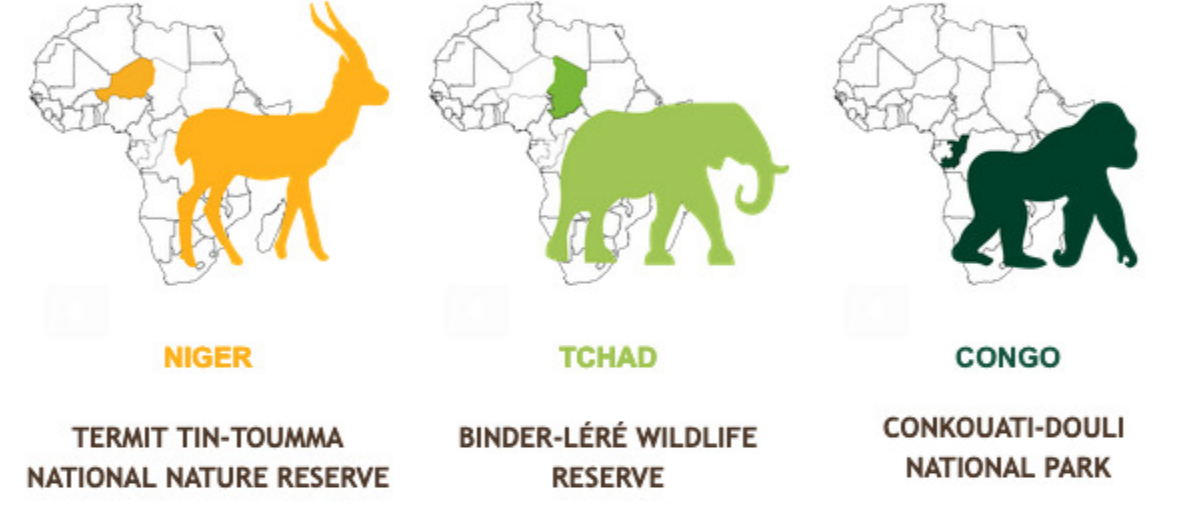




On January 26th the Minister of Industry Mr. Mallam Zaneidou Amrou visited the future headquarters of the reserve in the Termit Massif, in the heart of the Natural Reserve of Termit and Tin-Toumma in Niger.



## HIGHLIGHTS

With the Decree 2021-022/PRN/ME/SU/DD of January 8th, 2021, published in Niger's Official Gazette, the new boundaries of the Termit and Tin-Toumma Natural Reserve are defined, covering 90,507 km<sup>2</sup>, remaining the largest terrestrial protected area in Africa.

On January 26th, the Minister of Industry, acting for his counterpart of the Environment, came to appreciate with satisfaction the state of construction of the headquarters of the Termit Reserve located in the Termit Massif.

The Board of the Termit Reserve was held on January 19th in Niamey, chaired by the Secretary General of the Ministry in charge of the Environment. On this occasion, the 2020 balance sheet, the five-year business plan 2021-2025 and the annual work plan 2021 were approved.

The first Anti-poaching training for 15 agents of the Forest and Wildlife Guard of the Binder-Léré Wildlife Reserve ended on January 24th. The next course will begin on February 15 for the remaining 15 officers.

The monitoring device with 3 cameras trap in favorable locations throughout Binder Léré has been producing its first images of the reserve's wildlife: warthogs, baboons, patas monkeys, red-fronted gazelles, and a Roan antelope (see image opposite).

## PROGRESS PER SITE

### RESERVE OF TERMIT AND TIN TOUMMA

#### MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

- Work on the construction of the **Termit headquarters (8 buildings)** continues without interruption and was the subject of a ministerial visit on January 26th (see plan below).
- The **individual and collective equipment** for the field staff arrived at the headquarters: eight pallets were opened by the Minister himself.
- Two double-cabin Toyota Land Cruiser vehicles and four single-cabin Toyota Land Cruiser vehicles were purchased, increasing the fleet size to **14 vehicles for the reserve**.
- The new and old pick-up trucks were equipped with **rear seats** (6 seats for the "double cab" / 8 seats for the "single cab") while strengthening the bumpers.
- Measures to combat the spread of the covid-19 virus have been put in place in all workplaces in Niger.

#### LAW ENFORCEMENT

- The Ministry of Water and Forests assigned **20 weapons and 1,000 rounds of ammunition** to the Termit Reserve, which were transported to Zinder.
- A total of **150 man-days of patrols** were carried out, in close collaboration with the Regional Environmental Directorate of Zinder and the Departmental Directorates of Tesker and Tanout.

#### BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

- The evaluation of the reserve management effectiveness is underway using the **IMET (Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool)** with the help of an expert currently in Zinder.

#### COMMUNITIES & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- The Board of the Reserve was held on January 19 at the **Radisson Blue Hotel** in Niamey validating the five-year business plan 2021-2025 and the annual work plan 2021.
- The new boundaries of the reserve were recognized by decree on January 8, 2021, encompassing **90,507 km<sup>2</sup>**, remaining the largest terrestrial protected area in Africa.



Above is the plan for the future headquarters in the Termit Massif in Niger.

### BINDER LÉRE WILDLIFE RESERVE

#### MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

- François Guillet, the future coordinator of the Binder-Léré program has signed his contract and will join the team on the ground in Chad in February.
- Work has been carried out to **improve the Binder base** (kitchen area, storage room, etc.).

