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What do we make of population growth?

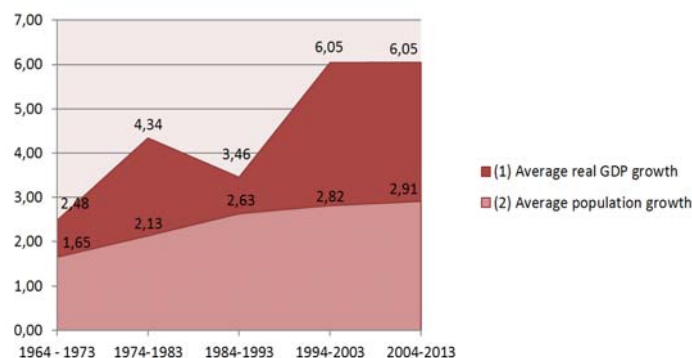
Demographic growth in Africa is a fact. No need to be a scientist to observe it and no sightseeing is needed to anticipate it. Depending on one's optimism or pessimism, it is seen either as an asset or a liability for the concerned countries. For many, demographic growth is synonymous with economic development because it should generate a constantly renewed demand, feeding the celebrated growth that founds our almost only model of society. For others, it increases pressure on the limited resources of countries, which results in a decreasingly durable usage of natural resources. Until when? No one knows ...

The point of view of economists is interesting. Martin Fleury, quoted in an article one is encouraged to read on the AfD's blog*, explains: "According to the World Bank, in 2012, Burkina Faso, a Sahelian and landlocked country, recorded a real GDP growth rate of 9.54%, giving rise to hope and enthusiasm... However, GDP is not the only aggregate to have seen a long-term increase. Population growth has also accelerated in a number of countries where the demographic transition has only started recently. Consequently, half of the growth gains between 2004 and 2013 have been absorbed by the population increase in Burkina Faso. Based on the assumption that the capacities of the State increase in proportion to its GDP, it is indeed recognized that the economic growth consumed (in the form of public

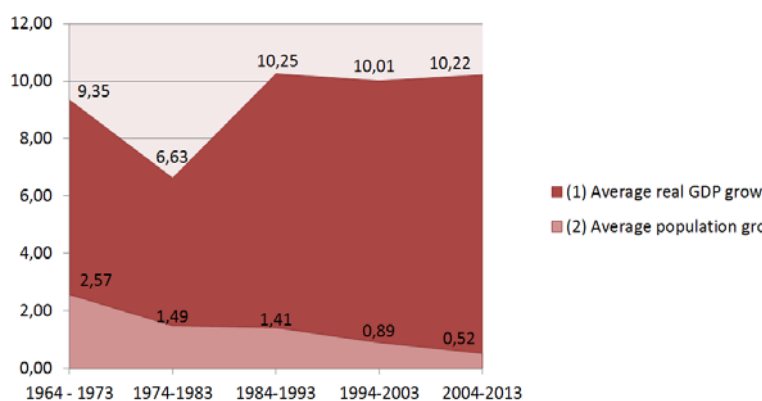
expenditure) must be on a par with population growth in order to provide the current services to new users with a constant quality (demographic investments). The surplus can then be earmarked for improving living conditions."

In short, the standard of living of everybody really improves only if the increase of wealth in his/her country surpasses significantly that of its population. Martin Fleury adds two graphs that summarize well the paradoxical situations that occurs or has occurred in Africa and Asia.

The first describes the situation of Burkina Faso: it shows that economic growth has been strong and steady, but largely "jeopardized" by the concomitant increase in its population, with a differential of just over 2% in the period which is, apparently, not enough to pull the country off the last places in the ranking of LDCs.



The second concerns China over the same period. Economic growth was also very strong, but with a limited population growth, leading to a "higher gain", almost 8% on average over the period.



The result is an increase in the human development index (HDI) that has been 3 times higher in China over these 50 years. The HDI is an indicator that attempts to express the welfare of inhabitants by evaluating health / longevity, level of education and standard of living. In short, what really matters.

So what should we make of population growth? If we stick to these figures, certainly questionable but probably valid, we should try to master it. If we look up above the graphs and look at on the outside, in and around our protected areas where the pressure is increasing and the situation is deteriorating..., well we definitely need to master it! Of course, there is always the option of doing nothing... and waiting to see what will happen. Who knows, maybe the best?

The wait should not be too long anymore... **

Enjoy the reading.

*<http://ideas4development.org/prendre-en-compte-les-dynamiques-demographiques-pour-un-developpement-plus-inclusif-en-afrique/>

**Africa population forecast: 2015 = 1186 million – 2030 = 1679 million – 2050 = 2478 million – 2100 = 4387 million (40% of the global population).

