



**AFI MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE SANCTUARY
QUARTERLY REPORT:
JANUARY-MARCH 2020**



Prepared by:
AYANG Vincent
WCS Nigeria Program

Summary

A total of 12 anti-poaching patrols were completed from January to March 2020 covering a total distance of 338.7 kilometers over 80 patrol days (497 man-days). The patrols covered the Esekwe Camp, Kakubok, Olum, Katabang-Katche, Buanchor-Drill Ranch and Base Camp sectors. The patrols resulted in the arrest of nine hunters and confiscation of several items including live cartridges, locally made shotguns, snares wires, cutlasses, and carcasses. Some youths of Kakubok village protested against the arrests and confiscation of shotguns from their hunters and threatened to attack rangers or deny them access to the sanctuary. The WCS Afi project manager and some staff of the Cross River State Forestry Commission at Afi held a meeting with the community to address the disagreement. The patrols also destroyed 1,136 wire snares and 8 hunting camps. Several farms and illegal logging sites were encountered. Logging activities were recorded mostly in the Katabang-Drill Ranch axis of the Sanctuary. Four gorilla nest sites were encountered during these patrols. No chimpanzee nest sites were recorded this quarter. Other large mammals recorded include drill (*Mandrillus leucophaeus*), Mona monkey (*Cercopithecus mona*), putty-nosed monkey (*Cercopithecus nictitan*), yellow-backed duiker (*Cephalophus silvicultor*), red river hog (*Potamochoerus porcus*), bay duiker (*Cephalophus dorsalis*), pangolin (*Phataginus tricuspis*), African civet (*Civettictis civetta*).

Methods

Patrols this quarter focused on Esekwe camp, Base Camp, Kakubok, Katche, Olum Hills, Katabang-Katche, Buanchor-Drill Ranch, and Ebakken-Asuben. The patrols covered the Esekwe Camp, Kakubok, Olum, Katabang-Katche, Buanchor-Drill Ranch and Base Camp sectors (Figure 1; Table 1). Two teams of six rangers each patrolled different sectors simultaneously for 7 to 10 days twice each month. All wire snares and expended cartridges found were removed and all hunting camps encountered were destroyed. Data were collected using CyberTracker and analysed in SMART.

Results

Patrol effort

Twelve patrols were completed this quarter covering a total distance of 338.7 kilometers over 80 patrol days (497 man-days) (Fig 1, Table 1).

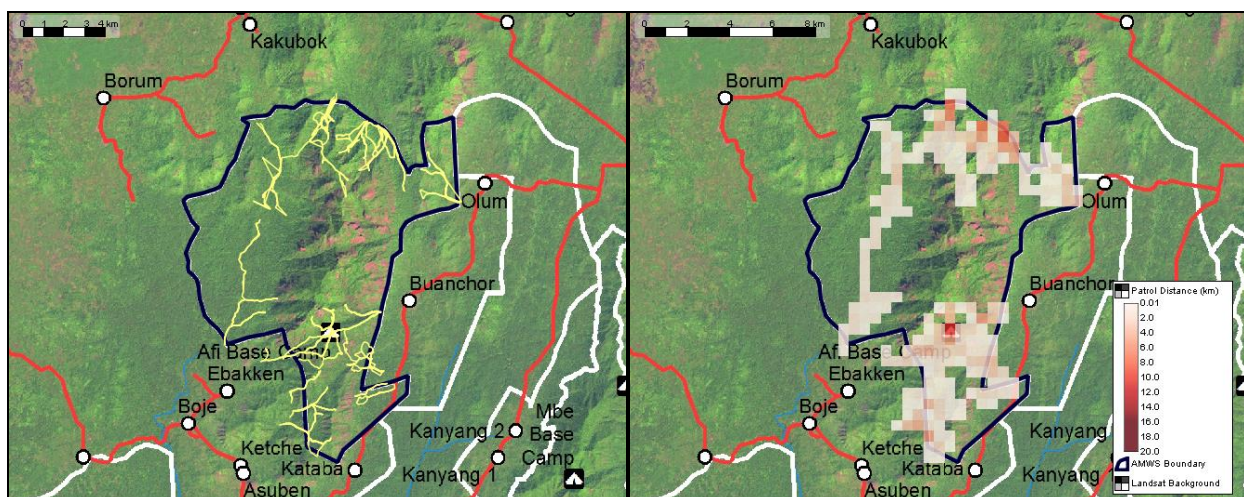


Figure 1. Patrol tracklogs and patrol effort in km walked per grid cell from January to March, 2020. Darker red color indicates areas of more intense patrol coverage.

