

**A road map for African protected areas: act now!**

Africa is a continent with a rich, unique and irreplaceable biological diversity. It contains many protected areas whose vocation is to preserve this richness, now and for the future.

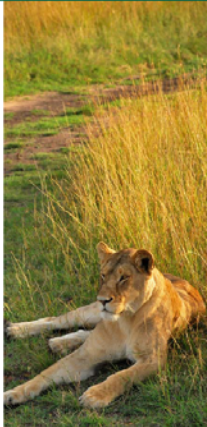
**Are we succeeding?**

**Yes,** certainly, in some places and in some countries, according to the context, actors, history, partnerships... There are some successes and encouraging initiatives, so there is hope.

**No,** definitely not, if we look more generally at the results of many recent analyses, and even more so if we consider the challenges that await, the first of which is the significant growth in the human population and a reduction in the area available for biodiversity and natural habitats.

**What should we do?**

Continue and strengthen conservation programmes and projects at all scales and of all kinds, research and other studies? Certainly. This is a very long-term task that has produced and will continue to produce, useful and necessary results. We should continue working on - what we have to do - to improve protected area management, because we need more efficient tools, more effective methods and a better understanding and evaluation of the results.




# NAPA

## News from African Protected Areas

**Nouvelles des Aires Protégées en Afrique**

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**What future for lions (*Panthera leo*) in Waza National Park, Cameroon?**  
(directions 4 and 5 of the road map for African PAs)

**By Dr Pricelia Tumenta Fobuzie, University of Dschang, Cameroon.**

Protected areas play a key role in the conservation of biodiversity. Cameroon currently has an important network of protected areas, covering 19.2% of the national territory. This is credited to government's efforts to put in place strategies to conserve the different ecosystems in the country together with the flora and fauna they contain. Waza National Park is one of the best examples of protected areas in Cameroon, situated in the Sudano-sahelian savanna ecosystem in the extreme north region of the country. About one third of Waza National Park falls within the Waza-Logone wetlands making this park a haven for water birds. The mammalian diversity of the park is quite rich including elephant, giraffe, roan antelope, topi, hyena, jackal and the lion. The park is a popular destination for tourists because of its openness and richness in wildlife species.

The lion (*Panthera leo*) is a species of international importance due to its keystone, flagship, cultural and charismatic attributes. Widely distributed in the past, more than 95% of lions have disappeared from the surface of the earth the past c.10, 000 years. The steady and rapid increase in human population with the commensurate increase in demand for living space and resources seems to be the main overriding factor working against many conservation efforts. The lion is the largest and best-known African top predator. Despite its ecological importance and being one of the world's most attractive animals in

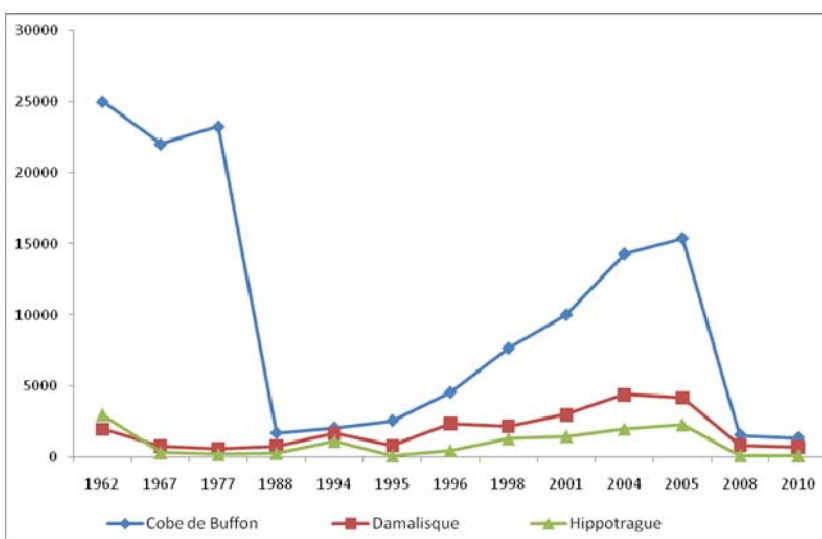
the tourism industry, lions are fast disappearing from much of their historical range and are threatened in part of their present range.



