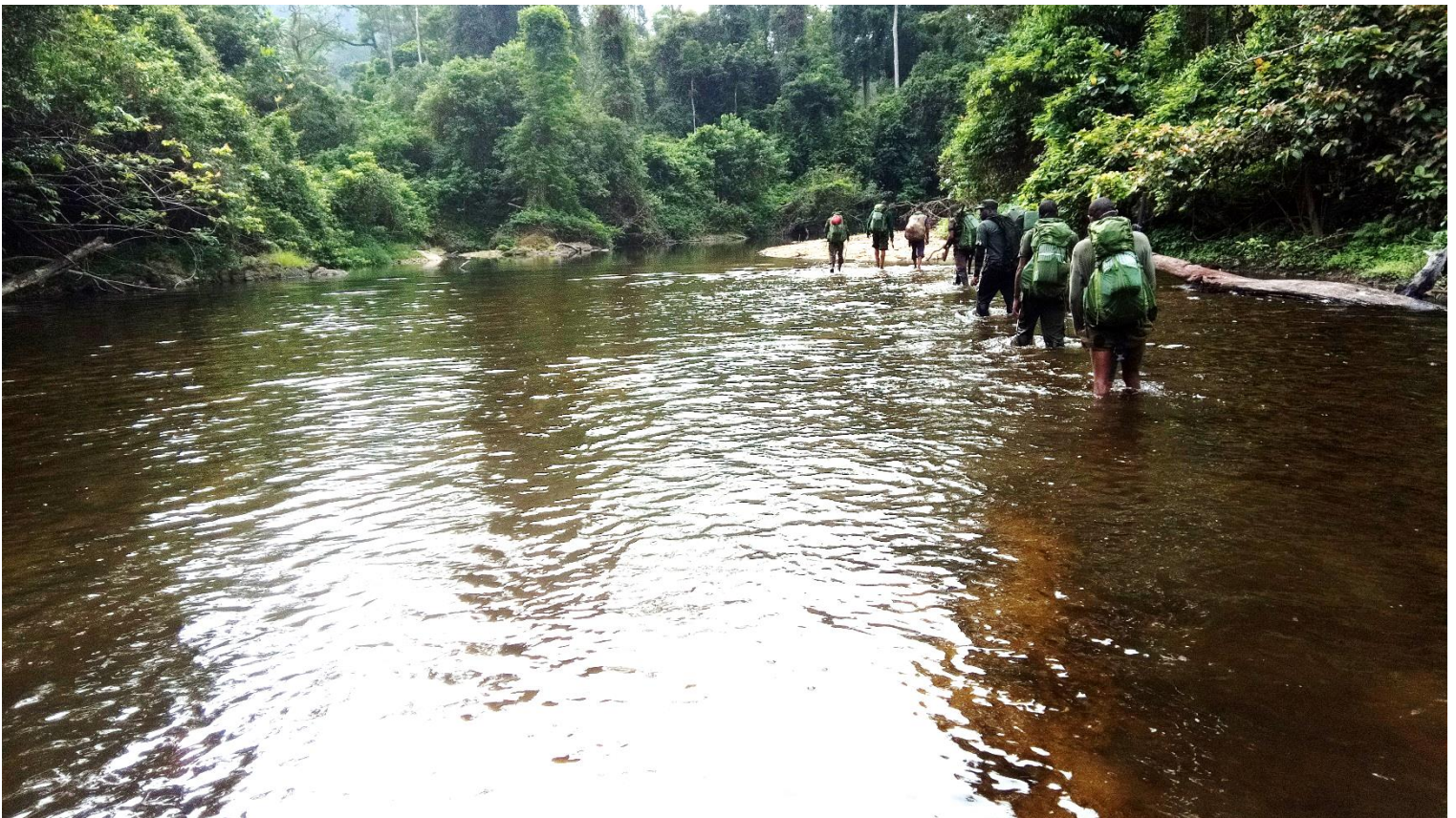




**CROSS RIVER NATIONAL PARK-OBAN  
QUARTERLY REPORT (LAW ENFORCEMENT):  
JANUARY-MARCH 2020**



Prepared by  
**EFFIONG, Bassey & EBRI, Isa**  
WCS Nigeria Program



## Summary

This report summarizes the results of 12 anti-poaching patrols of the Oban Division of Cross River National Park (CRNP) conducted from January to March 2020 and supervised by Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). The patrols lasted for 79 patrol-days (537 person-days) and covered a total distance of 666.3 kilometers. Ten poachers were arrested this quarter; 282 wire snares and 14 hunting/fishing camps were destroyed. The teams confiscated 3 shotguns and 20 live cartridges. Seven gunshots were heard and a total of 393 expended shotgun cartridges were found and removed. Primates sighted this period include Mona monkey *Cercopithecus mona* (sighted 20 times), putty-nosed monkey *Cercopithecus nictitans* (sighted 16 times), and drill *Mandrillus leucophaeus* and red-capped mangabey *Cercocebus torquatus* (each sighted once). Forest elephants and dwarf crocodiles were sighted around Kwa River in the month of March.

## Introduction

The Cross River National Park (CRNP), created in 1991 from existing forest reserves, is the most extensive area of tropical rainforest remaining in Nigeria today. CRNP consists of two separate divisions: Oban and Okwangwo. The Oban Division covers an area of roughly 3,000 km<sup>2</sup> and is contiguous with Korup National Park in Cameroon. Oban is recognized internationally as a biodiversity hotspot with high levels of species richness and endemism and is a particularly significant site for rare and threatened primate species including Preuss's red colobus *Piliocolobus preussi*, drill *Mandrillus leucophaeus* and Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee *Pan troglodytes ellioti*. Oban faces huge threats from hunting to supply the lucrative bushmeat trade and deforestation from commercial plantation agriculture. This report covers law enforcement activities supported by WCS in Oban during the period from January to March 2020.

## Methods

Each month four teams comprising a minimum of six CRNP rangers and a WCS staff patrolled different areas of the park. Patrols are planned based on information from informants and results from previous patrols. The teams searched areas where hunting activities are suspected or known to be high including valleys, known hunting trails, rivers. Signs of human and wildlife were recorded with CyberTracker software on handheld computer devices which automatically record a GPS waypoint for each observation entered and analyzed using SMART software. All wire snares and hunting camps observed were destroyed.

