.5 km of high- and low-voltage lines, seven transformers, and commissioning tests. Once completed, this infrastructure will reduce dependence on fossil fuels and secure the electricity supply for operations.

Logistics and Mobility: Reinforced Systems

Logistics systems saw several notable improvements. The installation of an electric fuel

distribution pump connected to a 30,000-liter tank secured and optimized fuel supply for field operations. A shared database with Bangui logistics was introduced to improve procurement and stock management, complemented by a general physical inventory of assets.

On land mobility, six new field vehicles were acquired to support activities across departments — management, tourism, protection and surveillance, and the Monasao reforestation project. These acquisitions strengthened team capacity in a difficult-to-access territory. Rehabilitation of the Kongana and Libwé tracks further improved accessibility, mobilizing local labor including Ba'Aka youth.

Air mobility also played a key role: 92 chartered flights were conducted during the year, transporting 1,409 people between Bangui and Bayanga, including staff, mission participants, tourists, and supplies.

Digital Modernization and Information Systems

The APDS initiated modernization of IT and communication tools. The IT inventory included 44 computers and 6 printers, with 95% of workstations migrated to Microsoft 365, strengthening management and internal communication capacities. Fiber optic

deployment began in Bayanga, while a local stock management application reached 70% completion.

Rising Energy Consumption:

A Reflection of Expansion
Operational intensification led to a significant increase in fuel demand. In 2025, 48,750 liters of diesel were consumed — a 48.3% rise compared to 2023 — along with 26,655 liters of gasoline. Diesel consumption distribution reflected operational priorities: 38.9% for protection and surveillance, 28.5% for logistics, 19.8% for natural resource management, and 9.5% for development activities. A loss of 9,200 liters was recorded following two tanker accidents on the Bangui-Bayanga axis.

Significant Local Economic Impact

Beyond operational dimensions, logistics and infrastructure activities generated concrete economic benefits. A total of CFA 220,208,154 was injected into the local economy through contracts awarded to national and local companies, mobilizing 159 skilled workers and 399 unskilled workers.

These results confirm that investment in logistics and infrastructure is not only an operational necessity — it is also a lever for local devel-

opment and a key factor in the sustainability of APDS conservation efforts. Continued reinforcement will remain essential to support activity expansion and ensure operational efficiency in the years ahead.

INFRASTRUCTURES

LOBÉKÉ NATIONAL PARK

Strengthening the Operational Capacities of the Park

Consolidation of the Park's Operational Capacities
In 2025, Lobéké National Park (PNL) pursued a structured program to strengthen its infrastructure and equipment, positioned as a central lever to improve the operational efficiency of conservation activities. Faced with growing pressures on forest ecosystems, these investments aimed to optimize staff working conditions, reinforce team mobility, and enhance the overall functionality of the management system. The approach combined fixed infrastructure, territorial accessibility, and logistical capacities, thereby consolidating the park's entire operational chain.

Modernization of Infrastructure: Improving Working Conditions

Significant progress was achieved in modernizing facilities. The completion of a water treatment station linked to the garage and a modern laundry facility represents a structural gain, enabling

autonomous and sustainable operations while reducing medium-term maintenance costs. Two staff housing studios were also built and are nearing completion – in an isolated environment, improved living conditions are a decisive factor for motivation and staff retention. Construction of a new guardhouse strengthened access control and security capacities, while progress on the research laboratory reflects a commitment to consolidating the park's scientific capacities in support of biomonitoring activities.

The Eco-Guard Camp: A Frontline Operational Lever

The most significant achievement of the year was the near-completion of the new eco-guard camp, with a 98% completion rate. Designed as a strategic infrastructure, the camp integrates modern housing, adapted sanitary facilities, an autonomous water supply system, and spaces dedicated to team coordination.

In a context where eco-guards ensure continuous field presence, their living conditions directly influence operational effectiveness. This infrastructure addresses structural constraints linked to the precariousness of previous facilities: by reducing operational fatigue, strengthening staff motivation, and stabilizing teams over the long term, it helps maintain constant pressure on illegal activities. Practically, it facilitates rotation planning, reduces transit times, and increases patrol frequency and duration – with direct gains in territorial coverage and operational continuity.