There are presently about 32, 000 lions left in Africa (but this figure is discussed by experts, *ndlr*), with less than 4,000 in West and Central Africa. Cameroon is an important range state in Central

Africa holding the second largest lion population (270) in the region, after the Democratic Republic of Congo. Lions in Cameroon occur in two Lion Conservation Units. The first, the Bénoué complex, which includes three National Parks and 28 hunting zones, is the larger area hosting the majority (250) of the country's lion population. The second conservation unit is the Waza National Park, which in contrast to the Bénoué complex is small and geographically isolated, hosting a small lion population with low probability of genetic exchange with other populations through natural dispersal.

Threats faced by lions are complex, making their conservation challenging. The main threats to lions are habitat loss, prey base depletion and indiscriminate killing, mainly as a result of retaliatory or pre-emptive killing to protect livestock. The anthropogenic pressure on Waza National Park is quite high ranging from uncontrolled harvesting of natural products, poaching of wild prey, intrusion by livestock for pasture and water, intrusion by fishermen to illegal trade of young lions and lion parts. The pressure on the park is translated in a progressive reduction of all wildlife observed recently. Research conducted on lions in Waza National Park from 2007 reveals an alarming reduction in the number of lions in the park. A reduction of 60% was recorded compared to previous findings in 2002. There are currently only about 20 lions or less left in Waza National Park (lions less than 2 years of age are not included in the population). The lion prey base has also witnessed a sharp decline after the increase observed in the post re-flooding years. The graph below illustrates this better.



Antelope numbers in Waza Park from 1962 to 2010

Source: Esser & Van Lavieren, 1979; Vanpraet & Thal, 1977; Tchamba & Elkan, 1995; Saleh, 2004, 2005, 2008 & 2010

A camera trapping survey conducted in the park to count lions, revealed a high human and livestock presence in the park. A total of 31% of all photographs captured by cameras were of humans and livestock in the park. The current ecology and behaviour of lions in Waza National Park reflect the stress that this species is facing in its habitat. The home range size of lions has increased from a mean of 630 km<sup>2</sup> in 2005 to a mean of 1015 km<sup>2</sup> in 2010.

The lions are seen to move more during the hot dry season, indicating disturbance on the lion population. The Waza lions are nocturnal in their activity with crepuscular peaks, again pointing to disturbance, as observed elsewhere in other lion populations in Africa. However, the lions' activity pattern is exceptionally high, suggesting that the lions are constantly moving in search of prey and in order to avoid human presence in the park. The dietary niche of the lions is quite broad, reflecting the low prey biomass now available in Waza National Park. High concentrations of livestock in the periphery of the park greatly influence the lion's diet, comprising approximately 22% of the lion's diet. Interview surveys on the human-lion conflicts revealed that pastoralists lose an important amount of income to lion predation annually. Per household, resident pastoralists lose one head of cattle whereas nomadic pastoralists lose two per annum, equating to about €260 and €520, respectively (price level 2010).

The home range size, movement and activity patterns, and the diet of lions in Waza National Park follow survival strategies that reflect the pressure on the park. The lions extend their home ranges, move more during very hot periods to catch scarce prey and to avoid human interference, and supplement their diet with livestock to survive. This situation brings to mind the question: how long will this lion population persist under such conditions?

The main factor that has contributed to the deterioration of Waza National Park and has resulted in drastic declines in wildlife numbers is poor management, mainly as a consequence of insufficient financial and human resources. The Waza lion population will go locally extinct in 10 year time if the current trend continues. It would be a big failure to conservation in the country should this lion population locally go extinct. It is becoming a rare event to observe elephants in Waza National Park; elephant numbers have also witnessed a decline of more than 50%. Also elephants do migrate out of the park seasonally. The



lion is the second most important species after the elephant, to photographic tourism in Waza National park. More than 7,000 tourists from around the world visit this park annually for the advantage it has over the other parks that host lions. The Waza national Park is more accessible and more open, making it possible to view animals easily in the grassland floodplain during the drier months of the year.

There is an urgent need to greatly improve the protection of Waza National Park in order to save the lion and other wildlife from disappearing. Any conservation efforts that will increase prey abundance, curb down intrusions and illegal exploitation in the park will greatly reverse the tide.



*Poaching of bushmeat in Waza National Park*

The effectiveness of park protection correlates with basic management activities such as enforcement and direct benefits to local communities. The government will need to train and equip park personnel that can handle the current challenges of the park. To be effective, the financial resources allocated to the park should be increased. Anti-poaching patrols should be frequent, effective and continuous to prevent intrusions into the park. The local communities living close to the park should be empowered to reinforce the park's protection by directly benefiting from the presence of the park.