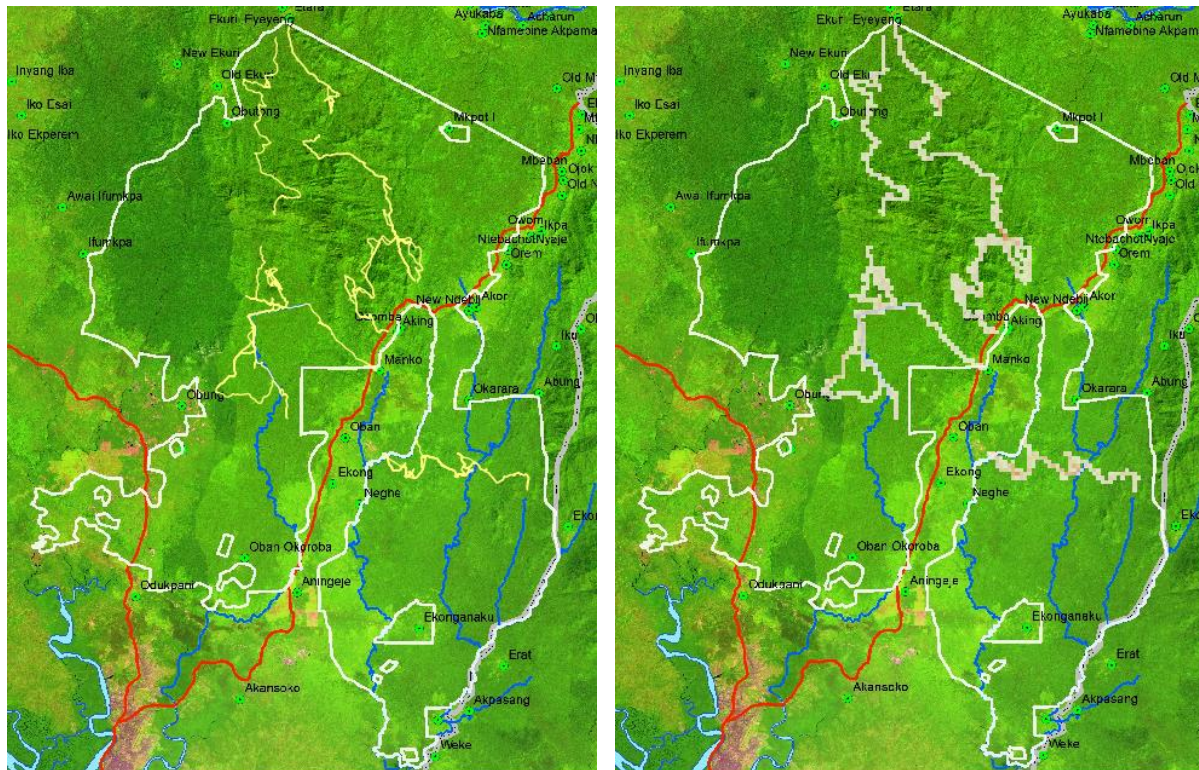


## Results

### *Patrol effort*

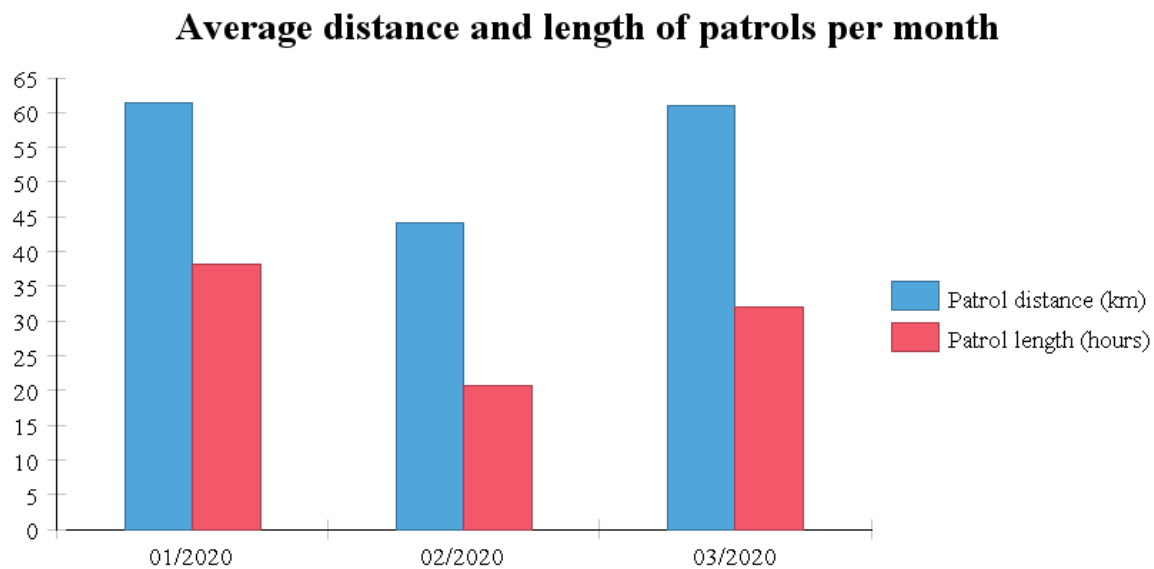
Beginning from January to March, twelve anti-poaching patrols were completed and covering a total distance of 666.3 kilometers and lasted for 79 patrol-days (537 person-days).

