



YANKARI GAME RESERVE

WCS QUARTERLY REPORT: APRIL-JUNE 2020



Report Prepared By:
Nachamada Geoffrey
WCS Yankari Landscape Director



SUMMARY

This report describes law enforcement efforts and ranger patrols managed by WCS in Yankari Game Reserve for the period April to June 2020. A total of 2,090 patrol man days (41 patrols) were completed by rangers covering a total distance of 4,153km. Rangers made twelve arrests (9 hunters and 3 livestock grazers) during the reporting period, all of whom were released on bail by the court due to COVID-19 fears. No elephant carcass was recorded and no elephant poacher was arrested during the period. However, elephant crop raiding was reported from Dan, Kafi, and Gum communities. We continue to track the elephants with the aid of the satellite collars to provide better protection and mitigate human elephant conflict issues. Several livestock grazing incidences were recorded during the period. Six joint patrols with the army were completed during the period as well.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 41 ranger patrols were organized during this period covering a total distance of 4,153 km and 2,090 patrol man-days (see Appendix 2 for more details). Rangers made 12 arrests (9 hunters and 3 livestock grazers) during the reporting period (see Appendix 1 for more details). Levels of protection *within the areas patrolled* are adequate but some areas of the reserve were left unprotected (see Map 1 below) during this reporting period due to shortage of funds and firearms to organize more patrols. There is an urgent need to increase the number of patrols as four patrols per week are not enough to cover Yankari entirely. Six joint patrols with the army were completed to boost ranger morale and to assure the surrounding communities of our commitment and partnership with other security agencies to work together and keep Yankari and the surrounding communities safe.

PATROL STRATEGY AND CAMPING PATROL SCHEDULE

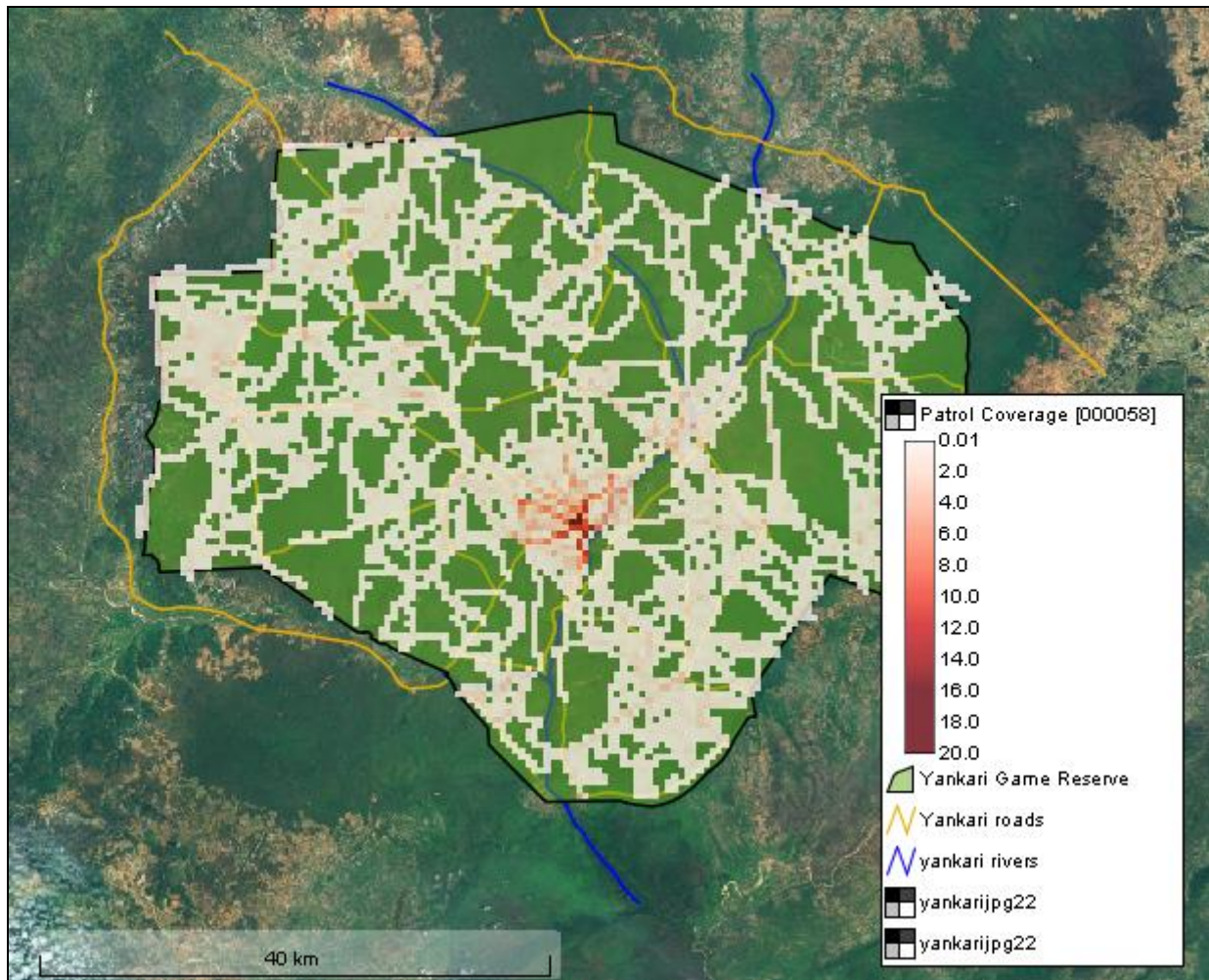
The current patrol strategy is limited by the number of firearms and vehicles available. Currently, we can only organize four camping patrols each week. Four teams consisting of 6-7 rangers per team were sent out on camping patrol for seven days. With only limited resources available the current patrol strategy targets vulnerable areas rather than trying to cover the entire reserve. This strategy has also enabled us to focus more attention on the remaining elephants. There were no fixed camping locations, instead rangers continuously change their location overnight both to increase the area coverage but also to minimize the risk of the camp being discovered by poachers and attacked. Data is collected using handheld computers running CyberTracker software which automatically records GPS coordinates for every observation. Data were analyzed using SMART software. Table 1 below summarizes the patrol data for the period.