Accessibility and Mobility: A Key Factor of Efficiency

Improving access routes was a priority in 2025 due to its direct impact on team deployment capacity. Rehabilitation of the Bollo-Djembé road was a major advance, facilitating access to strategic zones and improving connectivity

between operational posts. Beyond this main axis, more than 35 km of motorable tracks and 12 km of pedestrian trails were maintained in collaboration with local communities from Mambélé, using the labor-intensive HIMO approach – a method that combines infrastructure improvement with local job creation, reinforcing community ownership of conservation actions.

Targeted interventions addressed critical access constraints: three main bridges were rehabilitated, ensuring continuity of movement; the track linking Pont Cassé, Petite Savane, and Djangui (20 km) was reopened, facilitating access to strategic clearings for wildlife monitoring; and the road to Djaloumbe (32 km) was made passable through the creation of a bypass. These improvements directly reduced travel times, increased patrol frequency, and enhanced spatial coverage of surveillance activities.

Equipment: Strengthening Responsiveness and Coordination Complementing infrastructure, the park strengthened its logistical capacities through acquisition of field equipment, office materials, and transport means. Supplies

included headlamps, GPS devices, boots, brush cutters, and chainsaws – essential for forest operations. Acquisition of camera traps and an acoustic unit enhanced ecological monitoring and detection of illegal activities. At headquarters, new IT equipment improved planning, coordination, and operational monitoring. Logistically, new vehicles and motorcycles were acquired with support from technical and financial partners, reinforcing team mobility and rapid intervention capacity. Fuel supplies totaling 60,000 liters supported operations throughout the year.

Consolidated Operational Bases

The investments made in 2025 reflect a coherent strategy to strengthen Lobéké National Park's capacities. Beyond physical achievements, these actions produced direct and measurable effects on performance: improved working conditions, team stabilization, expanded operational coverage, and enhanced quality of interventions. This reinforced foundation is an essential prerequisite for effectively addressing conservation challenges and demonstrates the park's ability to translate

investments into concrete, measurable results on the ground.





NOUBALE-NDOKI NATIONAL PARC 

An Operational Pillar Under Pressure, Safeguarding Operational Continuity

A Heavily Solicited Logistics System in a Constrained Context

In 2025, logistics and infrastructure played a decisive role in ensuring the continuity of operations at Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park and, more broadly, across the Sangha Tri-National (TNS) landscape. In an environment marked by structural constraints — notably recurring fuel shortages and reduced activity linked to certain funding streams — the logistics department maintained essential missions, particularly those related to surveillance and territorial management.

Despite a decline of about 25% in the overall volume of missions compared to 2024, operations remained at a high level, with 1,329 missions carried out on road and river routes. This performance reflects operational adaptability in a context where resources were limited and priorities refocused on critical functions, notably law enforcement and patrols.

Capacity Building: Toward a More Structured and Digitalized Logistics System

Strengthening staff capacities was a priority, with three training sessions organized for 13 agents. These covered key skills such as leadership, mastery of digital tools (Microsoft Excel), and stock management. The introduction of an Excel-based stock monitoring system marked an important step

toward digitalizing logistics activities, shifting from manual to electronic tracking — a strategic lever for improving traceability, supply management, and operational responsiveness.

Mobility and Supply: Ensuring Continuity Despite Shortages

Operational logistics relied on significant fuel mobilization, with 58,600 liters of diesel and 13,200 liters of gasoline delivered during the year. In a national context of frequent supply disruptions, these volumes were essential to guarantee continuity of operations, particularly surveillance patrols. Missions covered a wide territorial network, including strategic axes linking park bases to urban centers and intervention zones, as well as river routes vital for accessing remote areas.

Fleet Management: A Pragmatic Approach Under Constraints

Maintaining an operational fleet was a central challenge in 2025. Through a strategy combining regular maintenance and optimization of existing resources, the park achieved an availability rate of 88%, supported by 76 weekly technical inspections and a structured maintenance program (services A, B, and C). The acquisition of two new Toyota Land Cruisers, with support from FTNS and the European Union, strengthened mobility capacities. In paral-

80,073

**littres of fuel
purchased**

06

**workers
lodging
constructed**

561

**equipment
purchase
orders**

05

**new
vehicles
acquired**

lel, an innovative refurbishment approach for older vehicles illustrated pragmatic and optimized resource management in a constrained environment.

