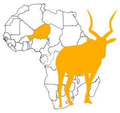
NEWSLETTER - ACTIONS AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2022

CHAD : NEW ELEPHANT CALVES OBSERVED DURING AN AERIAL FLYOVER

IF THE VIDEO IS NOT SHOWING, CLICK HERE

CHAD : During an aerial count conducted by our teams in September, **nine elephant calves** up to one year old were spotted! This is an encouraging sign of the vitality and good health of this population, whose national size is estimated at **between 1,000 and 1,500 individuals**.

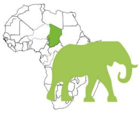
THE 3 PROTECTED AREAS WHERE "PARCS DE NOÉ" IS LOCATED :



NIGER

TERMIT TIN-TOUMMA

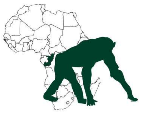
NATURE RESERVE



CHAD

ZAH SOO

NATIONAL PARK



CONGO

CONKOUATI-DOULI

NATIONAL PARK

HIGHLIGHTS

NIGER > TERMIT TIN-TOUMMA NATURE RESERVE

The result of the analysis of **dorcas gazelle** data from camera traps is 1.37 gazelles/km², which corresponds to approximately **4,100** dorcas gazelles in the Termit Massif.

READ THE ARTICLE

CHAD > ZAH SOO NATIONAL PARK

160 improved stoves were purchased from the women's pottery group in Berliang (a village on the outskirts of the protected area) and given free of charge to **65 women** in Binder.

READ THE ARTICLE

CONGO > CONKOUATI-DOULI NATIONAL PARK

The European Union (EU) will finance the Conkouati-Douli National Park in Congo to the extent of 810,000 euros. A signing ceremony for the grant contract was held on Tuesday, September 27, at the offices of the European Union Delegation. Implemented by our NGO Noé, this funding aims to ensure sustainable management of the flora and fauna of this protected area in Congo, while improving the living conditions of the communities in and around it. (in the photo from left to right: the European Union Ambassador to Congo, Mr. Giacomo Durazzo and Noé's representative in Congo, Mr. Jean-Matthieu Laboureur)

READ THE ARTICLE

PROGRESS PER SITE

NIGER > TERMIT TIN-TOUMMA NATURE RESERVE

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

- 25 days of survey were carried out in the **Dilia Achetinamou, the Dilia Gololo (southwest of the Termit Massif)** and the surrounding area. The monitoring of 12 intra-mountain pools allowed the observation of numerous **African spurred tortoise**. The delineation of the firewalls north of Tesker was established.
- Analysis of dorcas gazelle data obtained through Camera Trap Distance Sampling led to an estimate of 1.37 gazelles/km², which corresponds to about **4,100 dorcas gazelles** in the Termit Massif. This is an encouraging estimate for this species, which is classified as vulnerable.
- 30-day missions have started for the **2 camel-borne teams**. Each team is made up of a community agent and an auxiliary. They are in charge of collecting traces of wildlife presence.
- The 4-week mission of a community agent to patrol the Tin-Toumma desert resulted in **direct observations of addax**. In particular, 4 groups with a total of 14 individuals were spotted, including a juvenile with its mother.
- As part of the 2023-2027 planning process currently underway, the focus for 2023 has been on acquiring more detailed knowledge of the addax population found in the Termit Massif, and on developing effective strategies against the use of wood as fuel and material for nomadic tents and well construction.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

- **11 patrols** were carried out, which means 499 man-days, for 47 effective days, 4,565 km covered, 38 suspects stopped, 26 motorcycles and 22 vehicles searched.
- On the National Day of the Tree on August 3, **26 shrubs were planted** at Camp Mena (HQ).
- **8 agents of the Wildlife department** were made available to the reserve and integrated into the anti-poaching teams (LAB) and trained (legal framework and handling of weapons in particular). The reserve was also provided with weapons and ammunition.