Table 1. Summary of patrol effort by patrol area for the period January to March, 2020.

Area	Number of Patrols	Patrol Days	Patrol Hours	Distance (km)	Person - Days
Base Camp	4	24	162.8	99.6	142
Buanchor-Drill Ranch	1	8	48.2	35.8	40
Esekwe Camp	4	21	143.3	80.0	139
Ketye-Asuben	1	8	48.6	40.7	54
Nkanyang-Kakubo	2	14	100.4	59.1	87
Olum Axis	1	5	29.4	23.5	35
Total	13	80	532.6	338.7	497

Average distance and length of patrols per month

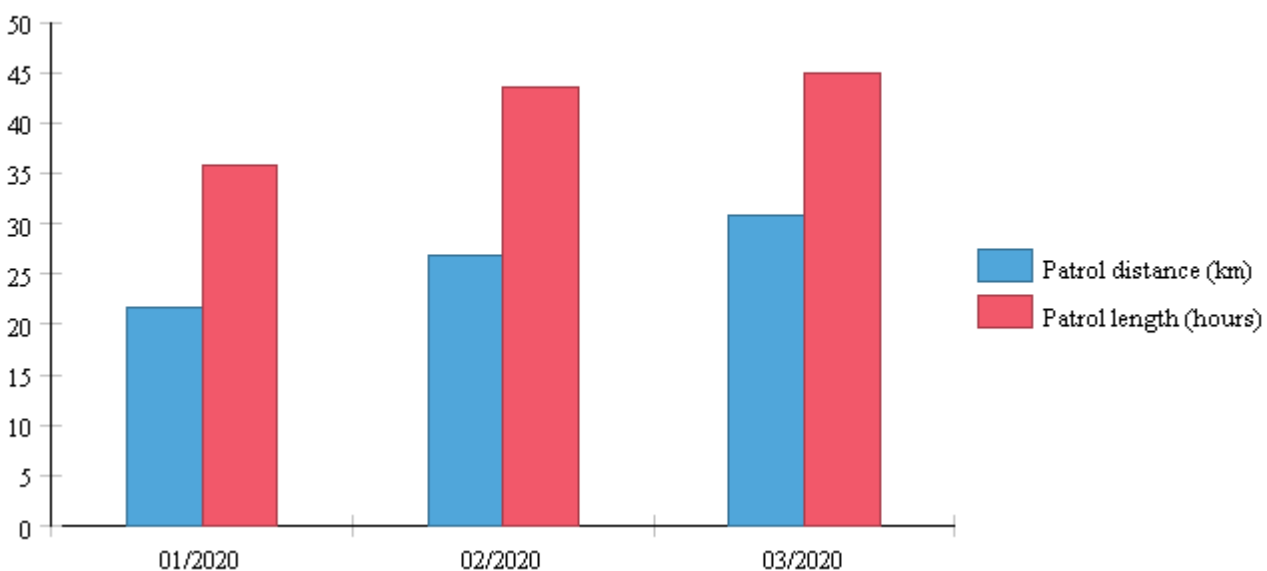


Figure 2. Average distance covered and time taken per patrol per month for the period January to March, 2020.