PATROL EFFORT

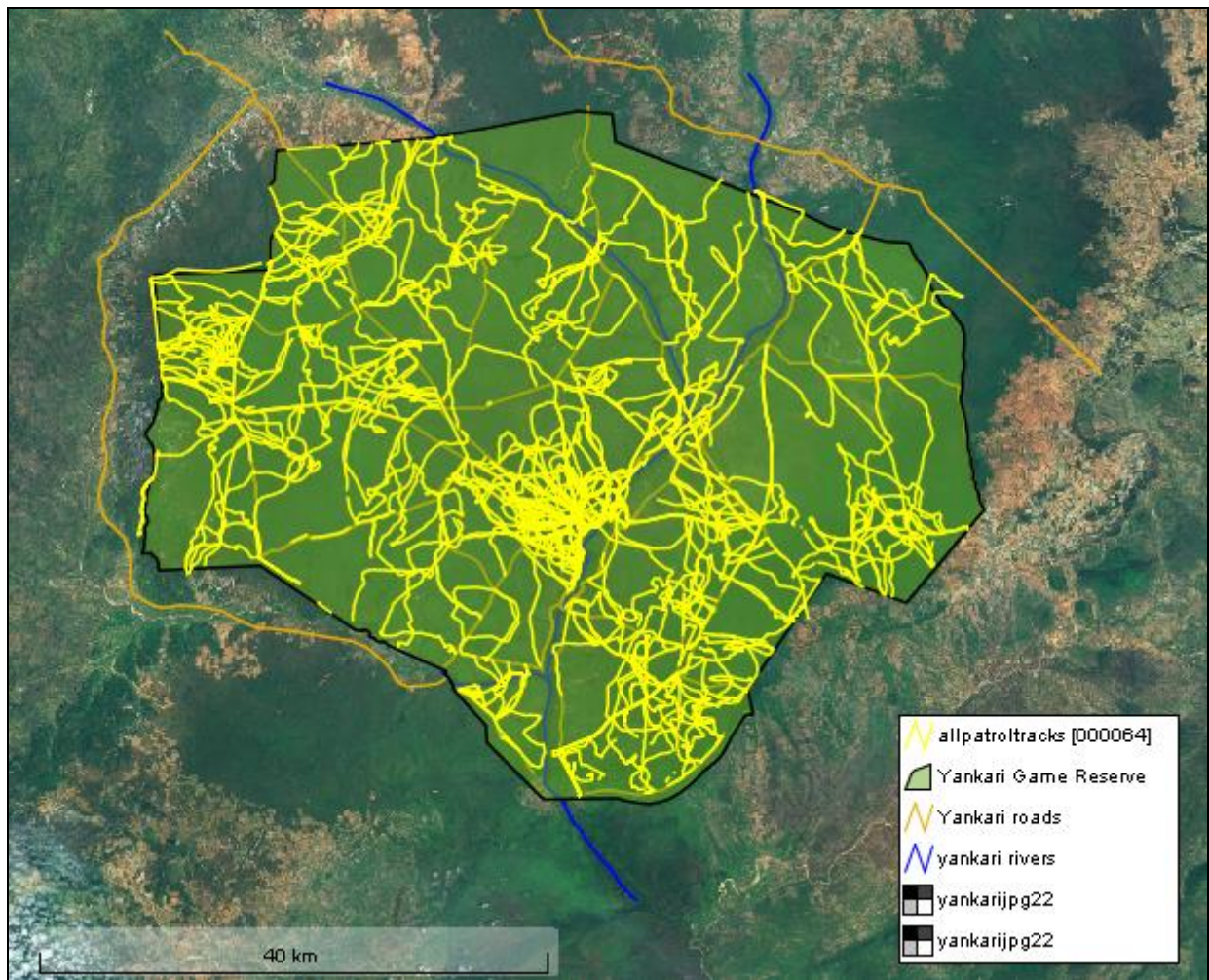
In *Map 1*, the darker red part of the grid map indicates areas that have been more frequently patrolled, the grey portions represent areas that were less patrolled while the un-shaded parts of the grid represents areas that were not patrolled during the reporting period.