COMMUNITIES DEVELOPMENT

- The **"Malaria Prevention and Treatment" mission in 17 nomadic camps in the reserve** and its immediate surroundings obtained the following results: 862 patients consulted and 625 RDT (Rapid Diagnostic Test) tests performed, 127 positive tests (20%) and 498 negative tests. 447 impregnated mosquito nets were distributed to vulnerable beneficiaries (pregnant and breastfeeding women, elderly individuals and orphans).
- With regard to the characterization and **mapping of the land contracts**: out of 14 contracts, 9 were examined and processed (including the population, livestock and natural resources). The land contracts are land-related community conservation mechanisms that support and organize the local pastoral economy.
- The users' and surveillance committees of the Termit Massif, the Dilia Achetinamou and the Dilia Kandilbouzou have received training in Non-Violent Conflict Management (NVCM) in the context of pastoral disputes. **53 people were involved in this training, including 20 members of the users' committee**, 20 members of the surveillance committee, and 13 community agents. The users' committees and surveillance committees form a traditional pastoral area leadership, and in fact participate in the reserve's governance, along with the management advisory committee and the board of directors.
- Support for the **Pastoral Emergency Plan** in the reserve has been planned: 44 camps are targeted, with 10 vulnerable households per camp, which gives a total of 440 households. The plan was created to address critical situations such as low rainfall, population displacement due to the threat of terrorism, etc.

MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- An extraordinary meeting of the Local Management Advisory Committee was held in **Zinder**, led by the Country Representative as part of the Pastoral Emergency Plan.
- A first **Sahelian food refrigeration system** was set up at the HQ. This prototype is intended to be improved and then replicated and disseminated.
- The **dispensary** is now operational, as well as a **medical monitoring** and evacuation protocol.
- A **tractor** has been purchased for the setting up and maintenance of firewalls.

CHAD > ZAH SOO NATIONAL PARK

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

- The **wildlife inventory pilot study** using camera traps has been completed. The 25 cameras that were deployed have recorded 4,691 videos, allowing the identification of **44 species** including 26 mammals, 16 birds and 2 reptiles.
- An **aerial count** of the park was carried out in order to evaluate the anthropic pressure related to livestock, transhumance and land conversion by agriculture. It estimated the size of the main elephant herd at 119 individuals, including **9 juveniles** less than 1 year old. This is an encouraging sign of the group's good health.
- The study of **water hyacinth proliferation** continued as well as the monitoring of manatees with 7 boat trips organized on the lakes of Léré and Tréné.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

- **30 surveillance missions**, totaling 524 man-days and 3,641 kilometers traveled by anti-poaching teams, were carried out.
- **15 herdsmen, 1 poacher and 2 woodcutters** were arrested, and fines of 1.3 million CFA francs were paid to the Treasury.
- 20 ferricks (camps) were **dismantled** and 20 edged weapons were **seized**.
- A **BFR (Basic Field Ranger) training for 80 GFF (Forest and Wildlife Guard)** agents was prepared at the Binder base with the objective of increasing the number of anti-poaching agents in the park.

COMMUNITIES DEVELOPMENT

- 6 shepherds and transhumant herders were **sensitized**, 31 ferricks (camps) were **surveyed**, and wildlife damage to 37 fields was **recorded** by our community-based teams (CBTs).
- A trial contract was signed with the **Voix de Zah-Soo community radio station in Léré** to broadcast programs in eight local languages to the 150,000 people living in the Binder-Léré complex.
- **160 improved stoves** were purchased by Noé from the women's pottery group of Berliang (a village on the outskirts of the protected area) and given free of charge to 65 women of Binder. The objective is to evaluate the potential for reducing firewood consumption along the park's boundaries, and to promote this system among the communities.
- The **working conditions of our community facilitators** have been strengthened with the purchase of motorcycles and cell phones.
- A two-day **training session on association development** was held for 176 board members of the Binder and Gouin associations, including 77 women.

MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- The **Baastel Group** conducted a mission to set up a project focused on community and ecosystem resilience to climate change, funded by Global Affairs Canada, and in partnership with **DID (Développement international Desjardins, a Canadian cooperative financial group).**
- A third **potential site for the HQ** has been identified north of the park in the vicinity of Zah Soo Falls, 6 km from the main Binder-Mayo Ladé road. Planning for a geophysical site survey will follow in October.
- Work was **completed** on the extension of the control room and the installation of a solar system in the GFF (Wildlife and Forestry Guard) building.
- The **Binder-Mombaroua road was repaired** by the population of the villages concerned with the support of the Zah-Soo National Park.
- **3 new Land Cruiser vehicles**, including 1 equipped for anti-poaching, were put into service. Three additional Land Cruiser drivers are being recruited and two GFF (Wildlife and Forestry Guard) agents have been trained in mechanics and driving. All motorcycles and vehicles have been labeled with the park's colors.
- A **rainfall monitoring system** has been installed on the base (82mm of rain for the last 15 days of August).