#### LAW ENFORCEMENT

- A new **autonomous patrol** was carried out (**10 men/days**) to continue to test the skills of the agents who completed the Law Enforcement training.
- The first Law Enforcement training course ended on January 24. A total of **240 hours of training** were provided to Binder's GFF (*Garde Fannique et Forestière*) agents over 6 weeks. The next course will begin on February 15 for the remaining officers (15 new people).
- **Internet access** was provided to the Wildlife Directorate (DFAP) in Binder, to improve communications and coordination with the central government in the capital (NDjamena).
- Thanks to the efforts of the field staff, a **carcass of a poached Derby** was discovered in the periphery of the reserve, most likely coming from Cameroon or Sena Oure Protected Area in Chad. This shows the great mobility of this species as well as its vulnerability. The Binder-Léré Reserve could constitute a **refuge area for the survival of this emblematic species**, as the habitat is favourable.

#### BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

- An **anesthetic gun** has been received, essential for the **elephant collaring** operation scheduled for April.
- The **fauna inventory system using camera traps** continues to be tested in strategic places in the reserve, giving the first wildlife images: warthogs, baboons, patas monkeys, red-fronted gazelles and Roan antelope.
- Additional equipment has been acquired to reinforce the camera trap system (**50 cards and cases**).
- A total of **19 hours of flight** were flown in January covering a distance of **2,810 km**. 2 groups of elephants, 2 ostriches, 1 roan antelope, 2 patas monkeys and 3 herds of cattle were observed in the Reserve during these flights.

### FOCUS SUR UNE ESPÈCE EN DANGER

#### L'HIPPOTRAGUE ROUANNE (*Hippotragus equinus*)

The Hippotragus (*Hippotragus equinus*) or Roan antelope, is a herbivorous mammal of the bovine family, belonging to the same genus as the sable antelope and extinct bluebuck. It is also called "horse antelope" for its robust appearance and mane, reminiscent of an equine. It is the second largest antelope after the Derby island. It lives in Central, Eastern and Southern Africa. Its horns measure between 55 and 99 cm.



Its coat is sandy tawny to dark russet, with white underside. Its face has contrasting black and white markings (which has probably inspired many african masks). Both sexes have black rimmed horns curved backwards, especially in the male. Roan antelopes weigh on average between 200 and 270 kg, the male being heavier than the female. It normally lives between 15 and 20 years, and feeds mainly on grass.

It is active in the morning and evening, retreating to isolated areas during the hottest hours of the day.

Lions, hyenas, wild dogs and leopards, can attack these hardy antelopes, but they are very powerful, and do not hesitate to charge. Moreover, they can run fast (55 km/h), to escape from their predators.

The roan antelope is a **threatened species** (IUCN status of minor concern) which may be close to extinction in some countries (Kenya or Mauritania) due to intensive hunting and destruction of its habitat. The Roan antelope finds refuge mainly in national parks and nature reserves, such as Binder-Léré in Chad.

### CONKOUATI-DOULI NATIONAL PARK

- Following the joint drafting with the **Congolese Government of the Partnership Agreement for the Management of the Conkouati-Douli National Park**, the latter was submitted for validation to both parties.

### PARCS DE NOÉ EVOLUTION

Jaime Dias, whose role as coordinator has been crucial in reaching the current stage of the Binder-Léré program, is flying towards new horizons, putting his experience (overflights and aerial support, inventories and counts, etc.) at the service of Chad's conservation actors through his Wings for Conservation Foundation. We will continue to collaborate on conservation operations, including the next one: the installation of collars on the reserve's elephants.

François Guillet has been recruited as the new Coordinator of the Binder-Léré program in Chad, bringing 20 years of African experience and immersion in conservation issues to which he has decided to dedicate his life. He will arrive in the field in February to take over from Jaime Dias.

Welcome!

#### THE CONSERVATION ACTORS

##### MAMAN BANANI

Maman Banani has been in charge of ecological monitoring of wildlife in the Termit and Tin-Toumma Nature Reserve in Niger since 2017. In other words, wildlife monitoring missions in the reserve, with what they involve in terms of preparation and monitoring, are part of her daily life. Born in Hawendaki in 1986, Maman studied conservation-related studies up to a university master's degree, and did not forget his experience as a primary and secondary school teacher.

**What do you like most about your work?**  
 It is the observation of a **gradual return** of the population of certain critically endangered species such as addax, as shown by the results of our latest missions: 3 individuals directly observed in 2016, 6 in 2017, a group of 9 and one of 6 including 4 youngsters in 2018, a group of 10 in 2019, tracks of a group of 12 individuals and direct observation of a youngster of less than 3 months in 2020.

**Do you have an anecdote?**  
 One day we were coming from Tin Toumma, and one of our vehicles had fallen into a ditch. We suffered a lot before getting it out of there. We were in the middle of work, a member of the mission lifted his head and said to his friend: "Listen my friends, don't film me because if my mother ever sees this, she will never let me set foot in this reserve again!"

#### MINISTERIAL VISIT TO THE HEADQUARTERS

**UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN THE HEART OF THE RESERVE**  
 With thanks to the *Office de Radiodiffusion Télévision du Niger* for these report excerpts