Table 1. Summary of patrol effort for the period April to June 2020

<i>No of Patrols</i>	<i>Distance (km)</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>No of Days</i>	<i>Patrol Man Days</i>
41	4,153	982	298	2,090



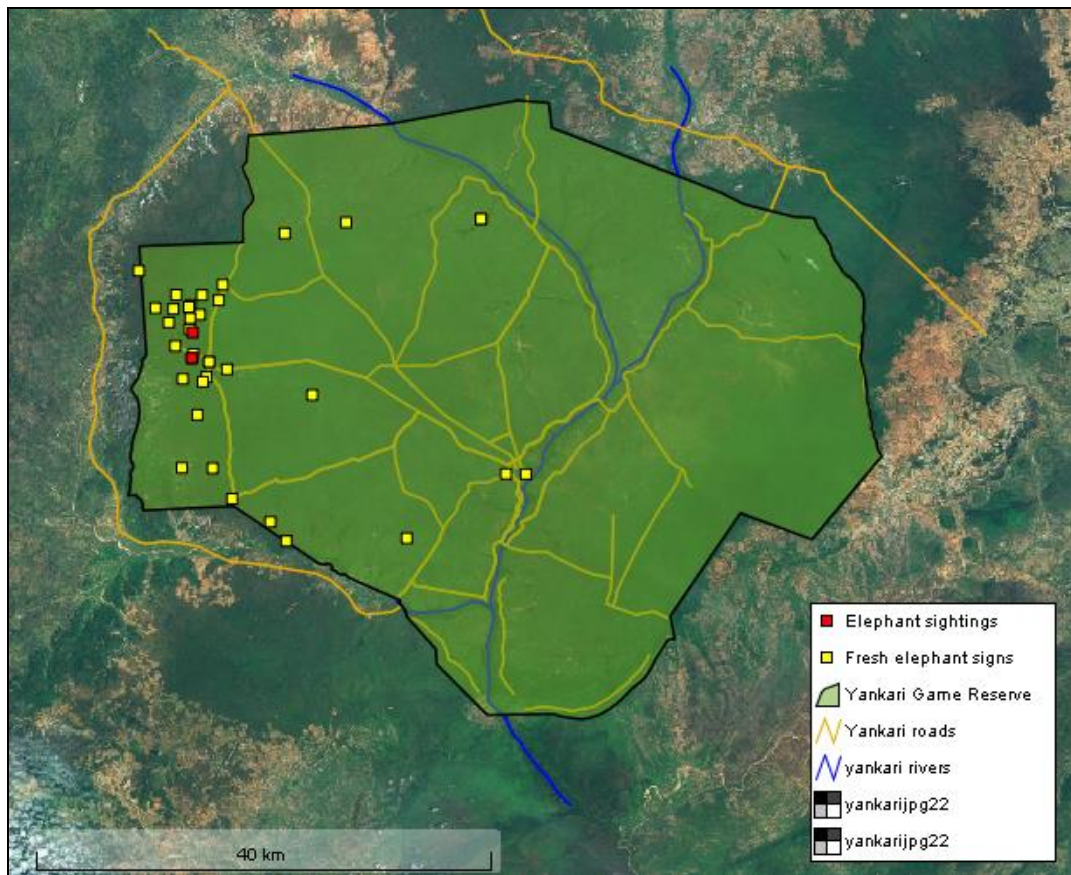
Map 1: Patrol effort in km walked per grid cell for April-June 2020. Darker red colour indicates areas of more intense patrol coverage.