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

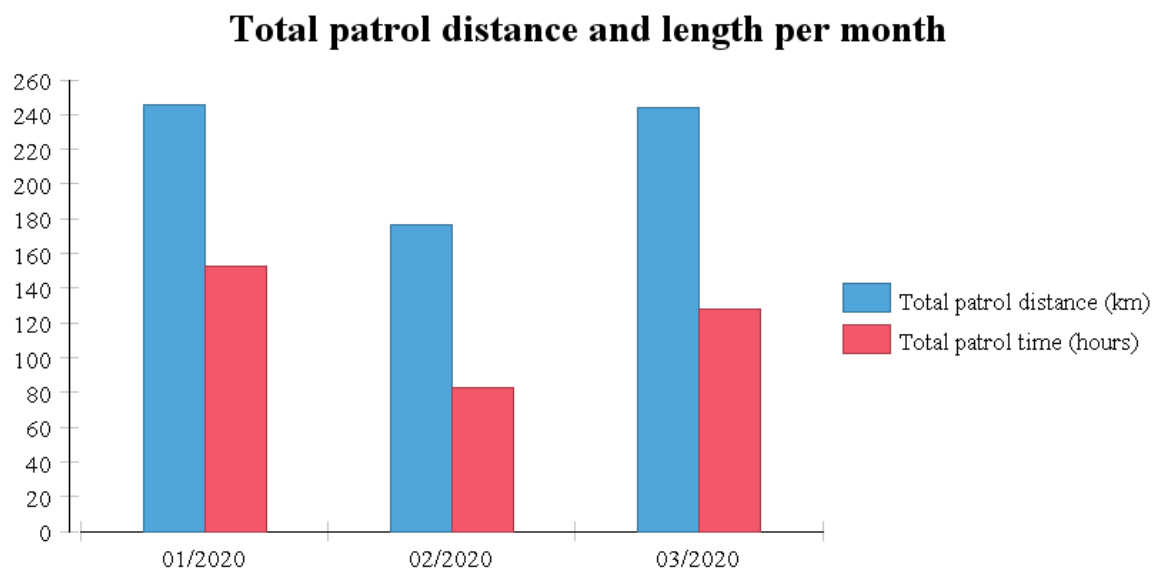


**Table 1. Summary of patrol effort for the period January to March 2020.**

Patrol ID	Number of Patrols	Number of Days	Distance (km)	Person - Days
CRNP-OB_000175	1	9	55.8	54
CRNP-OB_000176	1	8	75.0	63
CRNP-OB_000177	1	6	48.0	36
CRNP-OB_000178	1	7	67.0	63
CRNP-OB_000179	1	4	38.9	24
CRNP-OB_000181	1	7	55.1	56
CRNP-OB_000182	1	5	36.6	30
CRNP-OB_000183	1	5	45.8	30
CRNP-OB_000184	1	7	45.7	47
CRNP-OB_000185	1	5	39.7	30
CRNP-OB_000186	1	8	82.0	48
CRNP-OB_000187	1	8	76.7	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>666.3</b>	<b>537</b>



**Figure 2. The 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 the reporting period, 10 poachers were arrested and handed over to park authority for prosecution. A total of 282 wire snares, 393 expended cartridges, and 14 illegal hunting/fishing camps were destroyed. We observed and recorded more human activities including people seen/arrested, wire snares and camps in Oban west axis of the park. During patrols in February,

arrest of two Fulani men caught harvesting *Caplobia lotea* (“cattle stick”) in the Erokut-Mangor area elicited hostile response from a large group of Fulani poachers who were in the area. The rangers were ambushed, and the suspects escaped with a handcuff and other patrol kit. However, the handcuff was later returned to Sector Officer by the offenders. It is not clear why the offenders were then freed by the Sector Officer.

**Table 2. Summary of arrests for the period January to March 2020.**

Leader	Waypoint Date	Action Taken	Home Village	Name	Threat
Isa Ebri	17 Jan 2020	Unsuccessful Pursuit			Hunting
Isa Ebri	18 Jan 2020	Arrested	Abung	Peter Dickson's	Hunting
Isa Ebri	27 Jan 2020	Arrested	Nsofang	Ekuri Peter	Gun hunting
Aondona Michael	16 Feb 2020	Arrested	Aking	Musa, Sedrick,	NTFP Collection
Aondona Michael	16 Feb 2020	Arrested	Aking	Abuldkadiri, Ibrahim,	NTFP Collection
Aondona Michael	16 Feb 2020	Arrested	Aking	Lawal,	NTFP Collection
Isa Ebri	21 Mar 2020	Arrested	Ekuri	Akamo Imor,	Hunting
Isa Ebri	21 Mar 2020	Arrested	Ekuri	Aaron Asuquo	Hunting
Felix Emmanuel	25 Mar 2020	Arrested	Netim village	Bassey Inok,	Gun hunting
Felix Emmanuel	25 Mar 2020	Arrested	Netim village	Bassey Egom	Gun hunting
Felix Emmanuel	25 Mar 2020	Arrested	Netim village	Effiong Ncha	Gun hunting