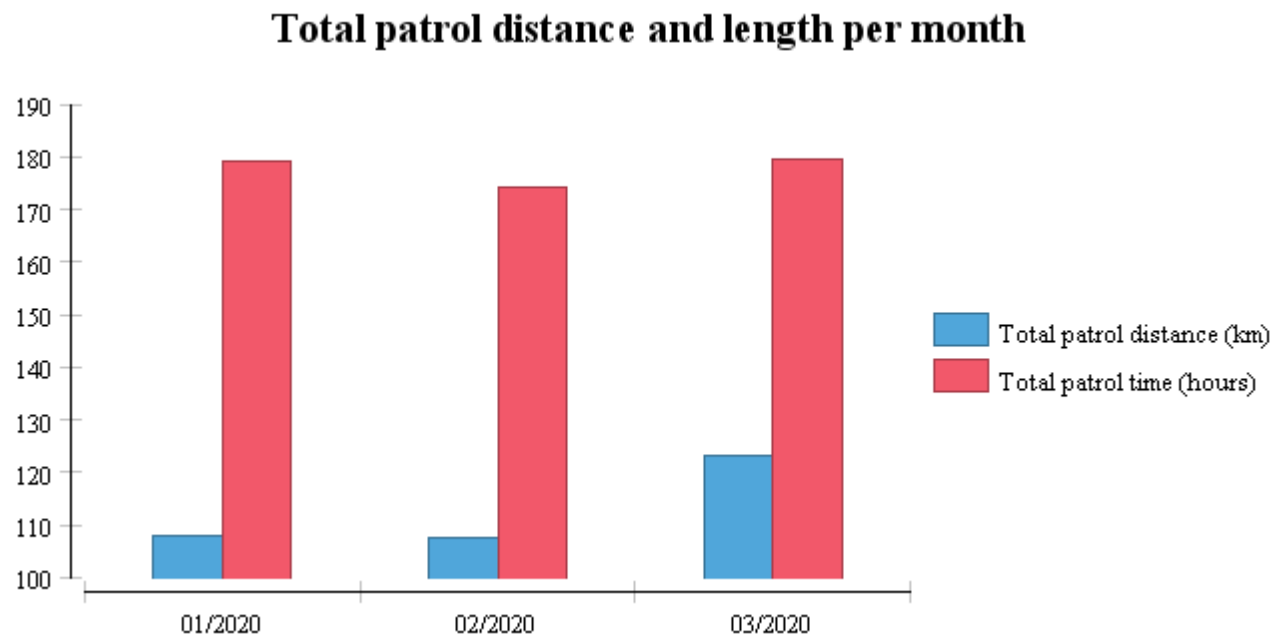


Figure 3. Total patrol distance and time per month for the period January to March, 2020.

Law Enforcement

During this period, nine hunters were arrested and their hunting gear confiscated including shotguns, cutlass, and snare wires. Most of the hunters arrested were from the Irruan area (see Table 2). In addition to arrests, 1,136 wire snares were removed and 8 hunting camps destroyed. Other hunting signs recorded include 124 empty gun shells and gunshots heard (Table 6). Several farms and two illegal logging sites were also encountered during the patrols (Table 4, 5; Figure 4).

Table 2. Summary of arrests and other law enforcement for the period January to March, 2020.

Station	Leader	Date	Action Taken - People	Home Village	Name	Threat
Nkanyang-Kakubok	George Mgbang	Jan 16, 2020	Unsuccessful Pursuit	Kakwagom	-	Gun hunting
Nkanyang-Kakubok	George Mgbang	Jan 16, 2020	Apprehended and reported	Kakwagom	-	Gun hunting
Nkanyang-Kakubok	George Mgbang	Jan 15, 2020	Apprehended and reported	Kakubok	James Enu	Gun hunting
Nkanyang-Kakubok	George Mgbang	Jan 15, 2020	Apprehended and reported	Kakubok	Jude Edor	Gun hunting
Nkanyang-Kakubok	George Mgbang	Jan 15, 2020	Apprehended and reported	Kakubok	James Osang	Trapping
Nkanyang-Kakubok	George Mgbang	Jan 15, 2020	Apprehended and reported	Kakwagom	James Osang	Gun hunting
Nkanyang-Kakubok	George Mgbang	Jan 15, 2020	Observed Only	Kakubok	-	Farming

Station	Leader	Date	Action Taken - People	Home Village	Name	Threat
Nkanyang-Kakubok	George Mgbang	Jan 21, 2020	Unsuccessful Pursuit	Kakwagom Irruan	Oyibo Aggrey & Emenes	Trapping
Nkanyang-Kakubok	George Mgbang	Jan 21, 2020	Apprehended and reported	Kakwagom	-	Trapping
Esekwe Camp	George Mgbang	Jan 29, 2020	Apprehended and reported	Bitiah	Sunday Atta	Gun hunting
Base Camp	Etta Joseph	Jan 25, 2020	Observed Only	Boje	-	Burning
Base Camp	Etta Joseph	Jan 25, 2020	Observed Only	Boje	Unkown	Burning
Esekwe Camp	George Mgbang	Jan 27, 2020	Apprehended and reported	Kakwagom	Okpoma	Gun hunting
Esekwe Camp	George Mgbang	Jan 27, 2020	Apprehended and reported	Kakwagom	Bernard Obi	Trapping

Table 3. Number of people seen by threat for the period January to March, 2020.

Threat	Number of People	Encounter Rate per km
Burning	2	0.006
Farming	1	0.003
Hunting	11	0.032

Table 4. Total encounter rates of signs of human activity for the period January to March, 2020.

Activity	Number of Incidents	Encounter Rate per km
Farming and Land Clearing	13	0.038
Gunshot Heard	20	0.059
Human Sign	37	0.109
Logging and Tree Cutting	2	0.006
People Seen	14	0.041
Shed or Camp	11	0.032
Traps, Weapons & Equipment	339	1.001

Table 5. Specific evidence of logging for the period January to March, 2020.