The presence of conservation projects in protected areas have been shown to greatly improve the management of such areas. The Waza Logone area is an ecologically important area providing several ecosystem services and resources. It is however a fragile zone, characterized by conflicts over the use of natural resources that the area offers. There is need for intensive adaptive management of the resources in the area based on a sound scientific

knowledge of all aspects of the ecosystem. This can only be achieved if international environmental non-governmental organizations will give the area the attention it deserves and fund projects in the area that will save the ecosystem and man in the long run.



*Cattle drinking from a waterhole inside Waza National Park*

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**You're a PA expert?**  
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**You can now register on the web data-base on line on [www.papaco.org](http://www.papaco.org) (welcome page)**

## Call for proposal



**SOS - Save Our Species** is a joint initiative of IUCN, the Global Environment Facility and the World Bank, supported by the

Fonds français pour l'environnement mondial (FFEM) and the Fondation Segré. Its objective is to ensure the long-term survival of threatened species and their habitats.

**SOS provides Rapid Action Grants** (up to 25,000 \$US) available on an ongoing basis and supporting conservation actions in case of emergency situations. These grants will be awarded to support a special class of projects aimed at addressing

immediate threats that require targeted specific action, with high chance of generating rapid positive results.

The Third SOS Call for Proposals for Threatened Species Grants is now open until **15 July 2013**.

The SOS Strategic Directions for this call are:

1. Threatened cycads and conifers
2. Threatened sharks and rays
3. Threatened Central and Western African vertebrates

**More on [www.sospecies.org/sos\\_projects](http://www.sospecies.org/sos_projects)**

## Call for proposal

The African World Heritage Fund is providing conservation grants to African State Parties to implement projects and activities which focus on improving the State of Conservation of World Heritage properties in Africa.

Projects activities are restricted to heritage sites declared by UNESCO as World Heritage properties as of June 2012. Project proposals must address challenges affecting the selected World heritage properties.

**Who can apply?** Government institutions involved in the management and protection of World Heritage Sites. International and local non-governmental organizations (NGO's) and community groups supporting the management and protection of World Heritage properties are also encouraged to apply.

**Duration:** the projects should be implemented within **12 months**.

All projects must be completed by **31st March 2015**.

**Application procedures:** application form can be downloaded from the AWHF website [www.awhf.net](http://www.awhf.net). Completed applications should be submitted via email to [jacobn@awhf.net](mailto:jacobn@awhf.net) / [jacobn@dbsa.org](mailto:jacobn@dbsa.org) with copies to [info@awhf.net](mailto:info@awhf.net) before the deadline.

### Deadline for submission

The deadline for submission of all applications is by **12.00 pm (CAT) on Wednesday 31st July 2013**.

For further information,  
please contact Jacob Nyangila  
[info@awhf.net](mailto:info@awhf.net)



## Pepper to reconcile men and elephants around the Pendjari national park

*By Barbara Mathevon, Comité français de l'UICN*

The many AVIGREF (*Associations Villageoises de Gestion des Ressources de Faune* or wildlife management local associations) that work around the Pendjari national park (which is also a Biosphere Reserve) in northern Benin are seeking to resolve human-elephant conflicts that are related to crop damages caused by elephants outside of the park. Pepper production seems to be a solution and is used both to repulse elephants and to develop cash crops with transformation process implemented on site (with quality pepper produced locally and sold).

The first step in this process has been supported by the French-GEF project PPI (small grants); the project has supported, at the border of the protected area, the cultivation of organic pepper on a small scale basis first (15 ha). This activity met a great success with women, who took a major role in the



production. The implementation of the repellent system was then rather randomly followed in villages concerned by the project, because the process is quite complicated (needs recovery of waste oil to ensure the pepper spreading out, renewal of rags after each rain).

70 tons of organic pepper have been produced and marketed by women's cooperatives during the last three seasons, allowing an increase in household income of buffer zones of the national park of about 10% (thanks to the sale of dry pepper). If the demonstration of the link that may exist between the decline in conflicts and the presence of pepper should be demonstrated over several years to be significant, households have already achieved a saving of 20% due to the reduction of damage to the fields caused by elephants.

To be followed...

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## Local conservation of an emblematic great ape (bonobos): an interview with Jean-Christophe Bokika, Chair of the NGO Mbou Mon Tour

(directions 2 and 8 of the road map for African PAs)

*Interview realized by Thomas Bacha, pictures from Zanna Clay*

**Jean-Christophe, the Bolobo area is where your NGO Mbou Mon Tour (MMT) has been working for several years now, and hosts a large iconic primate of Central Africa, now critically endangered. Can you tell us more about this primate? What are the main characteristics of the Bolobo region?**

Bolobo Region is located in north of the Kasai River, 300 km north of Kinshasa, Bandundu Province. As you pointed out, it is home to bonobos, a species endemic to DRC and classified as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.



