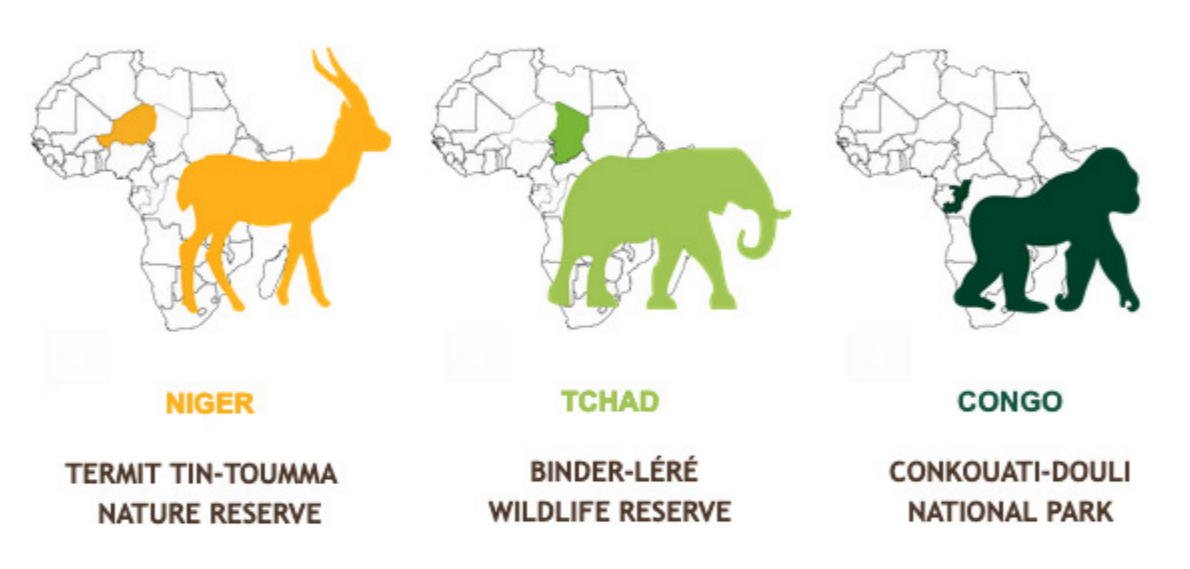




This month, the first patrols of the recently trained agents in the Binder-Léré Wildlife Reserve in Chad resulted in: arrest of 3 poachers, 3 herdsmen and 15 fishermen, seizure of 5 edged weapons, 9 pirogues, 24 fishing gears, 1 jaw trap and 120 kg of fish.



HIGHLIGHTS

- On February 15, the first IMET assessment workshop was held in Zinder, facilitated by an expert and attended by the management team. This tool evaluates the management effectiveness of protected areas, providing data that can describe and quantify the environment and its evolution.
- A mission to raise awareness of oral health care in the department of Aderbissinat offered an opportunity to ensure dental care for the inhabitants of the Reserve of Termit and Tin-Toumma, and raise awareness on the need for tooth brushing as well.
- The second anti-poaching training course has been going on since February 15 for the second group of 15 agents of the Binder-Léré Wildlife Reserve. The agents of the first training course started the first patrols in the reserve in the meantime.
- The Binder airstrip has been rehabilitated and enlarged to 745m as part of the upcoming elephant collar operation. Although it still needs to be expanded, it already offers better logistical conditions for aircraft and ULM's needed for aerial surveillance.

PROGRESS PER SITE

TERMIT TIN-TOUMMA NATURE RESERVE

MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- The analysis of the water produced by the new water pump at HQ in the Termit massif show conformity with the WHO standard. These analyses were consequently submitted to a French laboratory which declared the water also perfectly potable.
- A committee from the reserve visited the customary authority of the Sultan of Damagaram in Zinder.
- Construction of the Head Quarters continues, with completion scheduled for late April.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Several training patrols were conducted with the new recruits.
- Jean-Luc Jamin, anti-poaching expert (LAB), carried out a mission in the reserve to advise on the organization, LAB strategy and the security of infrastructures and personnel.
- In total, 200 man-days of patrols were carried out, including several road checks on the periphery of the reserve, in close collaboration with the Departmental Environment Directorate of Tscher, Ténout and N'Gourti, as well as the Regional Environment Directorate of Zinder.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

- An ecological monitoring mission took place from 16 to 25 February. While no direct or indirect observations of addax were possible (due to strong winds during the mission), no evidence of poaching was found in this habitat, which was identified as favorable for this species.
- The first IMET (Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool) evaluation workshop was held on February 15 in Zinder, facilitated by an expert and attended by the management team.

Above: The Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) generates data describing and quantifying the evolution of a protected area. The figure above shows the thematic scores that will be used as a baseline to quantify the improvement of the reserve's management.

COMMUNITIES & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- An oral health awareness mission took place from February 3 to 12 in the department of Aderbissinat.
- A total of 200 man-days of community patrols were carried out to support security, intelligence and sensitization of the population.