Type of logging evidence	Action Taken - Items	Age of Sign	Number of cut pieces	Number of Logs	Number of Planks	Number of Stumps	Tree Species
Stump	Seen Only	Fresh				1	Unknown
Logs	Destroyed	Fresh		3			Iroko

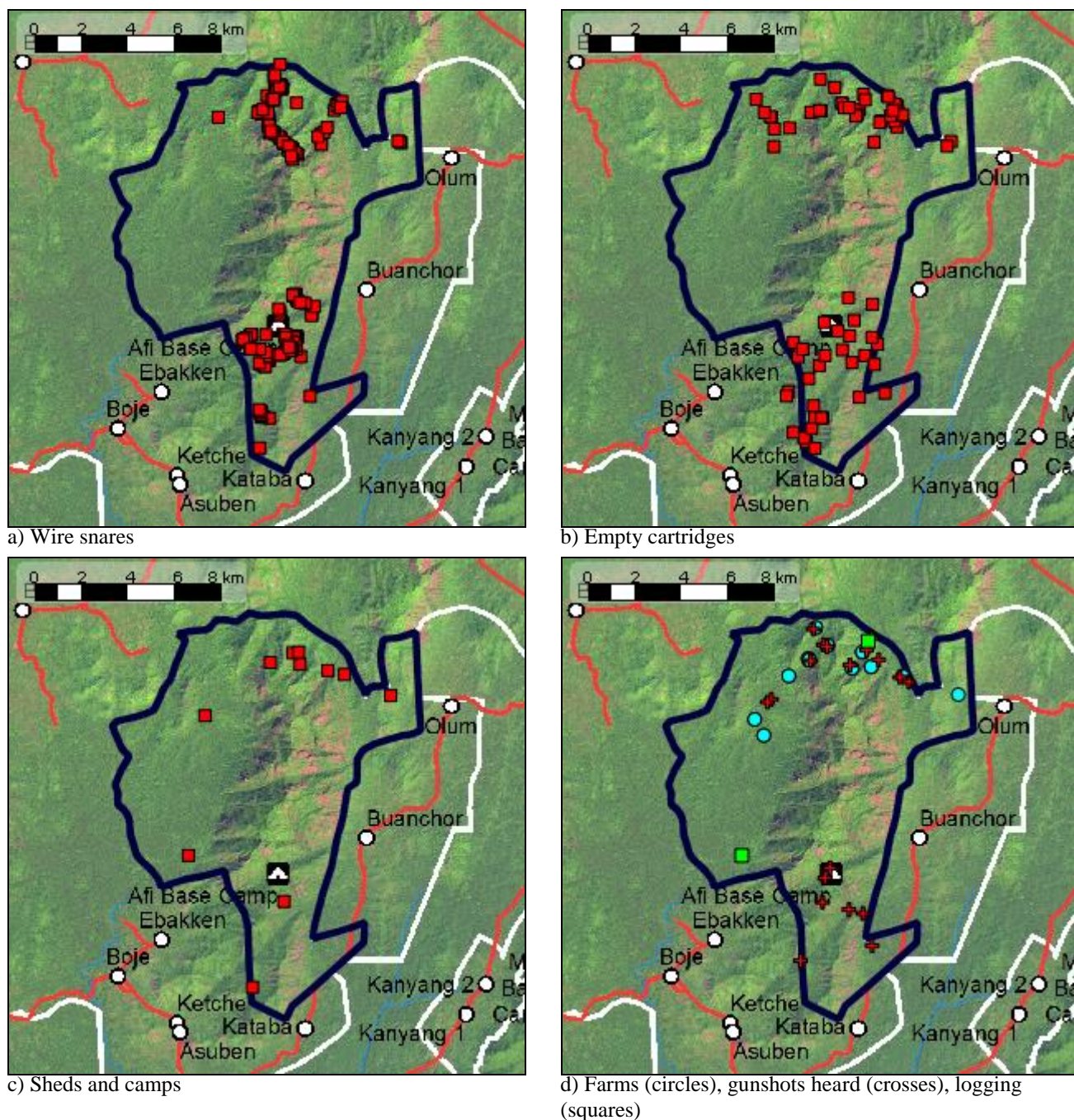


Figure 4. Distribution of all signs of human activity recorded during the period January to March, 2020.

Table 6. Hunting signs recorded for the period January to March, 2020.

Sign	Number of Observations	Encounter Rate per km
Gunshots heard	20	0.059
Set wire snares	1136	3.354
Unset wire snares	0	0.000
Empty cartridges	124	0.366
Hunting camps	8	0.024

Wildlife Observations

Great Ape sighting during this period was not recorded. However, a total of 4 great ape nest sites were sighted and recorded, all 4 were identified as Cross River gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla diehli*) nest sites. There was no record of Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes ellioti*) nest sites.