Infrastructure and Energy: Improving Operational Conditions Maintenance efforts kept more than 80% of infrastructure functional, including renovations of key buildings at the Bomassa base and improvements to staff living conditions. Significant progress was also made in energy systems, with reinforcement of solar installations covering up to 95% of energy needs for main infrastructure. This transition toward greater energy autonomy is a key factor of resilience, particularly in isolated zones.

Tourism Facilities: Sustaining Visitor Activity

Despite overall constraints, visitor facilities ensured continuity of tourism activities, with 628 visitors hosted and 2,629 overnight stays recorded in 2025. These performances, generat-

ing revenues estimated at USD 45,000, confirm the strategic role of logistics in supporting income-generating activities.

Toward a More Resilient and Integrated Logistics System

The year 2025 highlights a gradual transformation of the logistics system toward a more structured, digitalized, and resilient model. In the face of external constraints, strategic choices – prioritizing critical missions, optimizing fleet management, strengthening capacities, and advancing energy transition – reflect a shift toward more efficient and sustainable management. In the medium term, consolidating these gains, combined with increased investment in infrastructure and logistics systems, will be decisive in sustaining all TNS operations.

BRIDGE TNS PROJECT

Building a Structured Cocoa Value Chain: Strong Foundations for Sustainable Growth

Between 2025, the BRIDGE-TNS project carried out a series of structuring interventions in the peripheral zones of Lobéké National Park, with the ambition of building a cocoa sector that is economically viable, socially inclusive, and respectful of forest ecosystems.

Cooperative Support Anchored in Local Territories

Five cooperatives — located in Nguilili, Yenga Centre, Mbateka, Dioula, and Salapoumbé — benefited from structured support covering internal organization, capacity building, and integration into formal economic circuits. Among the most emblematic advances was the creation in Dioula of the first exclusively female cooperative in the TNS landscape. Bringing together 25 founding members, this initiative marked a decisive step in mainstreaming gender within local economic dynamics: women are recognized not as passive beneficiaries, but as full actors of territorial development.

Expanded Access to Financial Services

The project facilitated the opening of 94 savings accounts and 2 current accounts for the cooperatives, marking for many their first entry into the formal banking system. The installation of Express Union microfinance services at the PACEBCO site — made possible through investments in electricity and internet connectivity — further strengthened the economic anchoring of the initiative in these remote areas, offering producers local access to financial services previously out of reach.

Capacity Building and Formalization of Partnerships

Capacity strengthening was another key axis. A workshop organized at the Regional College of Agriculture in Ebolowa deepened stakeholders' knowledge of sustainable cocoa production, processing, and marketing. These exchanges led to the signing of a tripartite agreement between the

College, Lobéké National Park, and the BRIDGE-FTNS project, giving formal grounding to collaborations that had previously operated informally.

A Value Chain Organized Around Sustainability

Mapping of 134 cocoa farms, establishment of production services with support from the NGO AAFEBEN, and the creation of a formal collaboration framework among value chain actors all represent advances that consolidate the foundations of an organized and traceable sector. These actions are embedded in a logic of preventing deforestation and protecting protected areas, affirming the project's central conviction: community prosperity and forest preservation are not antagonistic goals, but two pillars of the same development model.

134
mappings
carried out

01
agreement
signed with a
microfinance

05
cooperatives
Created





CAPRO TNS PROJECT

CAPRO-TNS Project: Integrating Cocoa, Science and Conservation in the Congo Basin

CAPRO-TNS Project: Cocoa, Science and Conservation at the Heart of the Congo Basin
In 2025, the CAPRO-TNS project marked a significant step in understanding the links between cocoa cultivation and forest conservation in the Sangha Tri-National (TNS). Deployed simultaneously in Cameroon, the Republic of Congo, and the Central African Republic, it stands as one of the most structured scientific initiatives on agricultural dynamics around protected areas of the Congo Basin.