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015)

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Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Protected Areas Management – Registration is now open!

This course is about areas that are dedicated to protect the nature ("protected areas"), how they work and why they are so important in maintaining the wealth of environment in our fast developing world, and particularly in Africa.

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The course will help you learn about conservation challenges in Africa and how protected areas can help to face them, from local level to international scale. These topics will be explored using best practices from the WCPA, and case studies from the field coming from all over the African continent.

The course starts with a presentation of what protected areas are and their role, importance and specificities, at local and global scale. Once these basics are covered, we will work through the various tools that can be used to ensure their sound planning, equitable governance, efficient financing and relevant assessment to make sure they have a positive impact on conservation of nature. The course will also highlight some management specificities such as marine protected areas, the link between protected areas and climate change, the role of gender and equity their governance, the power of ecotourism, the good practices for staff capacity building or public sensitization, the impacts of corruption, etc. Throughout the courses, we will showcase experiences from different region in Africa to better learn from success on the ground.

Students who successfully complete the class will receive a Certificate of Accomplishment from the Coursera Platform (this is for free) and an exam will be open to voluntary students who wish to get an attestation from EPFL (registration fees to be paid).



Register now!

Reminder

Worth a reading: situation analysis of biodiversity in West and Central Africa

At long last, the IUCN Situation Analysis on terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity in West and Central Africa is now online as SSC Occasional Paper #54:

<http://iucn.org/about/work/programmes/species/news/?21509/West-and-Central-Africas-wildlife-in-trouble-shows-new-IUCN-report>.

There is also an extensive set of supporting documentation, available at the same link. The paper will be translated into French by the end of the year and will be summarized in a further NAPA.

Large-scale extinction of large carnivores (Lion *Panthera leo*, Cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus* and Wild Dog *Lycaon pictus*) in protected areas of West and Central Africa

By David Brugière¹, Bertrand Chardonnet and Paul Scholte - ¹BRL Ingenierie, Biodiversity department, France (david.brugiere@brl.fr)

Directions 4 and 5 of the Road Map for African PA

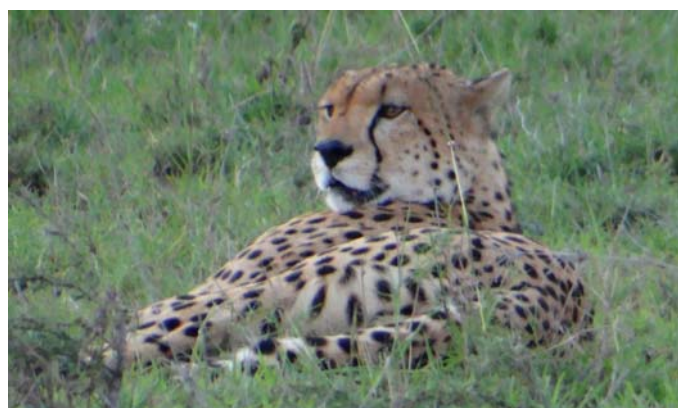
A number of recent studies have suggested that large carnivores are rapidly disappearing in West

Africa, including in protected areas (PAs). The extent of this extinction process, however, is poorly known. In a recent study published in the scientific journal "Tropical Conservation Science", we quantified the extinction of three large carnivore species (*Panthera leo*, the Lion, *Acinonyx jubatus* the Cheetah and *Lycaon pictus*, the wild dog) in 41 West and Central African PAs by comparing historical and current data showing occurrence of these species.

We found that lions have gone (near-) extinct in 23 out of the 38 PAs (63%) where they historically occurred and that this extinction is significantly more pronounced in West (15 extinctions out of 18 historical occurrences, 64%) than in Central Africa (8/20, 40%) (see Table 1). In the first region, the last stronghold for lions is the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) transboundary PA complex (Burkina Faso-Niger-Bénin) where the population is estimated at 300-400 individuals. The three other West African PAs where lions still exist (Niokolo-Koba, Senegal; Kainji Lake and Yankari, Nigeria) have less than 35 individuals. In central Africa, the lions remain relatively common, including outside PAs. In that region, the lion population most at risk is that of Waza National Park (NP), northern Cameroon. It numbered only 10-20 individuals in 2008 and is completely isolated from other lion populations. It is under high pressure from pastoralists living at the periphery of the park.

