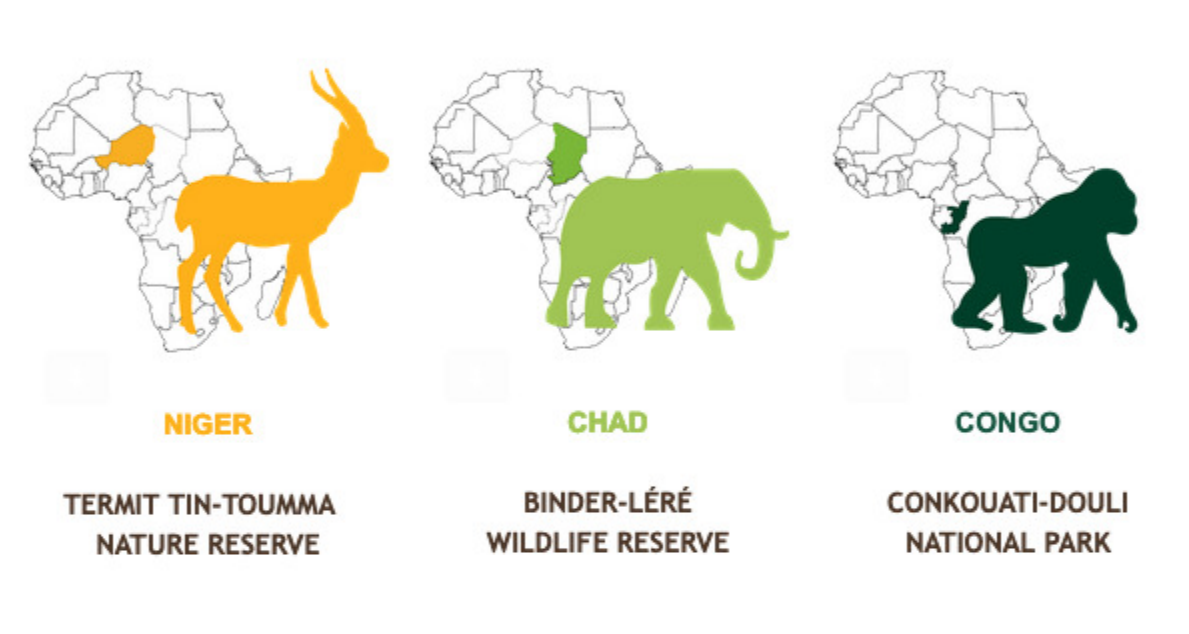




TCHAD : COLLARS PLACED ON 4 ELEPHANTS

IN TCHAD

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2021



NIGER
TERMIT TIN-TOUMMA NATURE RESERVE

CHAD
BINDER-LÉRÉ WILDLIFE RESERVE

CONGO
CONKOUATI-DOULI NATIONAL PARK

HIGHLIGHTS

-  From March 8 to 11, an elephants collaring operation took place in the Binder-Léré Wildlife Reserve in Chad. A total of 4 pachyderms were equipped with these GPS devices, allowing to follow their movements permanently, and therefore improving their security.
-  End of the second two weeks anti-poaching training course for the second group of 15 agents of the Binder-Léré Wildlife Reserve. The final exam was successful for all the beneficiaries, who will therefore be able to start patrolling with the 14 agents already trained.
-  The Director of the Termit and Tin-Toumma Reserve was trained by Sunbirds in Toulouse on the use of the recently acquired solar drone. In the sunlit Sahara, the device can stay in the air for a long time, and its flight plan is programmable, thus offering a surveillance (photographic coverage) of large areas.
-  Launch of the deworming and vaccination campaign for livestock (cattle, sheep, goats) in Malounga, with the Departmental Director of Livestock of Tesker, and the NGO Colsa. A total of 30,000 livestock were treated, and 20 para-veterinary auxiliaries were trained to promote access to veterinary services for the reserve's domestic livestock.
-  As part of sustainable pasture management, an endogenous plant species, *Calotropis procerca*, was eradicated over 30 km². Not palatable to both livestock and wildlife, it is dispersed into areas where it is not naturally present decreasing available grazing grounds.