First, note that the name "bonobo" comes after deformation of the name "Bolobo" which is the place where the first specimen of bonobo sent abroad came from. This site is the closest from Kinshasa where it is possible to watch wild bonobos. It is possible to get there by boat, by road or by air after 55 minutes flight. We are proud to protect "bonobos of Bolobo." However, we encountered a lot of difficulties to convince the scientific community of the existence of this species in our area, as many publications showed previously the bonobo as a species living exclusively in swampy forest area. This is what explains the specificity of our intervention area. In terms of conservation, our bonobos are "exceptional" because they live in an area where it was previously believed they were extinct. Scientifically, especially concerning the behavioral ecology of the species, they live in a habitat

considered atypical, a mosaic of forest-savanna where bonobos visit both ecosystems.

Our action has moved the lines, in the sense that the distribution range of this species endemic to the DRC has changed from the one shown in the past by the Great Apes Survival Project (GRASP).



On the other hand, it is now established that our region has one of the bonobos highest densities known at the moment. From a security point of view, it has never experienced serious armed conflict.

**Tell us more also about MMT, the association that you are chairing, your activities on the ground to protect bonobos in Bolobo...**

MMT was born on the diagnosis of huge depletion of natural resources, made by university officials and villagers during a meeting held in April 1997 in Nkala, my own village. The NGO pursue the objective of environmental protection, promotion of education and development of local economic alternative activities.

Through the contributions of our members, we have put in place, 2 km from Nkala, an agro-pastoral farm that also hosts the headquarters of the association. For instance, MMT currently owns more than 50 heads of cattle.

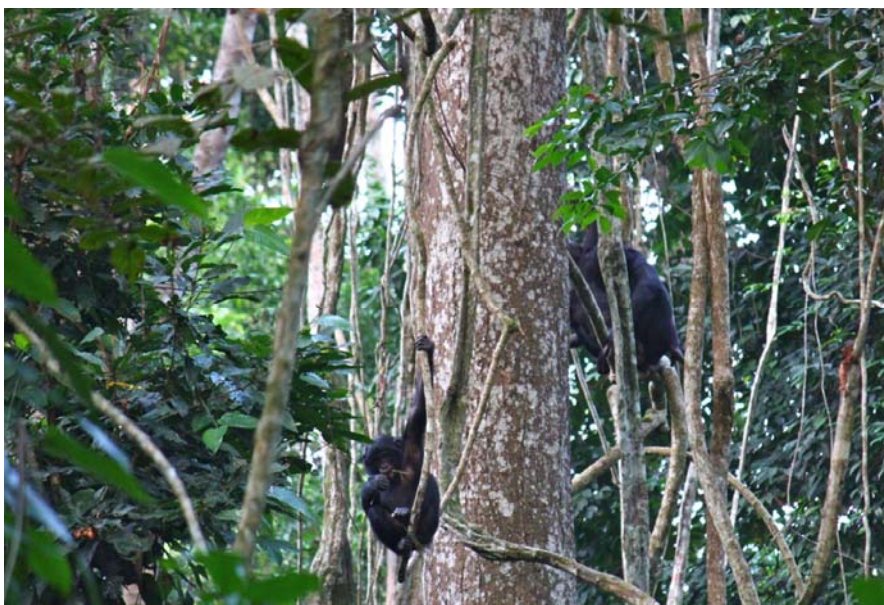
Since 2001, we are active in bonobos conservation, educating people on the basis of customary, national and international law concerning bonobos protection. It is important to note that the bonobo is seen in the region, particularly among the Teke, as a human who fled into the forest to escape the customary law considering an insolvent debtor as a slave to his creditor. It is this traditional taboo that we upgraded with the help of traditional leaders.

As a result of these campaigns, 6 villages in our region have decided to allocate a portion of their forest to the protection of bonobos and others monkeys. We then formed and trained teams of

benevolent rangers, in several villages. These villages are subsequently supported by our international partners. So we have two monitoring sites of monkeys and six monitoring sites of bonobos. Three sites are for habituation of bonobos to human presence, 3 others are only for ecological monitoring. This project has created more than 50 jobs in the region and alternative activities are now carried out in favor of local people with the goal of reducing the pressure on the forest.