Table 1. Statistics of historical and current occurrence and extinction of three large carnivores in 41 protected areas (PAs) in West and Central Africa

	West Africa (n=20 PAs)			Central Africa (n=21 PAs)			Both regions (n=41 PAs)		
	Historical occurrence	Current occurrence	% site extinction	Historical occurrence	Current occurrence	% site extinction	Historical occurrence	Current occurrence	% site extinction
Lion	18	3	83	20	11	40	38	14	61
Cheetah	6	2	67	9	2	78	15	4	73
Wild dog	15	1	93	16	2	81	31	3	90
All species	39	6	85	45	15	64	84	21	74



Cheetahs have disappeared from 11 out of 15 PAs (73% of site extinction). The WAP complex is the

last area of savanna in West Africa with cheetahs. The species also occurs in two desert PAs (Aïr-Ténéré and Tim Touna Termit) in Niger. In Central Africa, cheetah is currently confirmed in only two PAs, the Zakouma NP and the surrounding Bahr Salamat Faunal Reserve (FR), Chad.

Wild dogs persist in only one PA in West Africa (Niokolo-Koba NP, Senegal) and two in Central Africa (Siniaka Minia FR, Chad and Zemongo FR, CAR) out of a total of 31 historical occurrences (90% of site extinction).

All three species combined, the number of extinctions in PAs in West Africa (33 out of 39 historical occurrences, i.e. 85% of site extinction) is significantly higher than in Central African PAs (29/45, i.e. 64%). In the latter region, carnivores still persist outside some PAs.

Our study showed that PAs with remaining lion populations are significantly larger than those with extinct populations (see Table 2). This is mainly explained by the fact that animal populations in large PAs are less vulnerable to edge effects. However, we found that the human population density around PAs is not a good predictor of lion extinction. We suggest that the presence of mobile pastoralists may better explain the extinction pattern of large predators. In the sahelo-saharian bioclimatic region of Africa, cattle breeding is mainly exercised through seasonally mobile pastoralism. To cope with declining rainfall in the sahelo-saharian zone, pastoralists have moved further southward in search of dry season pasture over the last 30 years, leading to increasing grazing pressure on Sudanese PAs. Pastoralists, besides sedentary farmers, increasingly use poison to kill potential livestock predators. Because of the temporal and spatial mobility of pastoralism, the

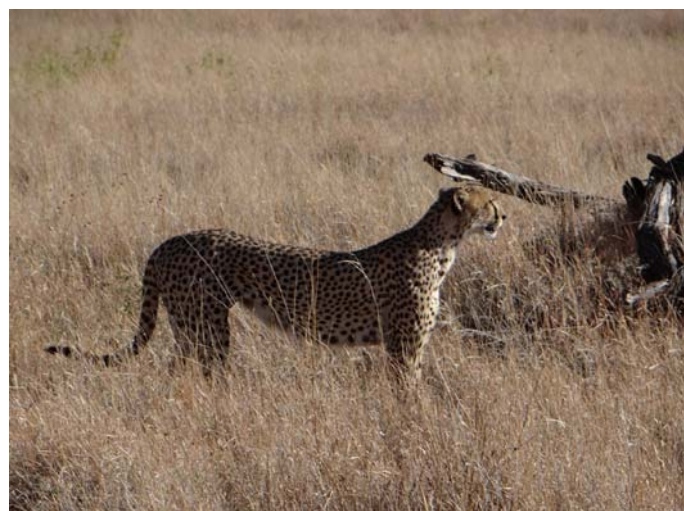
pastoralism pressure is difficult to quantify in georeferenced data such as the (sedentary) human density data used in this study. We recommend (i) to develop indicators of the pastoralism pressure, including the presence of pastoralists in transit or for a longer time in or around PAs, as well as the use of poison; (ii) to organize a “lesson learned” workshop about experiences in managing human-carnivores conflicts in West and Central Africa PAs; (iii) to test in the field new cross-cutting methods and techniques to reduce mortality of large carnivores due to the pastoralism pressure.



Table 2. Mean \pm SD (n) value of two protected area attributes by lion presence and extinction.

Protected area attribute	Region	PAs with lions present	PAs where lions extinct/near extinct	Mann-Whitney U test (p value) ^(a)
Size (km ²)	West	9,922 \pm 4,983 (3)	5,841 \pm 5,804 (15)	Non sig. (0.09)
	Central	9,183 \pm 8,756 (11)	3,574 \pm 3,720 (8)	Non sig. (0.07)
	Both	9,342 \pm 7,931 (14)	5,266 \pm 5,295 (21)	Sig. (0.03)
Human Population Density (n.km ⁻² within a 50 km buffer)	West	20.33 \pm 11.02 (3)	25.64 \pm 18.77 (12)	Non sig. (0.37)
	Central	29.01 \pm 54.69 (11)	18.77 \pm 22.18 (8)	Non sig. (0.47)
	Central exc. VNP ^(b)	13.01 \pm 14.04 (10)	18.77 \pm 22.18 (8)	Non sig. (0.36)
	Both	27.15 \pm 48.31 (14)	22.89 \pm 19.93 (18)	Non sig. (0.24)
	Both exc. VNP ^(b)	14.70 \pm 13.36 (13)	22.89 \pm 19.93 (18)	Non sig. (0.13)