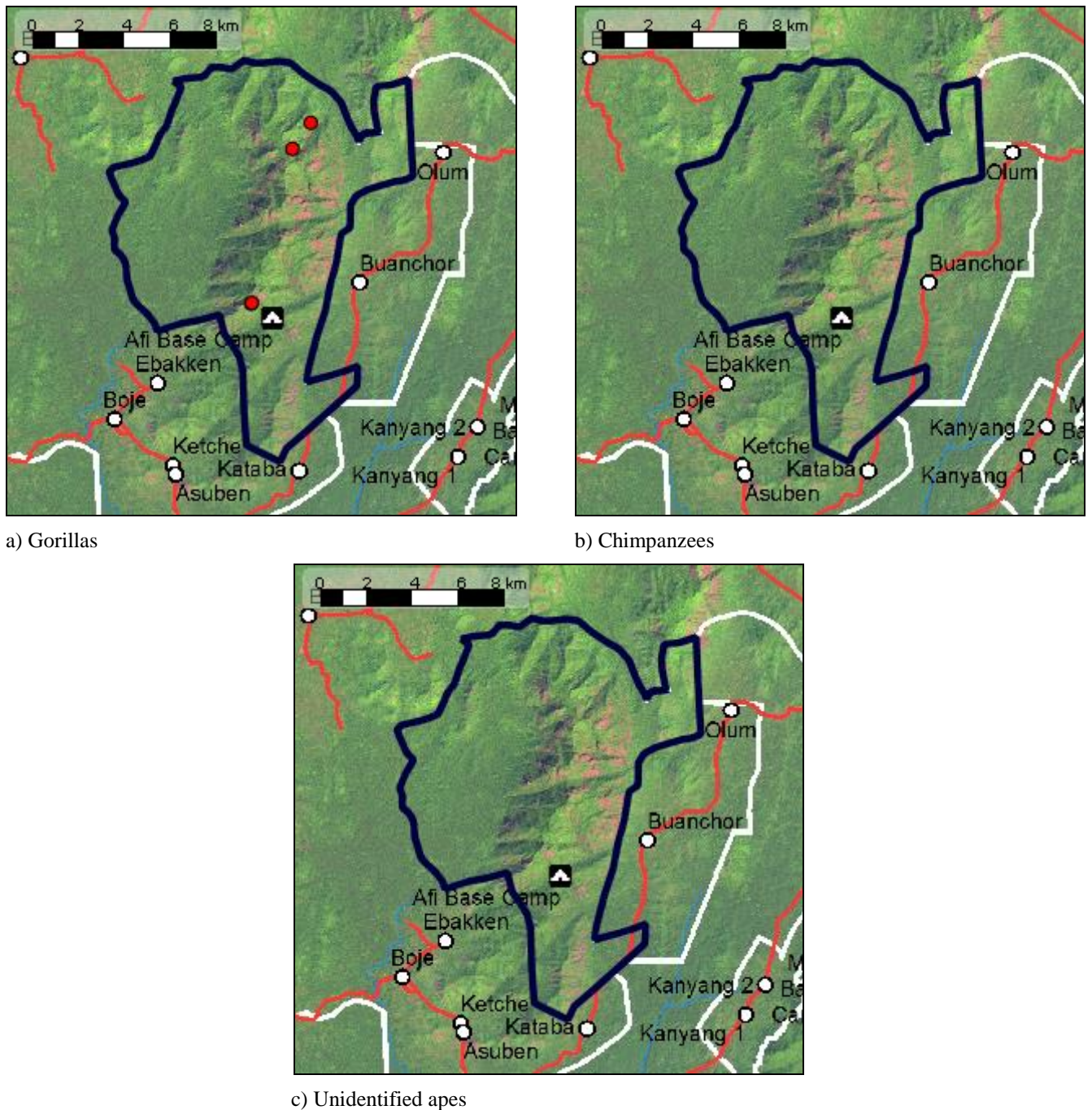


Figure 5. Ape sightings and nest sites recorded for the period January to March, 2020. Nest sites shown as circles, sightings shown as crosses.

Table 7. Number and encounter rate of nest sites recorded for the period January to March, 2020.

Species	Number of nest sites	Encounter rate of nest sites per km
Chimpanzee	-	-
Gorilla	4	0.012
Unidentified great ape	-	-

Table 8. Nest sites recorded for the period January to March, 2020.