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

Threat	Number of people seen	Encounter rate per km
Fishing	1	0.002
Hunting	5	0.008
NTFP Collection	1	0.002

**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
Gunshot heard	7	0.011
Human sign	12	0.018
People seen	7	0.011
Shed or camp	19	0.029
Traps, weapons & equipment	250	0.375

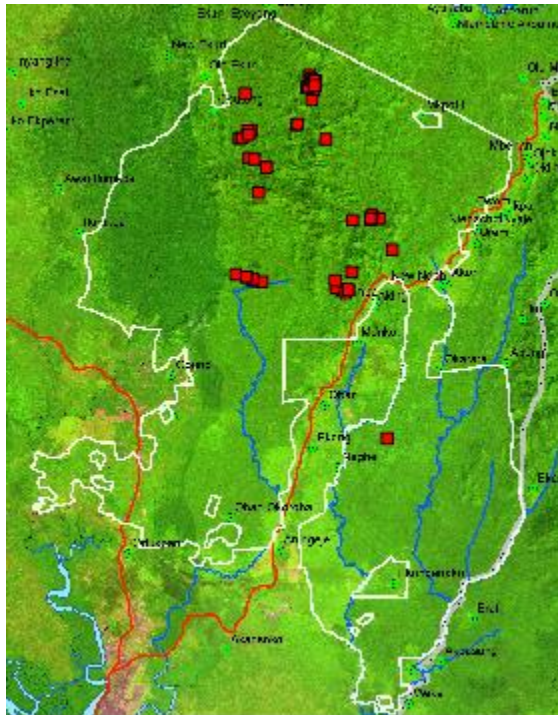


**Poachers arrested and items confiscated during patrols January to March 2020**

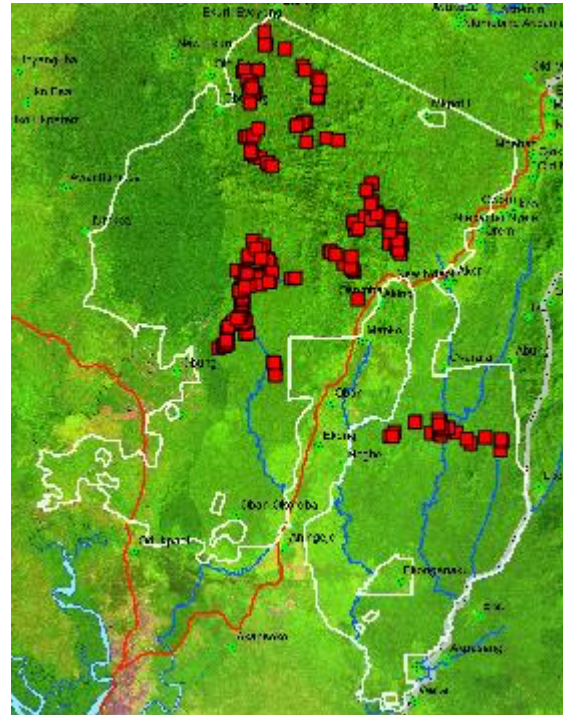




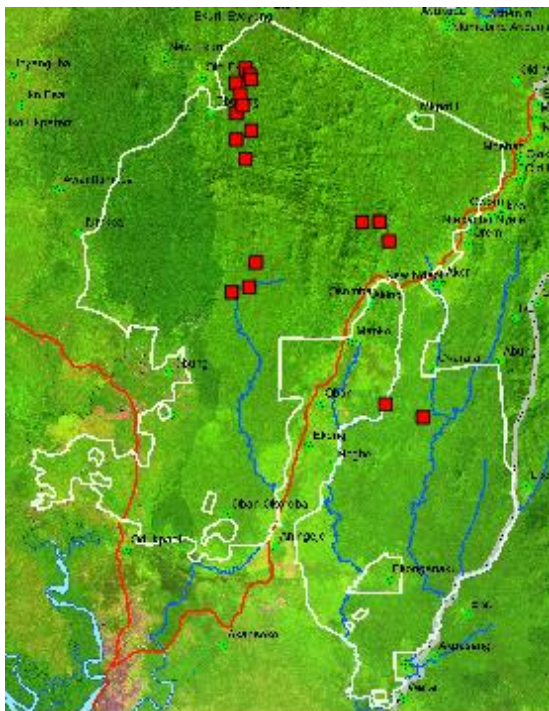
**Figure 4. Distribution of all signs of human activities recorded during the period January to March 2020**



a) Wire snares



b) empty cartridges



c) Shed and Camps



d) Gunshots heard (crosses)