(a) : alpha = 5% ; unilateral test ; (b) excluding Virunga National Park (DRC) because of its unusual high human population density



Key references for West and Central Africa:

Bauer, H *et al.* 2003. Les recherches nécessaires à la conservation du lion en Afrique Centrale et de l'Ouest. *Comptes Rendus Biologies*, 326, 112-118.
 Bauer, H. *et al.* 2010. Assessment and mitigation of lion-human conflict in West and Central Africa. *Mammalia*, 74: 363-367.
 Henschel, P. *et al.* 2014. The lion in West Africa is critically endangered. *PLOS One* 9 (1): e 83500.

To download the full article: *Tropical conservation science* Vol.8 (2):513-527.
http://tropicalconservationscience.mongabay.com/content/v8/tcs_v8i2_513-527_Brugiere.pdf



Developing a Long-Term Vision for Elephants and People Who Live With Them

by Julien Marchais, coordinator of the EleWatch Initiative, Céline Sissler-Bienvenu, director of IFAW France and Renaud Fulconis, director of the NGO Awely - translated by Zoe Warner

Directions 2, 6 and 8 of the Road Map for African PA

Elephant poaching in Africa and illegal global ivory trafficking have pushed elephant populations to a critical level. The media have covered this issue extensively since 2012, which has been an important step in drawing attention to this crisis, and any efforts made to reduce or stop these devastating activities should be welcomed. However, we must think beyond the crisis to develop a long-term vision for elephants and the people who live with them. Efforts to achieve this vision must be balanced, and we must not forget other pressures that threaten elephants as well. The incremental destruction and fragmentation of their natural habitats are constant although perhaps more silent pressures. Human-elephant conflict, which increases as habitat shrinks, is a central obstacle to positive and harmonious human-elephant coexistence.

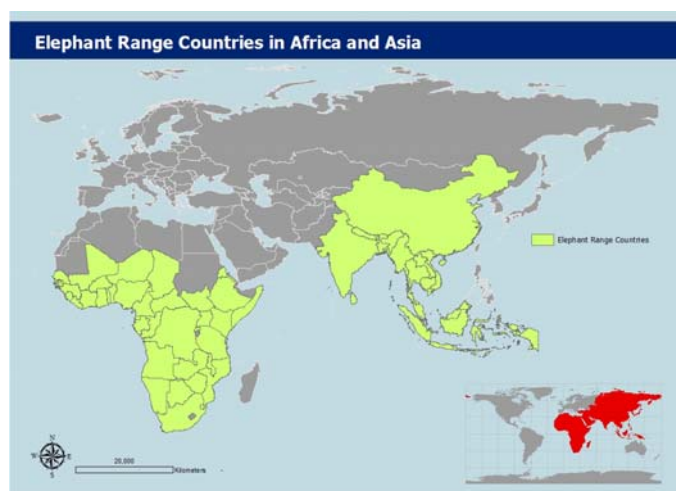
One element that could make coexistence more manageable is to advance the economic value of living elephants and their natural habitats through ecotourism. We know elephants have many essential values — cultural, aesthetic, social, spiritual, and ecological — that cannot be assigned an economic value. Though elephants should be preserved based on those non-economic values alone, we know from experience with neighbouring communities, that those who coexist daily with elephants, especially the most underprivileged, expect economic benefits, sustainable employment, and revenues.

Ecotourism based on elephant-watching is the principal way for creating those essential benefits, especially where there is human-elephant conflict. Except in a few places throughout their range in Africa and Asia, elephant-watching and elephant-related tourism is still underdeveloped. We, at EleWatch, are convinced that long-term elephant preservation depends on optimizing the economic and non-economic values of elephants and sharing those benefits fairly among the communities that coexist with them. We think that this is the way forward.



It is highly significant that the most established wildlife areas are mainly visited by national tourists (often over 80%). It is, therefore, crucial to promote national elephant-watching tourism throughout the 50 elephant-range countries in Asia and Africa. Undeniably, there are still economic and cultural obstacles in many of those countries, but things are changing. And it is vital to contribute to this change. International tourism can play a critical role and will probably always bring the highest revenues per visitor in elephant areas. However, international tourism cannot be the key element to build sustainable tourism — for that, national tourism is an essential element.