**Working with local communities in the bonobo habitat area is particularly important in the field approach developed by MMT. What is your vision of community conservation? In your opinion, how does working with local communities help you to protect the bonobos of Bolobo?**

It is important to note that this protection project of bonobos is an initiative of the local people themselves, and that's particularly original.



In DRC, a large part of initiatives implemented in the field of conservation is done by the State or international organizations. Historically, local people have long been kept out of protected areas and of conservation process; some even suffered humiliation being evicted from their land without compensation.

This has created huge frustration for these people who felt that the State sacrificed them for the benefit of animals. Our approach is to find a balance between human interests and those of animals, a sort of pact of peaceful coexistence between the two species.

Through participatory mapping, spaces allocated for the bonobos conservation and those for human activities are defined by the local people themselves. Previously, such work was realized in an air-

conditioned office in Kinshasa and it was imposed to villagers, this is the main difference.

In our area of intervention, the population integrated the initiative and remains committed to achieve the goal, with the support of conservation organizations and of course of the State. It must be said that our task was facilitated by the fact that local people protect bonobos since an immemorial time.

**What is your prospect on the ground? What actions will be taken and what are your priorities for coming months?**

Our teams are currently deployed in the field to complete the process of establishing community forests in accordance with Article 22 of the Congolese Forest Code which provides the opportunity for local communities to manage their forests regularly possessed under traditional custom.

A consultant is finalizing the work of participatory mapping and we will have completed the dossier in a few months for submission to competent authorities before the end of the year. Our study and monitoring sites of bonobos and monkeys regularly welcome researchers and students from many countries (DRC, France, Belgium, USA, Germany ...).

The first site that was created develops activities on the pilot farm of MMT and now has two houses with an accommodation capacity of ten rooms. Currently, it is possible to observe wild bonobos for a significant period of time.

The proximity of our region with Kinshasa and Brazzaville is an important advantage for the development of scientific research and vision tourism. An ecotourism project is under negotiation and could also start quite soon.

Moreover, the rehabilitation of basic infrastructures and the establishment of small livestock and poultry farms will continue to improve the living conditions of local populations.

MMT also plans to establish an agroforestry project in some areas, trying not to change the beautiful scenery of the forest-savanna mosaic, but rather to restore the canopy damaged by human pressures.

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## Finding a way towards harmonious co-existence between humans and elephants: protecting them through knowledge, appreciation and mutual benefit (direction 2 of the road map for African PAs)

By Julien Marchais<sup>1</sup>, Bachirou Mohamadou<sup>2</sup>, Rémy Ledauphin<sup>3</sup>, André Njidda<sup>4</sup>, Zoumana Traoré<sup>5</sup>, Frédéric Yaméogo<sup>6</sup> and Harouna Sawadogo<sup>7</sup> – translated from French to English by Jane Martin

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As its name indicates, the NGO programme of *Des Eléphants & des Hommes* is focused on the human-elephant co-existence. Since 2003 its mission has been to enhance co-existence between humans and elephants. Two non-dissociable aspects are declined in various interconnected ways : protecting elephants from the threats they face from humans and human activity, helping those people who pay the price of living with these pachyderms, reducing the inevitable resulting costs and conflicts, promoting the possible advantages associated with elephants in their natural habitat for the neighbouring human communities, fighting against poverty, encouraging sustainable development initiatives and encouraging awareness and appreciation of elephants via education in order to further the equitable sharing of resources and natural surroundings.

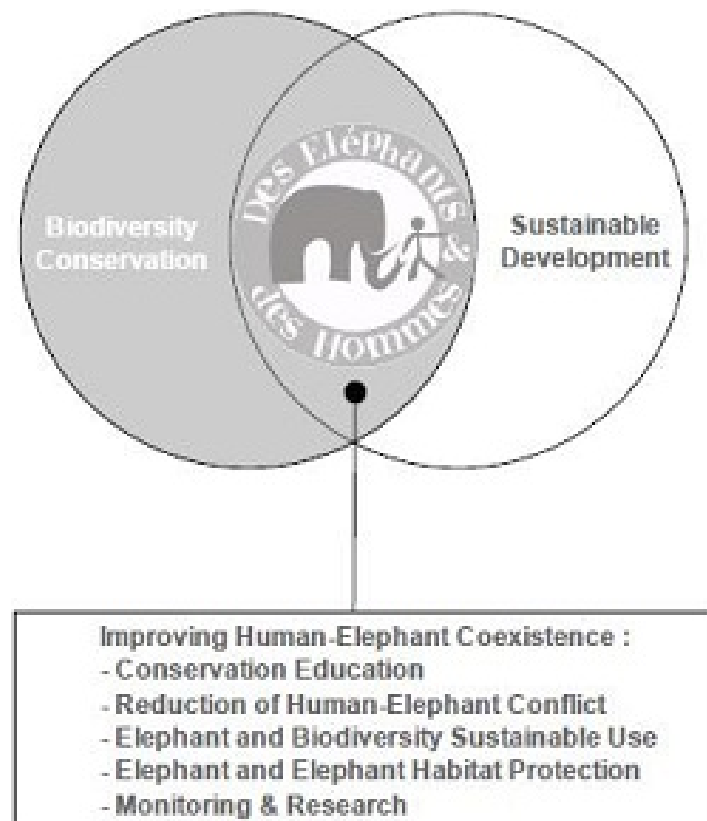
We are convinced that these actions are indispensable and interdependent. Our goal cannot be reached if either aspect is not respected, because dissociating nature and socio-economic development leads to a dead-end situation and failure. Just as protecting biodiversity without caring for human needs cannot yield any long-term benefit, neither can development without respect for natural ecosystems. Conservation and development are necessarily in close partnership.