Species	Nest site type	Age of Sign	Dung present	Number of ground nests	Total number of nests
Gorilla	Day nest(s)	Old	true	8	8
Gorilla	Night nest(s)	Fresh	true	1	3
Gorilla	Night nest(s)	Fresh	true	3	5
Gorilla	Unknown	Old	false	2	4

Other primates

Monkeys were sighted on 43 occasions during patrols this period including drill (*Mandrillus leucophaeus*), Mona monkey (*Cercopithecus mona*), and putty-nosed monkey (*Cercopithecus nictitans*) (Table 9; Figure 6).

Table 9. Number and encounter rate of monkey species recorded for the period January to March, 2020.

Species	Number of observations	Encounter rate per km
Drill	13	0.038
Mona Monkey	24	0.071
White-nosed Monkey	6	0.018

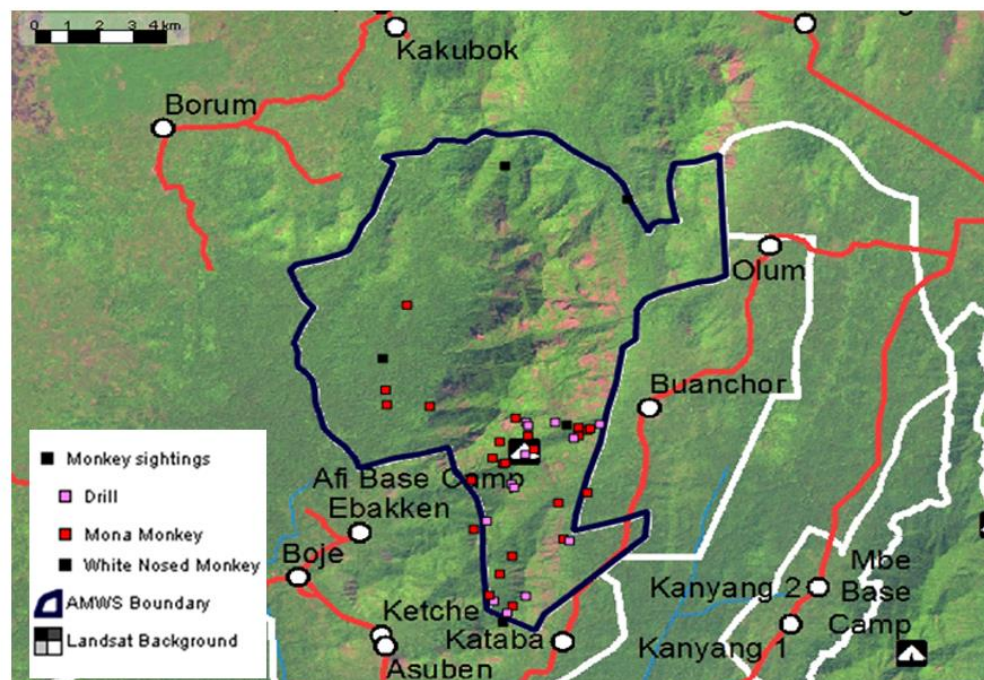


Figure 6. Monkey species observed for the period January to March, 2020.

Other Wildlife

Other large mammals recorded include drill yellow-backed duiker (*Cephalophus silvicultor*), red river hog (*Potamochoerus porcus*), bay duiker (*Cephalophus dorsalis*), pangolin (*Phataginus tricuspis*), African civet (*Civettictis civetta*). See Appendix II for encounter rates.

Community meetings

Esekwe village

Staff of the Cross River State Forestry Commission and the WCS project manager at Afi held a meeting with Esekwe Community on the 17th of January 2020. The meeting was organized to address concerns raised by Esekwe community regarding the Afi Mountain and Wildlife Sanctuary (AMWS) including:

- Alleged naming of a section of the AMWS as “Kakwagom-Bitiah Forest”;
- Inability of the community to access the N500,000 given to AMWS landlord communities by the REDD+ program;
- Refund of funds spent by the community to repair dilapidated ranger post (Esekwe ranger post);
- Refund of funds spent by the community on prosecution of a case involving a hunter from Bitiah who allegedly accidentally killed a fellow hunter in the AMWS;
- Arrest and collection of guns by rangers in the community without informing the community leadership;
- Lack of provision of scholarship, jobs, social amenities (water, access roads) etc, particularly for the youths so as to reduce illegal activities in the sanctuary.