This is why the NGOs *Elephants & People*, *IFAW France* and *Awely*, launched the EleWatch Monitoring Initiative in April 2015. We know that several long-term studies have been dedicated to the value of dead elephants (MIKE, ETIS), but no studies have been designed to monitor the value of living elephants. As a result, we can trace illegal trafficking of ivory and elephant poaching and quantify the financial value of these activities, but we cannot compare these figures to the value of legal elephant-related tourism! To fill this gap, the EleWatch Monitoring Initiative focuses on the economic and non-economic values of elephants and their natural habitats as they relate to national and international ecotourism throughout African and Asian elephants' range.



One of the initiative's major objectives is to provide all stakeholders with accurate and reliable data on the reality and potential of elephant-watching based tourism — country by country and site by site — to show where these activities have been successful and to highlight disparities in ecotourism across elephant-range countries. This information will be used to target investments to regions where ecotourism is under-developed but highly feasible. Another objective of the EleWatch initiative is to contribute to the emergence of best practices related to elephant-watching tourism, whether elephants are wild or under human care, to build consensus around the necessary conditions for maintaining elephants, especially in Asia where this issue is crucial.

Developing ecotourism is not an easy task. It requires the involvement of a variety of professional stakeholders to develop successful operations. But in many countries, the link between tourism operators and conservation professionals has not been strong enough to achieve elephant conservation goals. We must learn from the

lessons of the past and build a network of elephant-watching experts, discussing success and failures to foster future successes and avoid the pitfalls of previous efforts.

More information is available on www.elewatch.net and all interested individuals are welcome to join the EleWatch Network and Community. The more individuals who get involved, the quicker long-term solutions for elephant conservation and harmonious human-elephant coexistence will emerge.

In 2015, when there is finally a greater focus on limiting the effects of climate change, it is important to think globally and remember that conserving biodiversity, and, therefore, elephants, is part of the solution. Though we may try to find global solutions that do not emphasise the conservation of elephants and wild biodiversity, it would be wiser to find ways to enjoy long-term coexistence among all species. As Romain Gary wrote in *The Roots of Heaven* in 1956: "Progress inexorably asked men and continents to renounce their strangeness, to break with the mystery — a path that is lined with the bones of the last elephant... The human species came into conflict with the space, the Earth, and even the air it needed to live."



**Please join the initiative,
and let's meet this challenge together!**

A preliminary and non-exhaustive investigation on the state of large and medium-size wildlife in Bafing protected areas (Wongo NP, Kouroufing NP, the Chimpanzees Sanctuary, and the Flawa hunting area)

By Jörg SCHLEICHER, Bourama NIAGATE and Youssouf GALME - Direction Nationale des Eaux et Forêts – ONG Mille Traces – ONG AMEPANE

Note: the conclusions of this article are mostly based on a survey of people "perception" and should be interpreted as such.

INTRODUCTION

For several years, the French NGO "Milles Traces" has been supporting protected areas in different countries in West Africa by supplying them with equipment (cars, equipment for rangers, etc.). This partnership started in Mali and this country has always been a focal point for this support. Both NGOs "Milles Traces" and the Malian NGO "Association Malienne pour l'Etude, la Protection et l'Aménagement de la Nature et de l'Environnement" (AMEPANE) are working together to implement activities on the ground.

This project is not only about providing equipment as it has also initiated a program of faunal inventories implemented by both associations in close cooperation with the department of the Malian National Water and Forests Authority - DNEF. The area that is concerned by this project includes the protected areas of the Bafing - Falémé zone, included in the proposed establishment of the Transboundary Protected Area Bafing - Falémé (APTBF). This project is made of 2 components. The first component is aiming at analyzing the state of large and medium-size wildlife through the perspective of local communities, through audits. This will be followed by a second component which will aim at achieving a targeted and systematic survey of wildlife in Bafing protected areas.

The purpose of this census will be to provide sound and accurate information about the biodiversity status of this area in order to elaborate relevant and wise decision making processes in terms of conservation of Bafing protected areas, throughout the development of its management plan.

This article presents a quick summary of the results of the first component that has been carried out by a joint mission of "Mille traces", "AMEPANE" and the DNEF in December 2013.

The objective of this study was to perform a preliminary assessment of:

- the current composition of wildlife populations;
- the diversity of existing species;
- as well as an analysis of the conservation status of large and medium-size wildlife

This study took place within the four protected areas of the Bafing region, (namely the two national parks (NP) "Kouroufing NP" and "Wongo NP", the «Chimpanzee Sanctuary» and the "Flawa Hunting Area" ("zone d'intérêt cynégétique" – ZIC) as well as in their surrounding areas.