CONGO > CONKOUATI-DOULI NATIONAL PARK

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

• After being kept under observation for one year in the Tchimpounga sanctuary, and then spending one month on the Mpoumbou research site for adaptation, 5 male and 5 female mandrills were released in the Conkouati-Douli Park by our partner the Jane Goodall Institute Congo. Four of them are equipped with radio collars for tracking. A team will continue to observe them remotely for several weeks.

• Logistical support was provided to the Renatura association to set up marine turtle monitoring teams in the 5 camps of the park, in anticipation of the upcoming nesting season. Together with the Renatura team, the Director and the Program Assistant visited the Bondi camp, which has been refurbished with park funds.

• A team from the HELP Congo organization observed a female manatee and her calf in the Louvandji River, as well as about 100 mandrills by the Ngongo River.

• A herd of 7 buffalos was spotted near the HQ.

• Several groups of humpback whales were observed offshore, as this time of the year corresponds to the breeding season for this species.

• The trap cameras filmed several sitatungas, including a young one, a gorilla, an African civet, several elephants and chimpanzees near the HQ, and elephants, gorillas and chimpanzees in the fully protected part of the park.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

- During the months of August and September, protection missions totaled **870 man-days**, including 520 man-days at the fixed posts of Youbi and Yanika, and 350 man-days in mobile patrols (pedestrian and river), for a total of 220 mission days in the field with 26 eco-guards mobilized. This includes blocking river access to the area of illegal mining (gold/cassiterite) as well as monitoring the land access routes to the northeast of the park.
- The **Jane Goodall Institute canine unit** supported the fixed post teams

for 3 days. Results:

- 2 hunting camps were destroyed.
- 15 dugout fishermen were apprehended and excluded from the park's integral protection zone.
- 3 net hunters were sensitized.
- 67 traps/cables were dismantled.
- **99 killed animals were seized**, including black-banded duikers, blue duikers, monkeys of genus cercopithecus, porcupine, cane rat, sitatunga, red river hog, bushbucks and a Gaboon viper.
- 1 **live dwarf crocodile** was released in the park.

COMMUNITIES DEVELOPMENT

- Discussions were held with the village chiefs of the lagoon about the **flooding caused by the silting of the river estuary**, followed by the preparation of work to reopen it, in collaboration with the NGO HELP Congo.
- Several meetings were organized with the riparian communities, indigenous populations and women's groups by an expert from the Baastel office together with a team from the park in order to list the challenges and needs of the population, in order to be integrated into a community support project.

MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Thomas Delétoille, the new **Administrative and Financial Manager** has taken up his position and is based in Pointe Noire.
- A financing agreement between the European Union and Noé was signed in the presence of the Ambassador of the European Union in Congo, Mr. Giacomo Durazzo, and Noé's representative in Congo, Mr. Jean-Matthieu Laboureur, for an **amount of 810,000 euros**.
- The new office in Pointe Noire was also officially inaugurated, serving as **transit accommodation and offices** for staff visiting Pointe Noire.
- The state of the old bridge of the forest track crossing the Doffy River was examined with a perspective to its **renewal**.
- A meeting was held in Pointe Noire with AFD and the Departmental Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture within the framework of the project "**Improvement of the conditions of the sea fishing and the sustainability of its management in Congo**", in order to identify synergies and complementarities, in particular regarding the aspects of monitoring-control-supervision of fisheries.
- A support mission was carried out by the Congo Operations Manager to evaluate the implementation of the 2022 Work Plan, **the development of the 2023-2027 Business Plan**, and to meet with institutions, donors and partners in Pointe Noire and Brazzaville.
- A mission by the **African Parks Incubation Program Manager** was carried out in the Park to assess progress on the ground and provide technical advice.

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Parcs de Noé is a program of the NGO Noé, which is a non-profit public nature protection organisation to protect nature, created in 2001. Noé has programs in France and around the globe to safeguard biodiversity for the benefit of all living, including the human species.

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Valentine Caffè, our Communication Officer, will answer you as soon as possible.

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