BINDER LÉRE WILDLIFE RESERVE

GESTION & INFRASTRUCTURES

- The new Binder-Léré Coordinator in Chad, François Guillet, arrived in the field on February 18 to assume his duties.
- The 2021 annual work plan for the Binder-Léré program was presented at the Provincial Committee for the Environment, which was organized and chaired by the Governor of the Mayo-Kebbi West Province.
- In total 745m of airstrip were built in Binder to facilitate the elephant collaring operation next March.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

- On February 15th, the second anti-poaching training course for the 15 agents of the Water and Forestry Command Corps (CCEF) of the Binder-Léré Wildlife Reserve began.
- The first results in the fight against poaching were presented by our expert, Daniel Bost, during a meeting organized by the Governor of the province.
- A total of 50 uniforms were purchased for the CCEF (Water and Forestry Command Corps) field agents.
- A total of 129 man-days of patrols were carried out this month by CCEF agents, resulting in the arrest of 3 poachers, 3 herdsmen and 15 fishermen, as well as the seizure of 5 edged weapons, 9 pirogues, 24 fishing gear, 1 leghold trap and 120 kg of fish.

Assessment of Anti-Poaching Efforts

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

- The collars, the anaesthetic gun for the veterinarian, the communication stations, and the equipment needed for the installation of the elephant collars were sent to Binder.
- The draft law creating the Zah Soo National Park was submitted by the Ministry of Environment and Fisheries to the Secretariat General of the Presidency of Chad to launch the consultation at the Ministers' home for the promulgation of the draft law.
- An aerial count of waterbirds in Lakes Léré and Tréné was organized by the French Office of Biodiversity (OFB) as part of the monitoring of migratory birds in Chad. Two groups of 20 individuals of *Sternula albifrons guineae* were among the notable observations.



Below: *sternula albifrons guineae*, present species in Tchad.

FOCUS ON AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

MANATEE (*Trichechus*)

Manatees (*Trichechus*) are a genus of large herbivorous aquatic mammals with tapered bodies, living in shallow coastal waters, in lagoons or river mouths and coastal marshes of the tropical Atlantic Ocean. They are peaceful animals that need water of at least 20°C to live. Their large snout and their feeding habits (grazing) sometimes earn them the nickname "sea cows".

Manatees range in mass from 400 to 550 kg, with a length of 2.5 to 3 m; females tend to be larger and heavier. Manatees are exclusively herbivorous, non-ruminant, and consume floating or submerged plants. A manatee can eat up to 50 kg of plants per day. Their very flexible, prehensile upper lip is used to collect food for eating, as well as for social interaction and communication.

Although it is diurnal, it seems to feed only at night. The plants it consumes often contain silica, which causes tooth abrasion. This phenomenon is compensated by the permanent renewal of the manatee's teeth. The animal has nostrils at the top of its head. It can then breathe without being noticed.

There are four species of manatees, only one of which is represented on the African continent and considered vulnerable (VU) by the IUCN: the African manatee or *Trichechus senegalensis*. This manatee inhabits the western coast of Africa and the hydrographic network of all West Africa up to Chad, as in the lakes Léré and Tréné of the Binder-Léré Wildlife Reserve, where it is called "ayu".

CONKOUATI-DOULI NATIONAL PARK

- A formal invitation has been received for the signing in April 2021 of the Partnership Agreement with the congolese government.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Julie Lapka and Arthur Gayat joined us at Noé's Paris headquarters this February, respectively as Accounting and HR Manager and Accounting and HR Management Assistant.

Welcome!

THE CONSERVATION ACTORS

IBRAHIM NAKATA BELLO

Ibrahim Nakata BELLO is Deputy Director of the Termit and Tin-Toumma Nature Reserve in Niger. He was born and raised in Zinder. He studied environmental management and then specialized in the management of protected areas at the Garoua Wildlife School in Cameroon. He then continued his studies with a master 2 in biodiversity management at the University of Calavi in Benin. He is a Colonel of Water and Forests and a member of the family of the Sultan of Zinder.

Ibrahim could have had a quiet life as a notable. Instead, he chose to serve biodiversity in the remotest corners of Niger, because of his strong sense of common interest and public service.

What do you like most about your job?

« In this professional field, everything is interesting because of the service rendered to humanity! I feel like a protector of these resources that are threatened everywhere. What I like most is to transmit and share my conviction as a defender of nature on a daily basis, in order to perpetuate an elite corps in the service of conservation. I have trained many people, as desired, to ensure a safe succession to this day, and can therefore die at ease ».

Do you have a story to tell as a conservationist?

« The moment that marked me the most was when, during an anti-poaching mission in the "M" park in Niger, I was confronted with a poacher who was cutting up a pregnant female roan antelope that was holding a baby. That day, I could not hold back my tears. The poacher was sentenced to a fine and three months in prison ».

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