Within this 44,000 km² forest landscape, classified as a UNESCO World Heritage site, exceptional biodiversity, rural communities, and growing pressures on natural resources coexist. The project's objective is clear: to generate reliable data to better understand how the cocoa

sector influences forests, local populations, and human-wildlife conflicts, in order to identify more sustainable production models.

A Harmonized Methodology Across Three Countries

The year began with a methodological workshop at the FTNS headquarters in Yaoundé in January 2025, bringing together researchers, cartographers, and technical partners. The aim was to finalize research protocols, harmonize data collection tools, and ensure comparability across the three countries. A preparatory mission in Ngoumou tested digital tools, notably the KoboCollect application, and trained teams in semi-structured interviews, focus groups, and botanical inventories in cocoa plantations.

Between January and May 2025, field missions were conducted in the three segments of the TNS — around Lobéké National Park in Cameroon, Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park in Congo, and the Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas in the Central African Republic. In total, 641 questionnaires, 253 individual interviews, and 36 focus groups were carried out in 23 villages. These data represent one of the most comprehensive knowledge bases ever produced on the interactions between cocoa cultivation and conservation in this landscape.

An Ambitious Ecological and Cartographic Component

Beyond socio-economic dimensions, the project integrated a strong spatial and ecological component. Landsat and Sentinel satellite imagery was used to analyze land-use changes

01

Postdoctoral
researcher
involved

06

students
involved

03

Transboundary
countries/
protected areas

23

villages
researched

641

Questionnaires
distributed

253

individual
interviews
carried out

12

Forest and
cocoa plots
identified

between 2015 and 2025, while forest plots measured biomass, biodiversity, and carbon stocks. Participatory mapping with local communities identified plantation expansion zones and wildlife corridors, combining scientific data with local knowledge to enhance the relevance of analyses.

Contrasting Realities Across Segments

Results varied significantly by country. In the Central African Republic, the cocoa sector remains fragile: limited technical support, weak organization, and strong pressures from human-wildlife conflicts. Producers reported repeated crop destruction by elephants and buffalo, with few effective mitigation mechanisms, revealing structural vulnerability of farming households.

In Congo, research around Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park confirmed that low productivity, limited access to finance, and insufficient technical training hinder sustainable cocoa development. Promising local initiatives have nevertheless emerged, such as the Elanga project's electric fences, which proved effective in reducing elephant damage and restoring community confidence.

Results as Decision-Making Tools

Preliminary data analysis, launched in April 2025, confirmed several structural trends common to all three segments: low cocoa productivity, insufficient mastery of technical practices, persistent gender inequalities in access to productive resources, and risks of uncontrolled agricultural expansion into forest zones. These findings are not seen as failures, but as concrete decision-making tools to guide future investments by FTNS and its partners.

To consolidate these analyses, a complementary mission was conducted in Cameroon between May and June 2025, collecting additional data from 160 producers, strengthening participatory mapping, and refining land-use classification through GPS surveys.

A Scientific Reference in the Making

By combining social sciences, ecology, remote sensing, and community participation, the CAPRO-TNS project is building a robust, transboundary knowledge base. It is emerging as a scientific reference on cocoa cultivation in tropical forest environments, serving a fundamental objective: reconciling rural development, agricultural sustainability, and the preservation of forest ecosystems in the Sangha Tri-National.

You too can contribute
to our mission

#SupportTNS

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€100 MILLION GOAL TO SAFEGUARD THE TNS!

With more than **18 years of experience** (2007–2025), the Sangha Tri-national Trust Fund (FTNS) provides approximately **€4 million** in annual financial support to the parks, funded through its endowment and sinking funds. However, this represents only about one-third of the operating budgets required by the three parks, which continue to face growing threats such as poaching and increasing demographic pressure.

To ensure the long-term sustainability of these protected areas, FTNS aims to increase its investment capital from **€60 million to €100 million**. Achieving this goal will enable the Foundation to generate annual returns capable of covering most of the operational needs of the parks within the Sangha Tri-national (TNS).

Contributing to the FTNS endowment means investing in the long-term protection of the Sangha Tri-national—one of the priority ecoregions of the Congo Basin, home to the world's second-largest tropical rainforest.



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