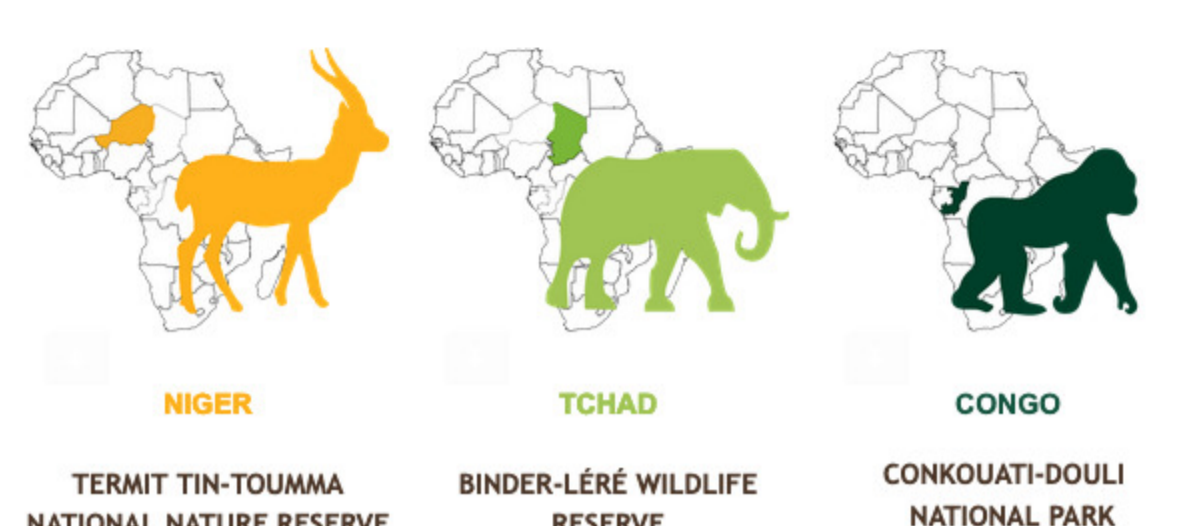




Wildlife and Forest Protection agents from the Binder-Léré Wildlife Reserve in Chad learn how to improvise a stretcher as part of their anti-poaching training.



## HIGHLIGHTS

Anti-malarial products and impregnated mosquito nets were handed over to the local populations of the reserve, via the Tesker health district, in the presence of the Tesker Prefect (photo).

As the hunting season started on December 1st in Niger, anti-poaching patrols were conducted to ensure the protection of Arabian and Nubian bustards, and dorcas gazelles within the reserve, in areas close to the hunting concessions.

A law enforcement training began on December 14th in the Binder-Léré Wildlife Reserve for the highly motivated wildlife and forest protection officers, including combat techniques, topography, legislation, wildlife monitoring, weaponry, health (first aid), etc.

A camera-trap monitoring system was designed aided by the oversight of the Binder-Léré Wildlife Reserve in order to identify the best sites for camera installation and to initiate the test phase with the setting of 5 camera-traps. This phase is very tactical and technical to ensure the best possible data collection in the months to come.

## PROGRESS PER SITE

### TERMIT TIN-TOUMMA NATIONAL RESERVE

#### MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- The construction of the Termit HQ continued through topographic surveys, delivery of materials, beginning of the foundations, installation of a women's sanitary facility, etc.
- A BIL FORD truck was purchased for which spare parts are readily available in Niger.
- Blaise Gbétholancy was recruited and has taken on the position of the Reserve's Field Operations Manager (FOM).
- A delegation made up of the heads of nomadic groups, the Sultan of Zinder, and the Regional Directorate of the Environment met with the Minister of the Environment, Urban Health and Sustainable Development and the godfather of the reserve, Mohamed Bazoum, to discuss the necessary revision of its RNNTT boundaries.

#### LAW ENFORCEMENT

- 43 new Forestry agents were made available to Parcs de Noël by the Ministry of the Environment, Urban Health and Sustainable Development, who took up their duties on December 20th.
- A total of 350 man-days of patrols were carried out, in close collaboration with the Regional Directorate of the Environment in Zinder and the Departmental Directorates of Tesker and Tānouit.

#### BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

- Three employees of the Termit & Tin Toumma were trained by African Parks in the "W" National Park in Benin on the preparation of a long-term strategy for the sustainable management of a protected area, as the basis for the development of a management plan.

#### COMMUNITIES & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- Anti-malarial products and impregnated mosquito nets were donated to the Tesker and Aderbasinat health districts for the benefit of the local population, as part of the community support activities.
- Participation of the Institutional Director of the reserve in the International Scientific Colloquium of the Diffa University on the changes, vulnerabilities, security and resilience of the Lake Chad Basin.
- Development of a partnership with the Tesker women's group for the development of the Tesker market garden with the participation of the head of the Tesker Communal Environmental Service.

### FOCUS ON AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

#### THE ARABIAN BUSTARD

The Arabian Bustard (*Ardeotis arabae*) is a species of bird belonging to the *Otididae* family. As with all bustards, the male Arabian bustard is much larger (5.7 to 10.9 kg) than the female (4.5 to 7.7 kg). It has a more graceful and elegant appearance compared to other species of their genus, with a more refined spotting on the wing. This bird lives throughout the Sahel, South Sudan and the southern Red Sea.



It is therefore present in and around the Termit and Tin-Toumma Nature Reserve. In 2012, the species was classified by the IUCN as "Near Threatened" because of a sharp decline in its population. The main cause seems to be strong hunting pressure, with degradation and destruction of its habitat also playing a major role.

### BINDER-LÉRÉ WILDLIFE RESERVE

#### LAW ENFORCEMENT

- The anti-poaching training began on December 14 after a first week of testing and evaluations. During 6 weeks, the LAB expert trains 15 Wildlife and Forest Protection (GFF) officers on law enforcement tactics and the elephant protection strategy. A second training will follow, to train the second group of agents.
- A first routine patrol during the training already allowed to meet elephants, numerous warthogs and gazelles. Tracks of monkeys were also found.
- Individual surveillance equipment (tents, backpacks, etc.) for the GFF agents to conduct ground patrols arrived in Binder and were distributed to them.

#### BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

- Wildlife monitoring within the reserve by camera-trap was initiated through the aerial identification of the best sites for the installation of cameras. In parallel, 5 camera-traps are being experimented in order to refine the methodology.
- The operation of collaring 4 elephants within the reserve continued this month with the delivery of the necessary equipment including collars, the anaesthesia gun and air-ground communication equipment.
- 20 hours of aerial overflights were conducted throughout the reserve to locate the elephant herd towards the northern border, to find a group of 15 roan antelopes and a fishing camp at Gauthier Falls. No cattle or nomadic camps were observed.

### CONKOUATI-DOULI NATIONAL PARK

- A mission to Brazzaville was organised end of December to finalize the joint drafting of the Partnership Agreement for the management of the Conkouati-Douli National Park (PNCD), with the government of Congo.

### FOCUS ON A TEAM MEMBER

#### EDOUARD BOULANODJI



Edouard Boulanodji is Parcs de Noël's Country Representative in Chad and Chadian by birth. After his university studies in natural sciences and forest ecology, he worked for the Ministry of Environment, the Zakouma National Park, UNDP and an NGO working in the Manda National Park. In 2017 he met Noël and was hired as Coordinator for the Project for Support for the Sustainable Management of Sahelo-Saharan Protected Areas Niger-Chad (PAGAPS).

Edouard has a real expertise in the creation of national parks in Chad: "When I worked for the inventory and mapping department of the Ministry of Environment, I participated in the creation of the Sena Oua National Park. This experience proved invaluable in setting up the future Zah Soo National Park in Binder-Léré.