Convinced of the key-role played by Protected Areas (PA), our programme is geographically geared to projects focusing on certain PA and their periphery. At the present time, we are operational in two national parks : *Parc National des Deux-Balé* (PNDB) in Burkina Faso and *Parc National de Waza* (PNW) in Cameroon.

It's obvious to us that the neighbouring communities must be the main actors and beneficiaries of these

conservation efforts. This is sometimes the case in Africa, but is far from the rule ! Consequently, the logic behind our projects is to establish strong multi-actor partnerships axed on a main global objective, with specific thematic secondary goals (environmental education, resolving human-elephant conflict, ecotourism and attendant financially-rewarding activities, prevention of and fighting against poaching as well as study and research). The participants are partly governmental (administrative entities, state institutions etc.) and partly non-governmental (associations, communities, service providers, companies etc.) The initial setup may vary, but the general scheme is always the same. Whoever the initiators may be, it's always a question of strengthening, promoting and accompanying those working "in the field", including the local inhabitants and also being careful not to take over from them.

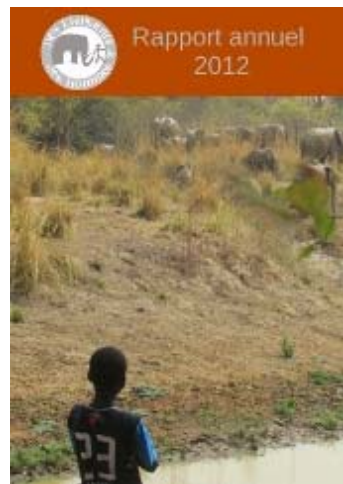
The aim of this approach is to gradually graft the project into their everyday life, so that the inhabitants themselves can move towards the improvements, behaviour changes and ethical values inherent to the program. Consequently, each project is conceived in three phases: initiation, development and autonomization. The realities of the inhabitants' everyday life around the protected area are always kept in mind.



We hope, in the long run, that : 1) the elephants will be able to live more peacefully and that their habitat will be less threatened ; 2) the neighbouring population will have succeeded in improving its standard of living by reducing the cost of co-habitation and also by engaging in economically viable activities in support of the elephants and their environment ; 3) the inhabitants' perception (knowledge and appreciation) of the elephants will be reinforced and thus variously motivate the continuation of a mutually beneficial way of life concerning the economic, cultural and spiritual impact as well as the transmission of a valuable heritage.

In Burkina Faso, the project concerning the Deux-Balé Park and outskirts is still in its developmental phase before moving towards autonomy. A complete report of the actions engaged until now is presented in detail in the 2012 Annual Report that can be downloaded from the website:

<http://www.deselephantsetdeshommes.org/>.



This project was initially conceived with M. Léonard Ouédraogo, the first head of the Deux-Balé Management Unit, in charge of the rehabilitation project concerning this park (PNDB) within the scope of the Office National des Aires Protégées (OFINAP). He conceived and forwarded a remarkable vision of how to rehabilitate this badly degraded AP, with the help of a highly motivated and hard-working team.

Other people were there to help with this huge undertaking. Harouna Sawadogo, the recent head of the Deux-Balé Management Unit, underlines the importance of the non-stop surveillance of the park : « Surveillance is an essential tasks for the Unit in that it pursues one of its principal missions, the protection and conservation of all the Park's resources. In the PNDB, grazing, gold-mining, poaching and wood-cutting by the local populations are now coming under control thanks to the efforts deployed since 2009. This is sure to encourage the return of the fauna, which will in turn enhance and consolidate the Park's natural environment.