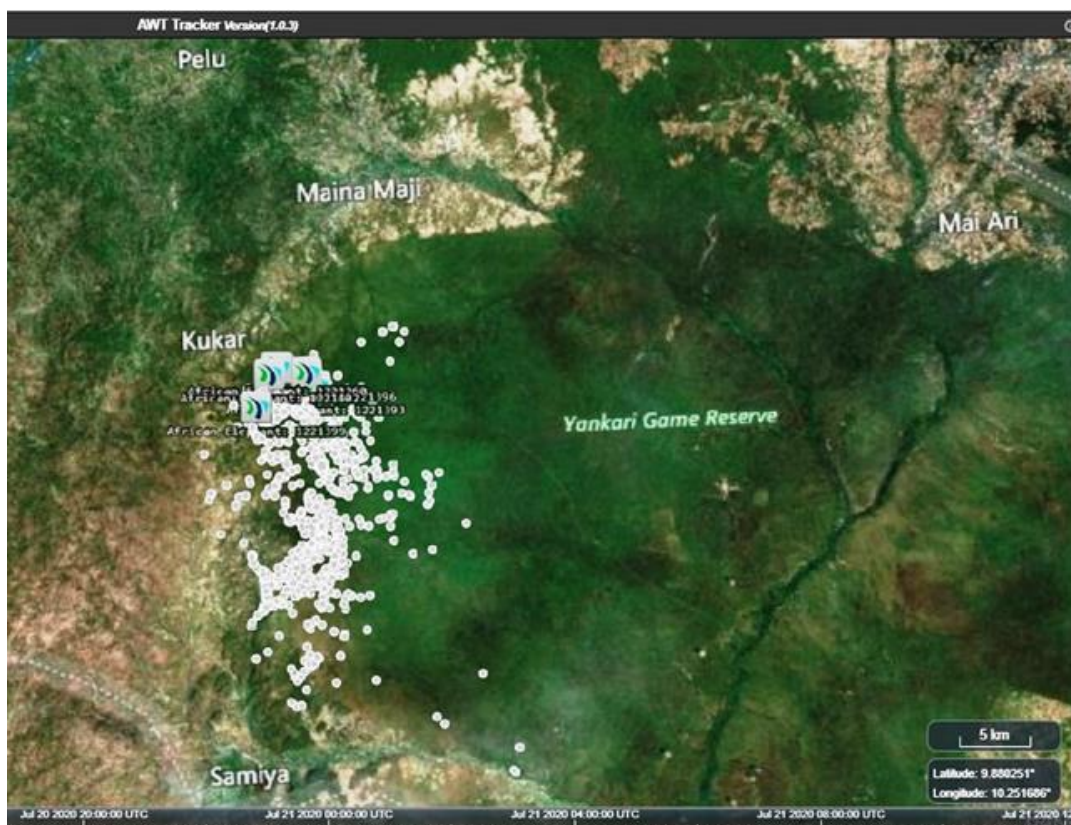
Map 2: Patrol track logs for April-June 2020

ELEPHANT CONSERVATION

Fresh (1-3 days old) elephant sign and elephant sighting was recorded in the reserve during ranger patrols, see Map 3 below. Crop raiding by elephants was reported from Dan, Kafi and Gum communities. Rangers were sent to the areas concerned, although typically elephants raid crops overnight and usually by the time the rangers arrive the following morning the elephants have already left the farms and returned to the reserve. Zero elephant carcasses were recorded and no elephant poacher was arrested during the period. We continue to track the elephants with the aid of the satellite collars put on them to provide close protection and mitigate human wildlife conflict issues.



Map 3: Elephant Activities Recorded by All Ranger Patrols April-June 2020



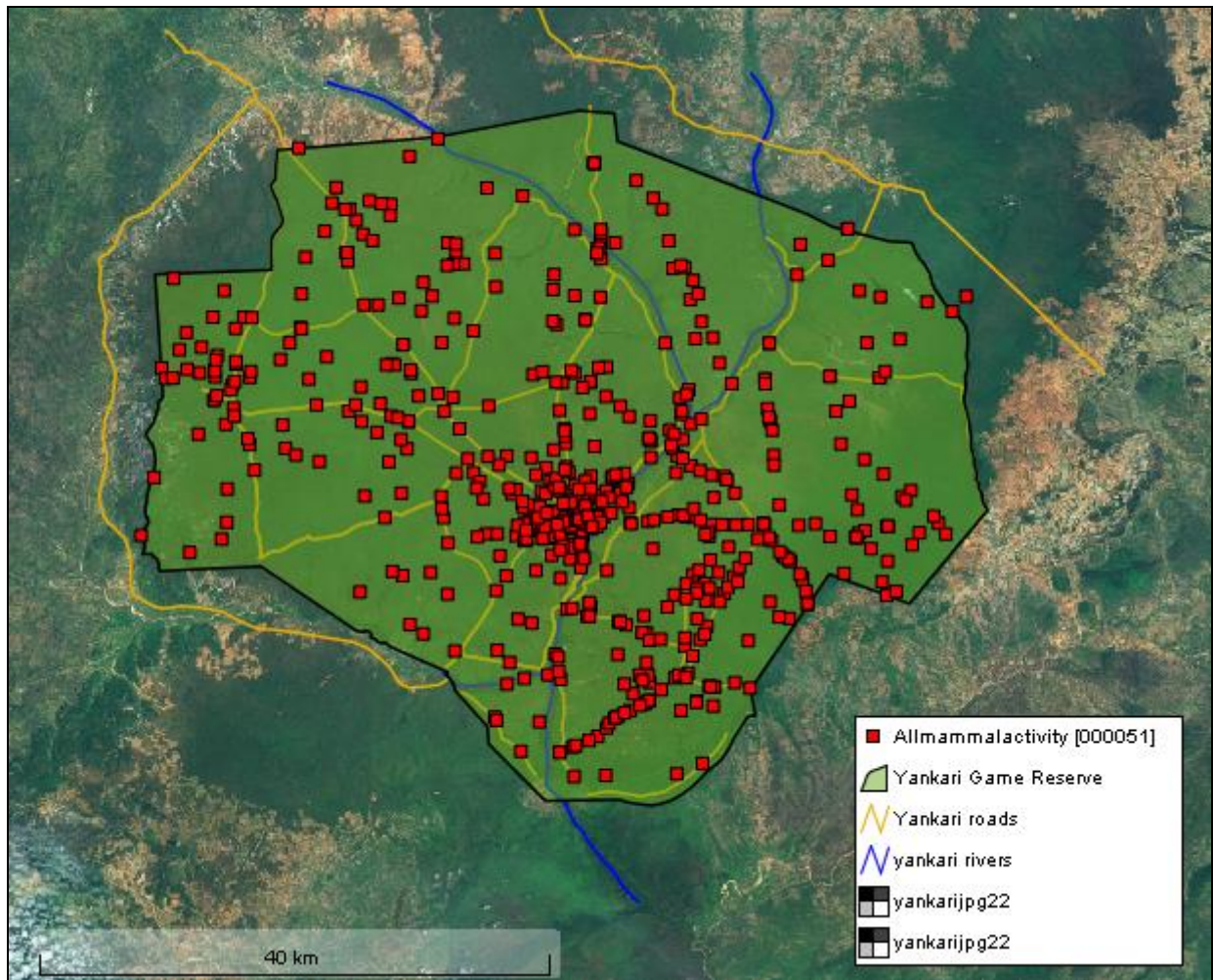
Map 4: Elephant Movement Data from Satellite Collar Recorded during April-June 2020