METHODOLOGY

This first assessment is based on a collection of presence / absence data from local informants. This methodology is based on standardized interviews that have been carried out with the main users of wildlife resources (hunters), but also with other local operators and users of natural resources (such as farmers, fishermen, herders, protected areas managers).



Interview in a village

The area investigated included a buffer zone of 12 km around the Bafing protected areas. This surrounding area contains 44 villages or important settlements out of which 15 villages have been sampled. 34 % of the total number of villages in the area have therefore been investigated. The persons interviewed were gathered in a group, bringing together representatives of traditional hunters, livestock breeders/ farmers and fishermen in each village of the sample.

The assessment was based on a standardized method where two types of intelligences were collected:

- The first part of the interview was dealing with collection of information about hunting and socio-economic aspects linked to the large and medium-size wildlife (i.e. what are the main species that are hunted; what are the main species that are considered as crop-pests or as livestock-predators; what are the hunting methods used; etc.);

- The second part was targeting information about presence, scarcity or abundance, evolution of abundance and location of large and medium-size wildlife species. In order to achieve this, pictures of 51 large and medium-size wildlife species (endemic wildlife of the area) were systematically presented to the people interviewed. In order to verify the credibility of the informants' statements, the images from 5 other African species that never occurred in this biogeographical area were added to the pool of showed images. If one informant of the group confirmed the presence of one of these "control" species, the entire questionnaire form would be invalidated. For each picture shown, a list of standardized questions was asked, such as: local name, presence, abundance, date of last contact, etc.



In order to get an estimation of the status of the population of each species recorded, an analysis of several data was then carried out based on the following criteria:

- Frequency (number of villages reporting the presence of the considered species),
- Abundance (very abundant, abundant, scarce, rare, very rare, absent),
- Population trends (increasing, stable, decreasing).

It should however be kept in mind that all the data collected in this study might be subjective since they are only based on information provided by the interviewed people. Nevertheless, the sample size of the villages that have been investigated seems to be large enough to help to establish a hierarchy on the perception of the conservation status of the species found in the area (very good, good, medium, unfavorable, very unfavorable, extremely unfavorable).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

46 images of wildlife out of 56 have been recognized by local informants during the survey. Among the 46, 44 have been considered to be still present on the territory of at least one of the sampled villages. None of the questionnaire has been invalidated since none of the informants recognized the "control" species.

7 primate species, 12 species of large and medium-sized carnivores, 13 species of ungulates (including 11 Bovides), 6 species of other mammal groups (important from a hunting or a conservation perspective) and 6 species of large reptiles were considered to be present in this area.

Some of the flagship species that were considered to be present in the area are: the Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes verus*), the Western Giant Eland (*Taurotragus derbianus derbianus*), the African Wild Dog (*Lycaon pictus*) and the Lion (*Panthera leo*). The African Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) is considered to be absent from the area. Indeed the last herds have disappeared during the 1980s, however, it was mentioned that an erratic individual would have passed through the area in 2012.

In conclusion all the common wildlife species of the western Sudanic biogeographical area, except the Elephant, were considered to be still present in the area.

However, the conservation status of this wildlife seems to be worrying if not really bad. Although the majority of large ungulates are considered to be still present in the area, their abundance seems to be very low and still decreasing nowadays.

Regarding large carnivores, the perception of local villagers indicates that the conservation status of their population seems to be better (rate as medium) than those of ungulates. But this does not apply to wild dogs and hyenas which conservation status has been rated respectively as extremely unfavourable and very unfavourable.

This can be explained by the fact that these species are difficult or dangerous to hunt. Moreover, domestic livestock may be considered by wild carnivores as substitute preys to replace wild ungulates, especially when the population of those large wild ungulates seems to have drastically decreased. The conservation status of primates is considered either as satisfactory or of low concern. This is even the case even for chimpanzees which is a flagship species for international conservation (rated as “medium”).

The main reason of this decrease of wildlife populations observed by the majority of the villagers may be linked to the large-scale hunting pressure that was led by Mauritanian people for commercial purposes between 1980 and 1990. Other reasons include: the proliferation of small scale farming settlements and expansion of crops that divide up wildlife habitat. The presence of large herds of cattle migrating during the dry season is also competing with wildlife habitat and might be one of the threats that could explain the poor status of conservation of wildlife.

Mauritanian poachers no longer operate in this area since the Malian army intervened in the late 1990s and probably because wildlife population had collapsed between 1980 and 1990. However, local villagers have not observed a substantial recovery of wildlife populations after 1990. This remark highlights the facts that the other threats mentioned above, as well as uncontrolled hunting at local level, might play a huge role in preventing recovery of wildlife populations.