Kakubok, Olum, Njua and Boje (Ebok, Egbaranta, Katche and Asuben) communities

Staff of the Cross River State Forestry Commission and the WCS Afi project manager also met separately with Kakubok, Olum, Njua and Boje villages to address issues concerning the conservation of AMWS. Most of the communities complained about their long neglect by government and the lack of CRSFC presence on the ground that they allege as one of the reasons for the decline of the sanctuary. In Kakubok and Olum communities, the issue of arrest and confiscation of guns and other items were raised. The communities demanded for the return of all seized items. WCS and CRSFC team however explained why their demand could not be met. Njua community was appreciative of the fact that one of their sons has been recruited as a ranger and wished that more employment opportunities would be given to their children. Asuben community noted that they did not have a member of their community employed as a ranger and hoped that this will be considered.

General resolutions:

- The communities accepted to continue to support patrols of the sanctuary;
- Such meetings with communities should be regular;
- A larger meeting of all sanctuary communities should be organized to discuss ways to increase community participation in the management of the sanctuary;
- The CRSFC and other partners should support communities to adopt alternative livelihood activities to reduce illegal activities in the sanctuary; livelihood activities should not only

be agro-based but can include training in other economic activities such as welding, hairdressing, carpentry, auto mechanic, etc;

- There is need to retrace the sanctuary boundary, as most community members do not know the boundary, especially with so much farm encroachment taking place.

Fire Outbreak

During the quarter, there were cases of fire outbreak in the Boje (Pillar Rock), Bunachor, and Kakubok axes of the sanctuary. In Boje and Buanchor, rangers were on ground to stop the fire from spreading deep into the sanctuary. In Kakubok, the community delegated some members put out the fire. There is need for focused sensitization of the surrounding communities on preventing future fire outbreaks.

Afi River Poisoning

Despite education and awareness created about the dangers of poisoning rivers for fishing, some people from Abo-Obagante community poisoned a section of the Afi River with chemical (suspected to be gammalin 20) for fishing. On receiving the information from an informant, a combined team of Afi rangers and Mbe ecoguards led by WCS Afi and Mbe project managers searched the river and discovered over 20 people in groups of five in the river, collecting and smoking dead fish collected from the river due to the poisoning. They were apprehended and reported to their community who fined the culprits Twenty Thousand Naira, drinks and other items each.

Appendix I. Patrol effort statistics January to March, 2020.

Date	Number of Patrols	Distance (km)	Number of Hours	Number of Rangers
2020-01-15	2	7.4	13.8	11
2020-01-16	2	10.2	15.6	12
2020-01-17	2	10.7	13.6	12
2020-01-18	2	7.3	14.6	12
2020-01-19	2	5.5	16.2	12
2020-01-20	2	8.5	17.6	12
2020-01-21	2	8.7	16.4	12
2020-01-22	2	6.4	11.7	12
2020-01-25	2	4.2	9.3	13
2020-01-26	2	9.6	11.3	13
2020-01-27	2	10.5	12.1	13
2020-01-28	2	8.6	11.3	13
2020-01-29	2	10.4	15.7	13
2020-02-12	2	7.5	12.0	12
2020-02-13	2	8.3	11.8	12
2020-02-14	2	8.5	18.8	12
2020-02-15	2	7.2	11.3	12
2020-02-16	2	9.4	21.5	12
2020-02-17	2	9.6	13.0	12
2020-02-18	2	5.5	12.3	12
2020-02-19	2	8.1	11.7	12
2020-02-22	2	8.5	12.2	12
2020-02-23	2	8.7	13.0	12

Date	Number of Patrols	Distance (km)	Number of Hours	Number of Rangers
2020-02-24	2	11.0	13.5	12
2020-02-25	2	9.1	12.6	12
2020-02-26	2	6.1	10.4	12
2020-03-11	2	12.1	14.1	11
2020-03-12	2	9.7	12.3	13
2020-03-13	2	8.3	12.3	13
2020-03-14	2	7.7	11.5	13
2020-03-15	2	8.9	11.2	13
2020-03-16	2	10.2	12.1	13
2020-03-17	2	8.1	12.2	13
2020-03-18	2	9.5	12.5	13
2020-03-21	2	9.1	14.9	13
2020-03-22	2	7.4	13.6	13
2020-03-23	2	9.7	13.2	13
2020-03-24	2	8.1	13.5	13
2020-03-25	2	6.2	14.1	12
2020-03-26	2	8.1	11.8	13

Appendix II. Encounter rate of wildlife species observed during patrols January to March, 2020.
Species not encountered during patrols are not shown.