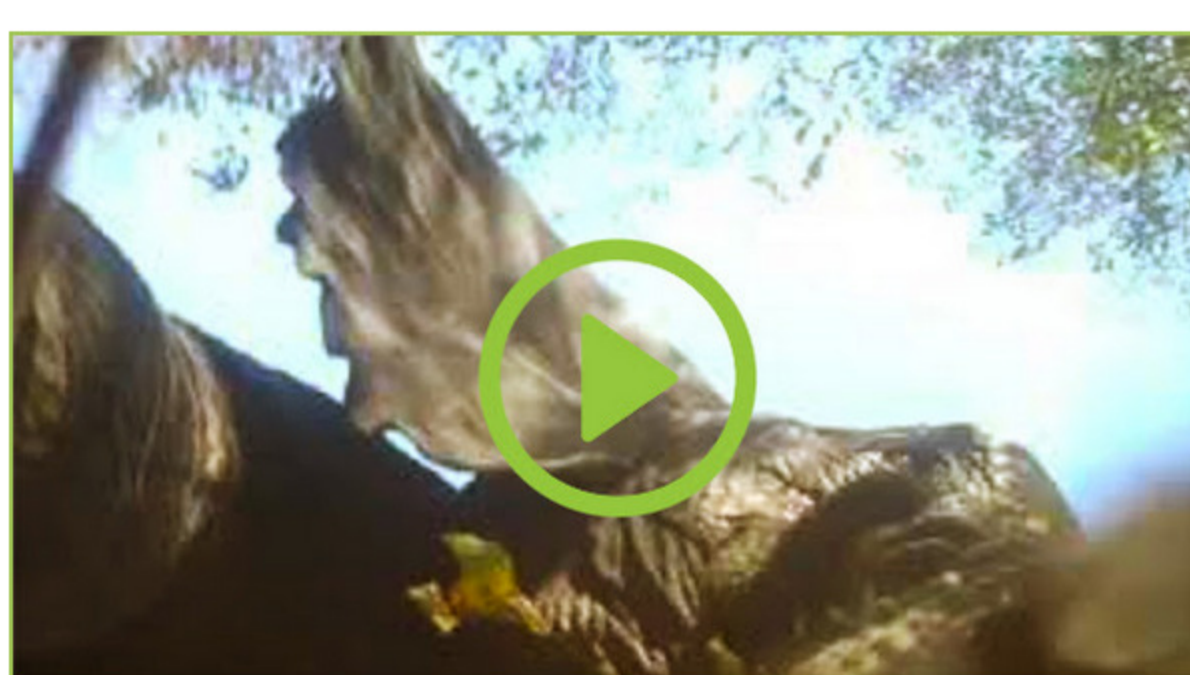
#### So how far along is this Zah Soo National Park project?

"The process is on track and the communities living there are 100% committed to the project. They expect multiple benefits, such as employment - we already employ a few drivers and guards - income generating activities, infrastructure such as boreholes, schools and health centers, mechanisms to regulate human-wildlife conflicts (especially with regard to elephants, feared by farmers), and in the long term tourism development.

### IN THE SKIN OF A CAMERA-TRAP

#### DISCOVERED BY A RATHER PLAYFUL ELEPHANT

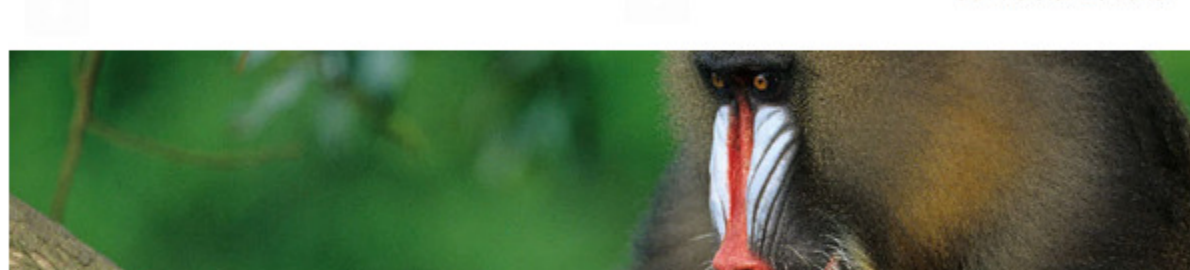
camera-trap test phase - Binder-Léré Wildlife Reserve



### ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES



This month we welcome Blaise Gbétholancy, who has been recruited as Field Operations Manager for the Termit and Tin-Toumma National Reserve in Niger. Having worked for several humanitarian NGOs, in many African countries including Niger, Blaise has a strong international experience, in isolated and conflict areas, on logistical, organizational and operational support. Nigieren by birth, he also speaks English, Arabic, and several Nigerien dialects.



21, rue de la République 13002 Marseille - Contact: [parcs@noe.org](mailto:parcs@noe.org)  
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