PROSPECTIVE

Effective management of protected areas has to be based on a sound knowledge of ecosystem functioning.

The development of the management plan of the protected area should be supported by reliable dataset on the current state of biodiversity. This initial state will serve as a point of reference to then identify conservation issues and determine realistic management objectives and emphasize management priorities. The monitoring of the effectiveness of management actions should be done toward this initial state of biodiversity to be able to measure if wildlife populations are increasing or decreasing over time. The assessment presented in this study only represents a preliminary step and has to be followed by a wildlife census in order to get more relevant data.

Meanwhile, given the size of the Bafing protected area (PA), management actions should be prioritized by defining a core area where the management efforts would be concentrated. This core area could be identified on the basis of the current concentrations of wildlife: the less degraded part of the PA could play this core area role. Core areas are seen as “refuge” areas for wildlife.

In a context of limited financial and technical resources, it is important to prioritize highly effective management actions in the core area (including restoration and improvement of the carrying capacity of wildlife habitats). Later on, when the core area is under control and maybe improving, the management actions will then be extended to the rest of the PA.

For more information:

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Download the full report on: <http://www.mille-traces.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Rapport-inventaire-préliminaire-Bafing.pdf>



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WCS is recruiting Maiko – Tayna – Kahuzi- Biega Landscape Leader, DRC

WCS will in the near future be expanding its role and activities in the Maiko – Tayna – Kahuzi-Biega landscape in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), in cooperation with USAID and the Government of DRC. WCS is looking for an experienced Landscape Leader to ensure the oversight and coordination of activities within this landscape, supported by USAID under the Central Africa Forest Ecosystems Conservation (CAFEC) project of the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE). The landscape includes the Maiko and Kahuzi-Biega National Parks, Itombwe and Tayna Reserves, and corridor areas linking these protected areas, many of which have been informally established as community reserves.

The Landscape Leader will work with WCS DRC and cross-cutting staff to implement a broad range of conservation strategies including protected area management, wildlife law enforcement, biological and socio-economic surveys, land-use planning, local livelihood activities linked directly to biodiversity conservation targets, and the development of REDD+ strategies to reduce deforestation. In addition to work funded by USAID, the Landscape Lead will also oversee WCS programs within the landscape funded by other donors. The position will report to the WCS DRC Country Director and will be based in either Goma or Bukavu, DRC, with extensive travel around the landscape, as well as regular travel to Kinshasa.

The **duties** of the Landscape Lead will include:

- Oversight and implementation of WCS programs within the MTKB landscape, in accordance with WCS field operations policies and procedures, approved work plans and budgets, and contractual agreements.
- Establishing and maintaining relationships with other program partners, stakeholders, beneficiaries, government agencies and other relevant organizations.
- Responsible for the day to day coordination and oversight of contractual agreements with program partners.
- Along with the DRC Country Program and other WCS staff, participating in the development of new

projects and activities within the landscape, and assisting with fundraising.

- Working with the DRC country program and the CARPE Chief of Party to prepare technical reports as required. In addition to regular formal reports, ensuring that the DRC country program is kept regularly up to date on project activities and achievements, and providing summaries of any special project highlights which can be used to keep donors informed.

- In collaboration with WCS DRC program, CARPE Chief of Party and cross-cutting staff, monitoring program implementation according to the monitoring and evaluation plan, and preparation for and coordination of program evaluations.

- Oversight of financial management, human resources and WCS assets for the MTKB landscape according to WCS policies and systems.

- Assuring that all WCS security standards and protocols are implemented in coordination with WCS policies.

Requirements for the position include:

- A Masters or PhD degree in conservation, natural resource management, or other relevant field and ten years relevant experience in Africa.

- Demonstrated ability to operate effectively in difficult settings, and politically sensitive situations.

- Experience of managing projects with a wide range of different elements and multiple sub-grantees and partners.

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills and relational skills, especially in a cross-cultural environment, including fluency in French and English. Knowledge of Swahili would be an advantage.

- Experience of working in an area of insecurity.

- Experience of working in eastern DRC and/or other countries in the Central Africa region would be an advantage.

Interested candidates should apply by sending an application letter and CV together with the names and contact information of three referees to the addresses below.

Please include "MTKB Landscape Lead position" in the subject line of your email: africaapplications@wcs.org with a copy to amcneilage@wcs.org (file size should be limited to under 500kb)



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(Progress on Pangolins) Fellowship
Programme**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) are pleased to announce the 2015-2016 MENTOR-POP (Progress on Pangolins) Fellowship Programme.