LION CONSERVATION

No fresh lion sign was reported by ranger patrols during the period. Fresh lion sign meant sign that is 1-3 days old. Tourists reported seeing two adult lions (male and female) during the period and we have put out camera traps in those locations as well as other parts of the reserve.

ALL OTHER MAMMAL SIGHTINGS

Various other large mammals were sighted within the reserve (see Map 5 below) including hippos, baboons, waterbuck, roan antelope, buffalo, hartebeest, patas monkey, tantalus monkey, bushbuck and warthog.



Map 5: Location of All Other Mammal Sightings April-June 2020



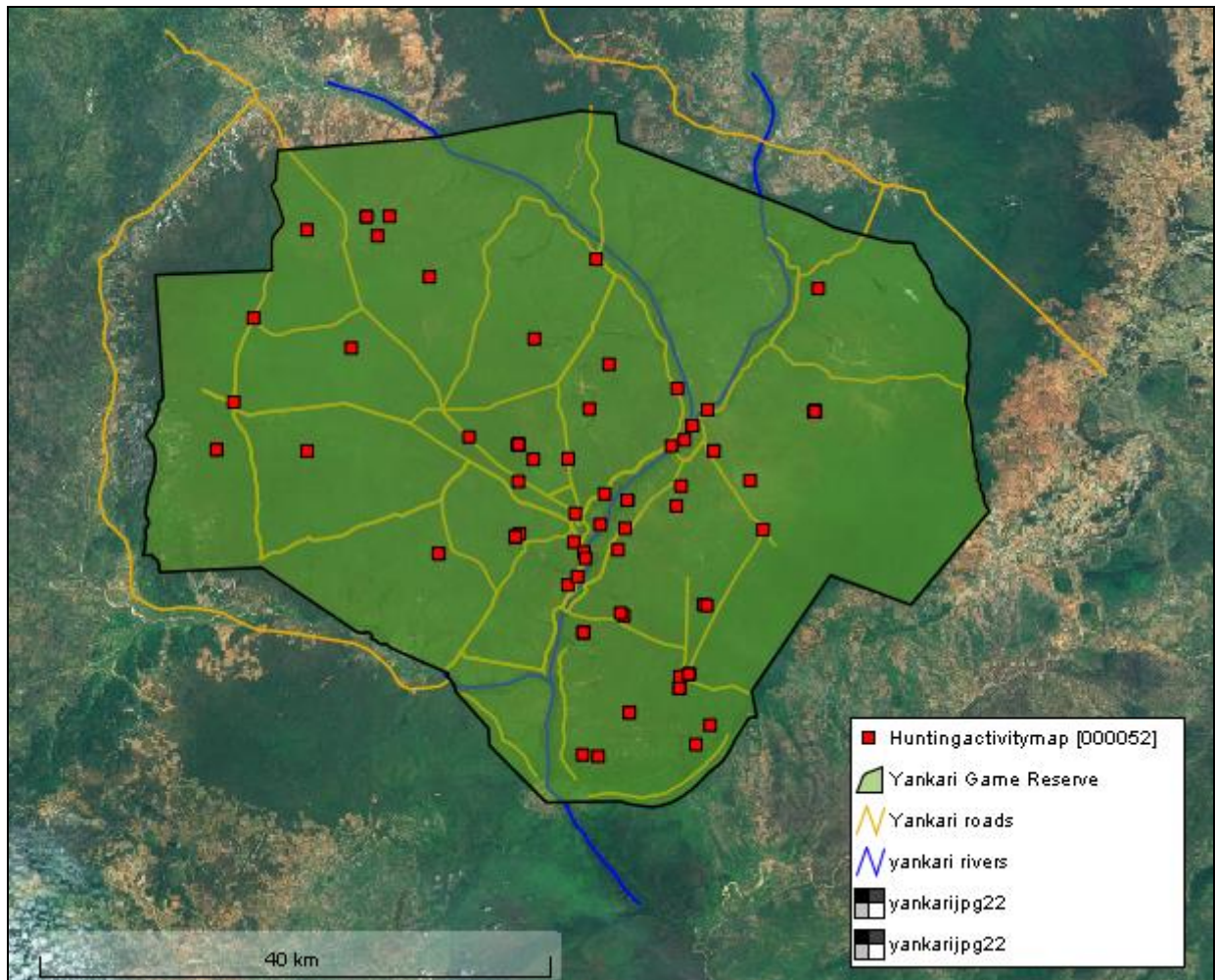
Camera trap photo: waterbuck, roan, & hartebeest, June 2020