Even before the installation of OFINAP, the *Direction Provinciale de l'Éducation de Base* (DPEBA) was

committed to an educational program for nature classes. Zoumana Traoré, in charge of the department concerning *Amélioration de la Vie Scolaire* (AVS – School-Life Improvement Scheme), underlines the importance of the educational action : « The My Elephant Neighbour educational program allowed us to launch our environmental-education teaching program in a region of the Boucle du Mouhoun. The teaching kits were distributed to all the schools and enabled us to widen the children's knowledge of animals in general and protected species in particular, especially the elephant which is native to our region. The pictures in the kit allowed us to make the lessons more real and the reading exercise gave us the opportunity to enrich the children's vocabulary and improve spelling. During nature classes in the park, the pupils are able to discover their natural heritage, learn to admire and protect the forest and the animals living in it. Such classes are invaluable, as they leave everlasting traces in the children's minds. »

The association *Kongo Nafa* ("What's at Stake in the Bush" in the Dioula language) was founded in Boromo, emerging from the first actions undertaken in the Deux-Balé project concerning the mitigation of human-elephant conflicts, as well as the development of activities of economic interest (Activities Génératrices de Revenus – AGR). Frédéric Yaméogo, the association's co-ordinator, reminds us of his mission « to conciliate conservation and sustainable development in and around the PNDB, mediate between the different organizations (public, private, and citizen) and the local populations so that the Deux-Balé Park can become a thriving developmental area for future generations.

Many more actors are involved in this project for both the preservation of the PNDB and its elephants and harmonious human-elephant co-existence in this region of Burkina Faso, as the annual report above has enabled us to appreciate.

In Cameroon, the project concerning the Parc National de Waza (PNW) and its periphery is in its initiation phase and started in December 2012. Bachirou Mohamadou, the coordinator of the NGO ACODED (*Action Concertée pour le Développement Durable* - Concerted Action towards Sustainable Development), presents the context and stakes associated with the project initiated by four partners coming from : the South, the North, governmental and non-governmental organizations. The project's target is the conservation of the Waza fauna, the region and the improvement of human-wild animal co-existence. Recently, this region has had to face



several threats, particularly poaching in and around the North Cameroon national parks. This was sadly demonstrated in 2012 at Bouba Njidda where more than two hundred elephants were shot by what were presumed to be Sudanese poachers.



The fauna is also threatened by activities that are economically important for the neighbouring communities, so the stakes are high. This project has received specific support from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as well as from the *Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial* (FFEM) within the scope of a « *Petites Initiatives* » program steered by IUCN France.

The project concerning the Waza National Park (PNW) and surrounding areas has a global aim to enhance cohabitation between the elephants and the populations living around the park in elephant-frequented areas. For its first year, it has implemented three lines of action: i) the ecological follow-up and human-elephant conflicts; ii) environmental education; iii) poaching surveillance and fighting.

The NGO ACODED, whose chief mission is to further the conservation and sustainable management of the natural resources in the protected areas in general and in the North Cameroon national parks in particular, as well as to ensure the implementation of the activities concerning the ecological follow-up and the human-elephant issue with the help of the NGO *Des Éléphants et des Hommes*.

The aim of the first line of action is to draw up a map localizing the human-elephant conflict zones and the movements of the elephants themselves when they

go beyond the limits of the Waza National Park. More specifically, it is important to know when and where these conflicts take place as well as the presence and migration paths of the elephants.

Five trainee students from the *Institut Supérieur du Sahel* of the University of Maroua were taken on to do a survey of the inhabitants (about 1,300) of approximately 130 villages in order to assess the extent of this problem. The preliminary findings show that there are acute conflicts in the south of the PNW, near the Kalfou forest, where the elephants terminate their migration. Their numbers are estimated at 480, divided into three sub-groups and circulating in the triangle linking Mindif-Mouldoudaye-Kalfou. They destroy an enormous amount of crops as they pass through, whether in the rainy or dry season. Kalfou, Mouldoulaye, Bougay, Baga, Lokro, Dana, Kolara, Guidiguiz and Doyang are the villages which suffer most from this sort of damage. What makes the situation particularly critical is that the members of these essentially agricultural populations find themselves obliged to forfeit their sleep to save what they can of their crops.