Based in Yaoundé, Cameroon, the 15 month MENTOR Progress on Pangolins (POP) Fellowship Programme will run from October 2015 to December 2016 and develop a trans-disciplinary team of early-career Central African and Asian conservation practitioners to champion the conservation of pangolins in Central Africa. A team of nine MENTOR POP Fellows will be provided with academic and field-based training and internships, mentoring from experienced conservation professionals, and experiential learning in best conservation practices. **We are now accepting applications for the Fellowship Programme.**

Due to funding restrictions, this call is only open to nationals, citizens or permanent residents of a COMIFAC country (Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Sao Tomé and Príncipe) or one of the following Asian countries: China, Laos or Vietnam.

Further information, eligibility criteria, guidelines and the application form are available on the [ZSL website](#) or can be requested from the [MENTOR POP Programme Coordinator](#).

The application deadline is 4th September 2015. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview the week commencing 14th September 2015.



The Tour du Valat is seeking a Junior Research Scientist in the Biology of non-marine Fish Conservation

The *Tour du Valat* is a private foundation working for the research and conservation of Mediterranean wetlands.

Founded in 1954 by Dr Luc Hoffmann and based in the Camargue, it is at the cutting edge of multidisciplinary fields of research, building bridges between science, management and public policies, and drawing up management plans. The Tour du Valat has internationally recognised scientific expertise, and provides practical responses to problems regarding the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources. The Tour du Valat's projects are carried out in the Camargue and around the Mediterranean Basin.

With its 2600-hectare estate, the *Tour du Valat* has laboratories, experimental field sites and offices surrounded by wetlands and various other Mediterranean habitats. It has developed a wide range of local, national, and international partnerships. The *Tour du Valat* research teams work in close collaboration with several national and international research centres, in particular the nearby universities and CNRS (national scientific research centres) of Montpellier and Marseille, the Edward Grey Institute (Oxford), and the Doñana Biological Station (CSIC, Sevilla).

The *Tour du Valat* employs 60 people, including 10 researchers and about ten Ph.D. or other students. For further information on the *Tour du Valat* visit: <http://www.tourduvalat.org/en>

Fish in the Mediterranean region, with many endemic species, are at the heart of multiple issues, including conservation and socio-economic issues concerning their sustainable exploitation, their role in food webs, and exotic species. The *Tour du Valat's* current work on fish essentially concerns populations of Mediterranean lagoon fish (especially the eel), the impact of introduced freshwater species (e.g. European Catfish) and the conservation of endemic freshwater fish, in particular Mediterranean trout species.

The *Tour du Valat* is seeking a junior research scientist to continue developing its fish research and conservation programme.

His/her main task will be to develop a research programme after the retirement of a research director

(http://www.tourduvalat.org/en/cv/alain_crivelli).

The programme will be in the field of the ecology of fish populations, in particular long-term studies of populations of marked individuals in metapopulation contexts. The **Tour du Valat** has a long tradition of research on the biology of populations, with large databases on the life histories of individuals.

The research assistant will join the **Tour du Valat's** "Conservation of Species" department, which aims is to provide solutions to issues regarding the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources involving Mediterranean wetland species, both threatened species and those causing problems. The conservation solutions it proposes are based above all on scientific knowledge, resulting from its research projects, and on the transfer and application of the information produced by the scientific community in general.

How to apply:

Send the application file to daubigney@tourduvalat.org (ref: TdV-2015-SR) by **13 September 2015**, with:

- ☐ a covering letter;
- ☐ a resume/CV
- ☐ a list of publications;
- ☐ a research programme proposition (max. 2 pages);
- ☐ the names and contact details of three references (with e-mail addresses), including a recent employer.



PANORAMA

Inspiring Protected Area Solutions

You remember our 22 African Stories brought to the World Park Congress in Sydney, November 2014? Well, some have been selected to enter the Panorama journey. Learn more about this initiative!

Protected areas offer solutions to a variety of global challenges, ranging from climate change impacts to food security and of course species conservation.

Vice versa, there is a need to better communicate approaches that have achieved success for PA management and governance, and share them in a structured format.



Photo: Daniel Marnewick

The IUCN-led **Panorama** platform assembles such "inspiring protected area solutions". Ten "solution stories" from Africa have just been published, ranging from approaches to transboundary conservation in the Virunga region, to participatory mapping for involving communities in PA decision-making.

Explore them under the link here after:
www.panorama.solutions

NAPA – CONTACTS

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Program on African Protected Areas & Conservation
PAPACO - Program Officer – Green List

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