Camera trap photo: buffalo and roan at one of the salt-licks, April 2020

HUNTING EVIDENCE

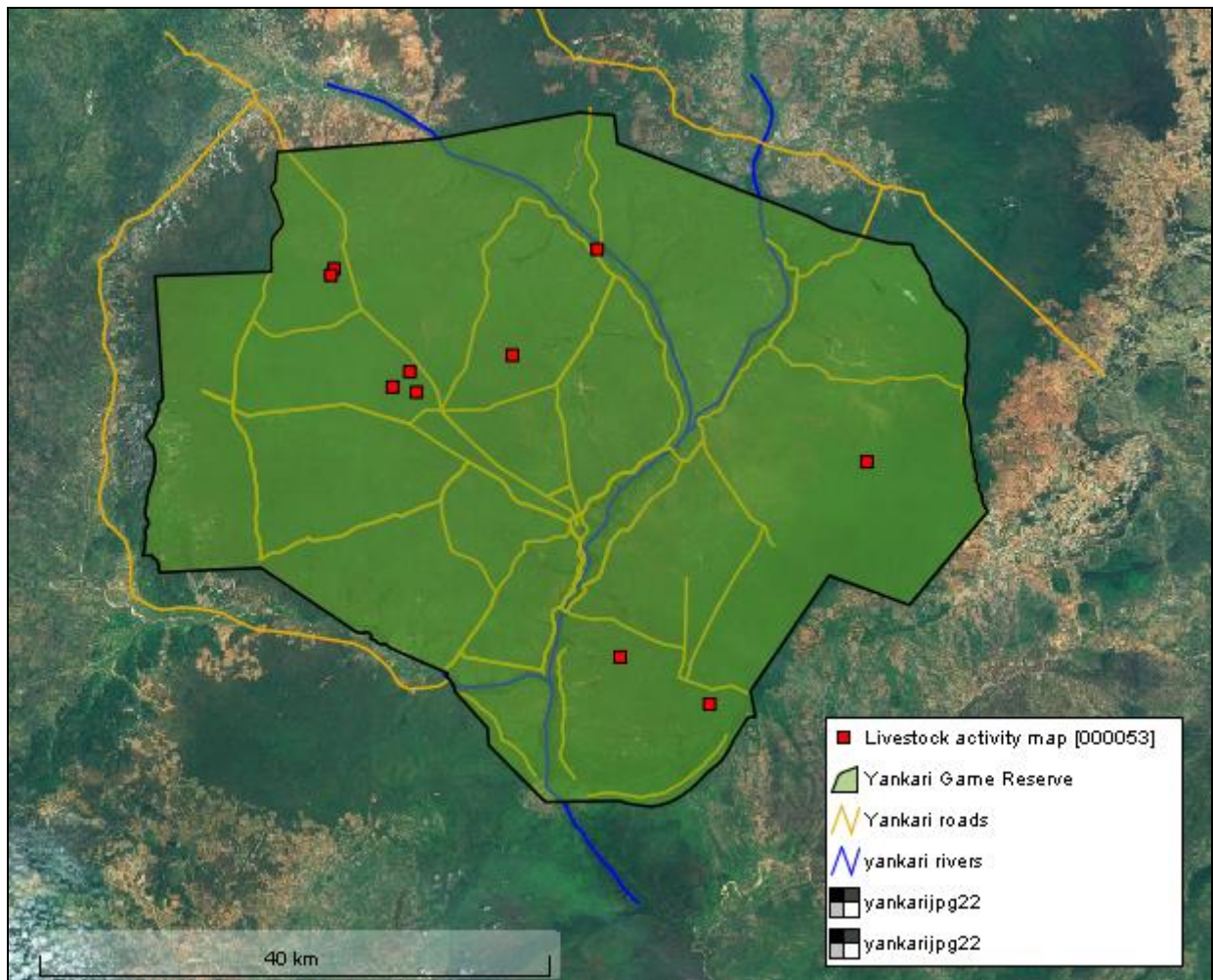
Hunting was a major problem despite the arrest of nine hunters (Appendix 1). Hunting is usually a big problem during the planting season because wildlife is scattered all over the reserve during the rains and at the same time there is shortage of food in the communities. The outdated wildlife law does not provide sufficient deterrent to poachers. We are currently working closely with the government to revise the wildlife law to provide tougher punishment that will serve as deterrent. Hunting signs recorded this period are shown in Map 6 below.