Species	Scientific Name	Encounter rate per km
Blue duiker	<i>Philantomba monticola</i>	1.196
Brush-tailed porcupine	<i>Atherurus africanus</i>	0.744
Drill	<i>Mandrillus leucophaeus</i>	0.555
Red river hog	<i>Potamochoerus porcus</i>	0.552
Mona monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mona</i>	0.508
Unidentified monkey	-	0.348
Putty-nosed monkey	<i>Cercopithecus nictitans</i>	0.272
Hornbill	-	0.251
Yellow-backed duiker	<i>Cephalophus silvicultor</i>	0.213
Common mongoose	<i>Crossarchus spp</i>	0.198
Turaco	-	0.183
Unidentified medium duiker	-	0.145
Bay duiker	<i>Cephalophus dorsalis</i>	0.136
Unidentified large duiker	-	0.109
Pangolin	<i>Phataginus tricuspis</i>	0.097
Cross river gorilla	<i>Gorilla gorilla diehli</i>	0.077
Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee	<i>Pan troglodytes ellioti</i>	0.071
Unidentified small duiker	-	0.056
African civet	<i>Civettictis civetta</i>	0.050
Rock fowl	<i>Picathartes oreas</i>	0.038
Cane rat	<i>Thryonomys swinderianus</i>	0.032
Genet	<i>Genetta sp</i>	0.030
Unidentified great ape	-	0.024
African palm civet	<i>Nandinia binotata</i>	0.009

Appendix III. Ranger work time for the period January to March, 2020.

Name	Number of Patrols	Number of Patrol Days	Number Patrol Hours	Total Patrol Distance (km)
Alphonsus Oweh	6	32	210.5	129.8
Anthony Osang	6	40	259.6	176.1
David Otu	6	40	259.6	176.1
Donald Ojie	6	40	259.6	176.1
Etta Joseph	6	40	259.6	176.1
George Mgbang	7	40	273.0	162.6
Henry Achua	7	40	273.0	162.6
Patrick Bankong	7	40	273.0	162.6
Patrick Kejie	6	38	250.7	170.6
Peter Nsan	7	40	273.0	162.6
Philip Ashijua	7	40	273.0	162.6
Victor Agbor	4	26	171.5	115.3
Vincent Ayang	8	40	275.2	168.8

Report in Pictures:



Plate 1 & 2: Community meetings

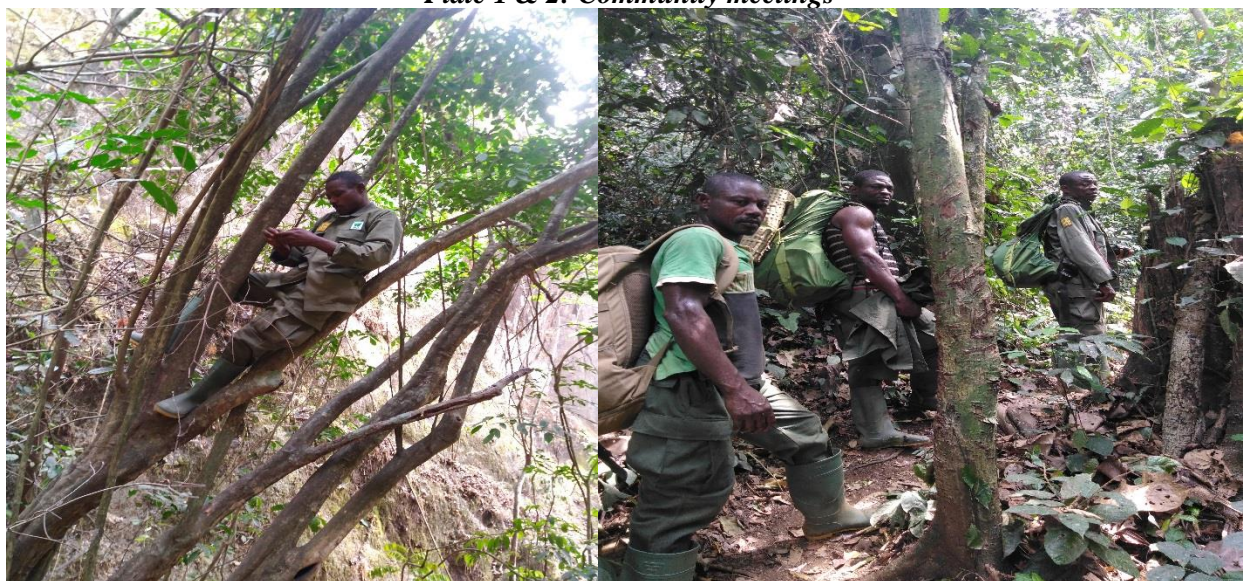


Plate3: A ranger removing wire snare

Plate4: Rangers heading out for patrols