PROGRESS PER SITE

TERMIT TIN-TOUMMA NATURE RESERVE

MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- The construction of the reserve's headquarters continues in the Termit Massif, including new annexes and solar power generation units.
- The reserve's director, Frédéric Dumont, took a week-long training course in Toulouse with the company Sunbirds to learn how to pilot and set up the SB4 solar drone, which is designed to patrol and improve knowledge of this protected area.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

- A total of 200 patrol man-days were conducted in the reserve. During these operations officers made no arrests or seizures. They had the opportunity to view approximately 100 dorcas gazelles, during 22 different sightings of the small desert antelope.
- The annual planning of patrols by the Regional Directorate of the Environment of Zinder on the periphery of the reserve with its logistical and financial support has been established. It will be implemented in April with 4 simultaneous patrols, one from the reserve and 3 from the regional authorities of Zinder (Regional Directorate and Departmental Directorates of Tesker and Tânouit).

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

- For 10 days, 50 young people from local communities were recruited to eradicate *Calotropis procerca*, an endogenous plant species not palatable to wildlife and domestic animals, which chokes grazing grounds, in a 30 km² area in the Dillia Achitnamo zone.
- The Oricou vulture nesting and breeding season has begun. Active vulture breeding nests in and around the Termit Massif have been identified and are being monitored regularly by community agents to ensure that there is no disturbance and that communities are providing water around wells near these nests.



Above: The Sodom apple tree (*Calotropis procerca*) is a very common shrub in the arid regions of Africa and the Middle East. It is a bush or shrub with a trunk covered with thick bark and large satin green-blue leaves covered with a down. The flowers, with 5 white or purple petals, are arranged in clusters at the end of the stem. The whole plant contains a network of vessels which release an abundant white latex, highly toxic, when cut.

COMMUNITIES & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- A total of 210 man-days of community patrols were carried out to support security, intelligence and awareness-raising among the population, including 20 dedicated to monitoring the breeding nests of Oricou vultures.
- The 2021 deworming and cold-season vaccination campaign for animals in the reserve treated 30,000 head of cattle.

BINDER-LÉRÉ WILDLIFE RESERVE

MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- A water tower was built at the Binder base to improve the living conditions of the team.
- A scouting mission was carried out in the future National Park in order to evaluate locations for the headquarters.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

- The second anti-poaching training course for the 15 agents of the of the Corps of Water and Forests (CCEF) of reserve ended with a final exam with a positive outcome for all beneficiaries.
- 7 patrols were carried out this month, totaling 201 man-days of effort and 360 km covered by the agents of the Corps of Water and Forests (CCEF).
- During the patrols, 1 poacher, 4 herdsmen and 4 fishermen were arrested, as well as the seizure of 10 edged weapons, 7 fishing devices and 12 kg of fish.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

- The operation of collaring 4 elephants (3 males and one female) was successfully carried out from March 8 to 11.
- AWT software was set up allowing to follow the movement of the elephants equipped with collars.
- A visit by Colonel Iho and the Direction of Wildlife and Protected Areas (DFAF) took place in Binder.

COMMUNITIES & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- A gender study is underway in the Reserve in order to better understand these issues and improve the involvement of women in conservation.
- An awareness-raising meeting was held on March 22 with the herders and the Local Orientation and Decision-Making Body (ILOD) of Binder Town to develop an effective collaboration.

FOCUS ON AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

SAVANNA ELEPHANT AND FOREST ELEPHANT



Recent genetic studies have shown that in Africa there are now two species of elephant: the savanna elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) and the forest elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*), the latter previously considered a subspecies.

This is the first time that the status of these two species has been evaluated separately, the forest elephant having been classified as "critically endangered" and the savanna elephant as "endangered" by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature). Previously, African elephants were considered "vulnerable" by the IUCN. This new classification demonstrates the critical conservation status of this emblematic animal.

Indeed, figures show a frightening decline in the number of elephants in Africa of 86% in 31 years for forest elephants, and 60% in the last 50 years for savanna elephants.

To curb the various threats to the pachyderms, properly managed protected areas are essential shelters for these animals, particularly by developing means to fight poaching and international ivory trafficking, by reducing human-elephant conflicts, and by limiting habitat fragmentation.

The three protected areas where Noé is currently working are home to 120 savanna elephants and 1,000 forest elephants, totaling 640,000 hectares of protected habitat for elephants in Africa. Our goal is to prevent the regression and eventual disappearance of this herbivore that is crucial for ecological balance, thus contributing to climate change mitigation and local development, and attracting many admirers in Africa.

CONKOUATI-DOULI NATIONAL PARK

- After agreement in principle between the Government of Congo and Noé, preparations to organize the signing of the Partnership Agreement have been initiated. This signature is scheduled for April 13.



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