Map 6: Hunting Activity Recorded by All Ranger Patrols April-June 2020

LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Livestock grazing in the reserve was a major problem encountered during the period and we made three arrests as a result. Livestock grazing sign recorded this reporting period is shown in Map 7 below.



Map 7: Livestock Grazing Activity Recorded by All Ranger Patrols April-June 2020

CHALLENGES FACED

- **Outdated wildlife law and the lack of deterrent.** The Yankari protection law is outdated and the penalties need strengthening to act as a more effective deterrent. If there are tough enough jail sentences to offenders as deterrent, hunting pressure would be mitigated.
- **Lack of Payment of Counterpart funding by the Bauchi State Government (BASG).** WCS is still waiting to receive counterpart funding from the BASG for over 30 months now.
- **Problems with Patrol Vehicles.** The four vehicles we have which help to support ranger teams while on patrol are old now and increasingly unreliable due to overuse, bad road network and frequent breakdown.
- **Poaching** remains a big problem. The outdated Yankari wildlife is not sufficient deterrent for people to stop hunting, notwithstanding rangers have continued to make significant arrests.
- **Firearms.** The firearms that the rangers use are old now and need replacement and if possible an upgrade from using shotguns to rifles.
- **Elephant crop raiding and human-elephant conflict.**
- **Lack of proper real time communication** between the ranger teams on patrol and the operations room. Since the mast on which our antenna for the VHF radio system was knocked down by heavy winds about a year ago, proper communication between ranger teams on patrol and the operations room has become difficult. Rangers have to depend on mobile network on their cell phones which is not available in most parts of the reserve. There are ongoing discussions with Airtel to allow us mount the antenna on their existing masts.
- **Livestock grazing** in the reserve remains a problem. The outdated Yankari wildlife is not a deterrent for people to stop illegal livestock grazing in the reserve.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Review the Bauchi State wildlife law and strengthen existing penalties.
2. BASG to provide counterpart funding to WCS to support protection activities in Yankari.
3. Purchase additional vehicles to increase patrol activities and improve levels of supervision.
4. The VHF radio system should be mounted on the existing Airtel mast so that it can continue to support all patrols as soon as approvals are secured.
5. Purchase additional firearms to increase the number of patrols and extend patrol coverage.
6. Complete renovation and repair of the reserve's network of tracks and bridges.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to the Elephant Crisis Fund, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Lion Recovery Fund, UNEP African Elephant Fund, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, French Embassy in Nigeria, Tusk Trust, North Carolina Zoo, Omaha Zoo, Bauchi State Government and the A.P. Leventis Conservation Foundation for their support.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Twelve Arrests and Court Outcome April-June 2020

Date	Name	Location	Offence and exhibit	Village	Outcome
12/04/20	Umar Adamu	Kariyo	Arrested for hunting in the reserve with a Dane gun, knife, empty sacks and torchlight	Kwala	Released on bail by the court. Prisons are not currently accepting persons except for homicide cases. He was bailed by the chief from his village who will take him back to court on request. His gun and exhibit are in our custody.
11/05/20	Ahmadu Musa Isa Ahmadu Hassan Abdullahi	Tungan Kiyashi	Arrested for hunting in the reserve with 3 Dane guns, knife, cellphone, empty sacks and torchlight	Wolakerol	Released on bail by the court as the prisons are no longer accepting persons except for homicide cases due to COVID-19 fears. Their guns and other exhibits are in our custody.
12/05/20	Yusuf Isah Isa Ayuba	Libji	Arrested for hunting in the reserve with 2 Dane guns, knife, smoked Hartebeest, empty sacks and torchlight	Katarko	Released on bail by the court as the prisons are not currently accepting persons except for homicide cases due to COVID-19 fears. Their guns and other exhibits are in our custody.
22/05/20	Ahmadu Abba Muhammad Abdu Hassan Abdu	Yalo	Arrested for livestock grazing in the reserve with a cellphone, and 3 axes	Yalo	Released on bail by the court as the prisons are no longer accepting persons except for homicide cases due to COVID-19 fears.
13/06/20	Danjuma Sale	Tungan- Baki	Arrested for hunting in the reserve with a Dane gun, knife, cellphone,	Kukawa	Released on bail by the court as the prisons are no more accepting

			empty sacks and torchlight		persons except for homicide cases due to COVID-19 fears. His gun and other exhibits are in our custody.
29/06/20	Isa Yahaya Mohammed Abdulhami	Shaman	Arrested for hunting in the reserve with 2 Dane guns, knife, gun powder, 2 axes, knife	Gaji-Gamu	Released on bail by the court as the prisons are no more accepting persons except for homicide cases due to COVID-19 fears. Their guns and other exhibits are in our custody.