The elephants that migrate toward the south of the PNW (baptized 'the southern group') have not been back to the park since 2010. This unhappily maintains a permanent conflict with the populations, particularly acute this year due to the death of one person and a fifteen-year old schoolboy's loss of memory after an accident with an elephant. The situation has become very worrying for the State of Cameroon that has ordered (via the MINFOF) two administrative round-ups in order to direct the elephants away from the villages now that they have become aggressive.

On the contrary, the conflicts to the north of the park are less intense. The 'northern group' comprises about 400 elephants and migrates towards the Parc National de Kalamaloué between January and February, before moving gradually towards the Logone River as the water level drops, and then coming back to the PNW in July for the rainy season. As they pass, the elephants destroy crops and fruit trees, such as mangoes, but the various local populations (Kotoko, Arab, Choa, Mousgoum) are less affected than their southern counterparts near the Kalfou Reserve. They have other means of sustenance like fishing, bee-keeping and rearing which yield produce that can be advantageously sold, thus enabling them to buy food in the neighbouring parts where they go to sell. Some people have even invented local solutions by growing rice only in the rainy season when the

elephants stay in the PNW, rather than in the dry season.



Concerning the environmental education aspect of the initiation stage of the project, the aim is to lay the basis for sustainable, harmonious cohabitation between the human and their neighbouring elephant populations, whose facilitator is M. Moumini Oumarou. Not only is he very fond of elephants but also comes from the region and has conducted a study about how they are perceived by their human neighbours in the PNW. His findings have enabled him to build the preliminary draught of a teaching program, and he has already led 20 experimental nature classes for 9-10 year-olds in the 20 local primary schools situated around the Park. This experimental effort was hugely appreciated, as judged by the telephone responses as well as by visits to the ACODED (supervising unit for this aspect) headquarters. More than 95% of the teachers and accompanying staff discovered the Waza and Kalamaloué parks for the first time, and for many, it was the first time they had seen animals such as giraffe, antelopes, ostriches and elephants.

The educational program is under construction and conceived along the lines of the one already operational in Deux-Balé, but will be fine-tuned according to the specific regional requirements. A steering committee has been appointed for guidance and comprises representatives from the following delegations : (1) Basic Education ; (2) Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development ;(3) Forests and Fauna ; (4) Tourism and Leisure Activities. The association ACEEN, which has long experience in the domain of environmental education in the Extreme North region, has been called in to join the governmental structures in the steering committee. At the moment, the steering committee is

guiding the development of nature classes, some of which are programmed for 2013 so as to complete them for 2014. Encouraged by these first very positive results and by the obvious need for the beneficiaries to have greater access to the protected areas and their exceptional natural resources, ACODED and its partners are exploring the financial possibilities for what will be the fourth part of the project : local tourism in the protected areas, to use the presence of the elephants and the rich biodiversity of their habitats to advantage.

The line of action for the protection (3) of this projet is absolutely crucial, given the huge poaching threat for the pachyderms in this region, and is jointly conducted by André Njidda (the park's manager) and Rémy Ledauphin (Association *Sitatunga* ). Here, their aim is to strengthen the technical and material capacity of the anti-poaching team (*Lutte Anti-Braconage* – LAB) in the protected area. Rémy Ledauphin, LAB's former technical assistant in the Zakouma National Park (Chad) recounted about his first supporting mission in January of this year.

Together with André Njidda, they carried out an evaluation of the state of the equipment and needs and envisaged strategies and perspectives. This mission resulted in the addition of the first technical device (GPS-PC (Global Positioning System for PC) to the Conservation Service. Consequently, a computer with mapping software, GPS devices and a pair of binoculars were given to the Park.



The second mission will be devoted to training the Park's guards in accordance with the needs defined in the following sectors: fighting, contacting, use of GPS, techniques, optimizing patrols... In anticipation of this training, the guards will soon be given their basic equipment, which has formerly been sadly lacking: complete uniforms, tents, mattresses, sleeping bags and backpacks. Over and above these



articles on list and since the conception of the project, the PPI-FFEM has been ready to financially subsidize the Park director's initiative to install an "elephant guarding" team, able to follow the animals during migration between the PNW and the Kalamaloue National Park, further North and the Logone Birni region on the river of the same name.

Even more recently, the Beauval Zoo (France) has decided to support a second team of "elephant guards" posted near herds moving through the southern part of the Extreme North region (Mindif-Kalfou zone) which haven't been back to Waza for a certain number of years. This global vision from a park director who is seeking all possible means of safeguarding the animals well beyond the limits of the protected area he has in charge deserves acknowledgement.



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