Appendix 2: 41 Camping Patrols Completed April-June 2020

No	Area patrolled	Patrol Start	Patrol End	Patrol Man Days
1.	Garangaran, Shaman, Yelwan-Duguri, Nata'ala, Hawan-Kantana, Duguri	01/04/20	07/04/20	56
2.	Rendel, Bultu, Pati, Gwambaza, Bogga, Malla, Tungan-Dutse, Kali-Imam	01/04/20	07/04/20	42
3.	Libji, Nata'ala, Shaman, Buri, Batta, Dagudi	01/04/20	07/04/20	56
4.	Libji, Kalba, Maigoro, Saltlick A & B, Kalban	08/04/20	14/04/20	56
5.	Giwa, Rendel, Jada, Tattabara, Malla, Shehu Maska, Rimi, Tungulum, Ruwan Gogo	08/04/20	14/04/20	42
6.	Jibrin Nayaya, Shaman, Maikonkoni, Buri, Shaman	08/04/20	14/04/20	56
7.	Shafale, Rimi, Tungan-Dutse, Borkono	15/04/20	22/04/20	48
8.	Libji, Nata'ala, Ruwan-Rakumi, Rendel, Dagudi, Hawan-Kantanawa, Jibrin-Nayaya	15/04/20	22/04/20	56
9.	Bultu, Jarkasa, Malla, Shehu-Maska, Dogon-Kurmi, Buri	15/04/20	22/04/20	48
10.	Bultu, Gwambaza, Buri, Dogon-Ruwa, Malla, Bogga, Giwa	15/04/20	22/04/20	48
11.	Garangaran, Faliyaram, Buri, Kuka, Libji, Kalba	23/04/20	29/04/20	49
12.	Saltlick A & B, Daban-Maje, Borkono, Faliyaram	23/04/20	29/04/20	56
13.	Mawulgo, Kariyo, Jada, Rendel, Mansur, Gale	23/04/20	29/04/20	49
14.	Gwambaza, Kwaffa, Tonglong, Borkono, Tukurruwa, Shaman, Shafale	30/04/20	06/05/20	49
15.	Dimil, Tungulum, Bultu, Kariyo, Malla, Gale, Shaushau, Dogon-Kurmi, Buri	30/04/20	06/05/20	49
16.	Daban-Maje, Shaman, Kwaffa, Garangaran	30/04/20	06/05/20	42
17.	Saltlick A & B, Maigoro, Mawulgo, Libji, Shafale	07/05/20	13/05/20	35
18.	Guruntum, Wolakerol, Tungan-Kiyashi, Tungan-Baki	07/05/20	13/05/20	49
19.	Tukurruwa, Dan, Shaman, Faliyaram, Duguri, Kuka, Buri	07/05/20	13/05/20	42
20.	Kariyo, Dogon-Kurmi, Shaushau, Tungulum	07/05/20	13/05/20	42
21.	Borkono, Shehu-Maska, Bultu, Gwambaza, Giwa, Ruwan-	14/05/20	19/05/20	56

	Rakumi			
22	Kalban, Maikogo, Bultu, Libji, Maikogo, Shafale, Saltlick A & B	14/05/20	19/05/20	49
23	Maikogo, Tattabara, Ruwan-Rakumi, Kwaffa, Duguri, Dagudi	14/05/20	19/05/20	49
24	Mainamaji, Tungulum, Gwambaza, Garangaran	21/05/20	27/05/20	49
25	Kariyo, Tungulum, Malla, Jarkasa, Yalo, Tungan-Kiyashi, Tungan-Kiyashi	25/05/20	03/06/20	56
26	Faliyaram, Kuka, Jibrin-Nayaya, Kalban, Duguri, Shaman, Dimis, Maikwankwani	25/05/20	03/06/20	42
27	Dogon-Kurmi, Jada, Kwala, Shaushau, Buri	28/05/20	03/06/20	70
28	Libji, Shafale, Garangaran, Borkono	28/05/20	03/06/20	70
29	Kalli Imam, Faliyaram, Shaman, Mainamaji,	04/06/20	10/06/20	49
30	Libji, Kuka, Buri, Yalo, Garangaran, Tungan-Kiyashi	04/06/20	10/06/20	42
31	Saltlick A & B, Shaushau, Kariyo, Bogga, Tungan-Dutse, Dimil, Guruntum, Dogon-Kurmi	04/06/20	10/06/20	49
32	Guruntum, Borkono, Tungulum, Gwambaza, Malla, Jada, Rimi	11/06/20	17/06/20	56
33	Daban-Maje, Shaman, Saltlick A & B	11/06/20	17/06/20	42
34	Guza, Duguri, Shaman, Buri, Yelwan-Duguri, Shaffa,	11/06/20	17/06/20	49
35	Guruntum, Kalli-Imam, Yalo, Jar-Kasa, Filin-Tsintsiya,	18/06/20	24/06/20	49
36	Shaman, Maidawa, Buri, Gwambaza, Shaffa	18/06/20	24/06/20	56
37	Shafale, Faliyaram, Kalba, Jibrin-Nayaya	18/06/20	24/06/20	49
38	Giwa, Shehu-MAska, Kwaffa, Shaushau, Jada	25/06/20	01/07/20	49
39	Bogga, Adamu-Jumba, Dagudi	25/06/20	01/07/20	49
40	Tungan-Kifi Adamu-Jumba, Maidawa, Yalo, Rimi, Shaushau	25/06/20	01/07/20	42
41	Buri, Saltlick A & B, Buri, Maidawa, Kalban	25/06/20	01/07/20	49