**Table 5. Hunting signs recorded for the period, January to March 2020.**

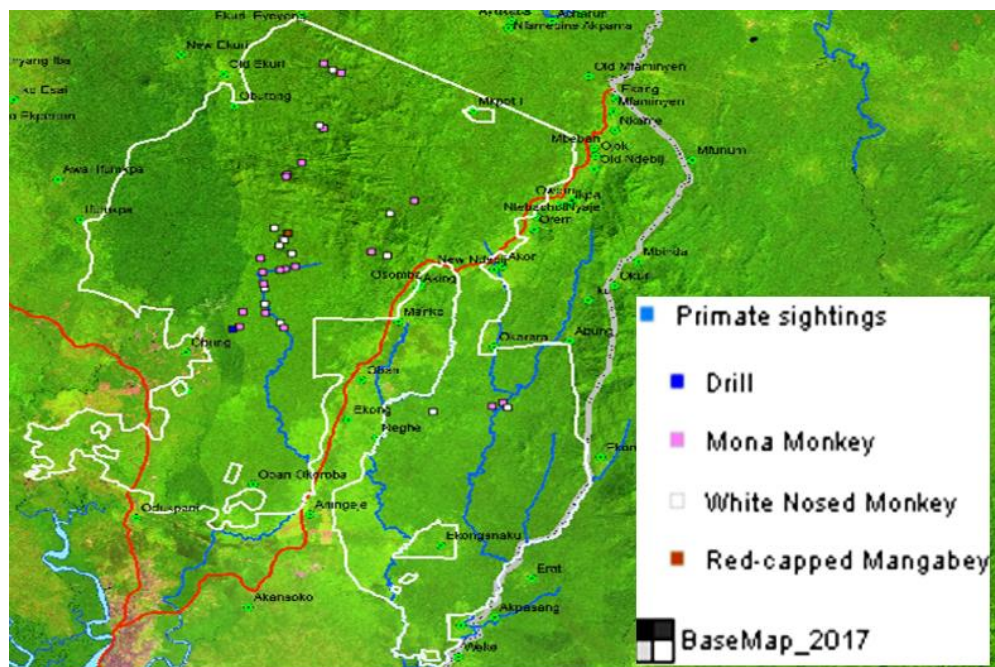
Sign	Number of Observations	Encounter Rate per km
Gunshots heard	7	0.011
Set wire snares	175	0.263
Unset wire snares	107	0.161
Empty cartridges	393	0.590
Hunting camps	14	0.021

## Wildlife Observations

### Primate

Primates sighted this quarter include Mona monkey *Cercopithecus mona* (sighted 20 times), putty-nosed monkey *Cercopithecus nictitans* (sighted 16 times), and drill *Mandrillus leucophaeus* and red-capped mangabey *Cercocebus torquatus* (each sighted once). Chimpanzee vocalizations were heard.

**Figure 5. sighting all primate for the period, January to March 2020**





**Table 6. Sightings of primate species for the period, January to March 2020**

Species	Scientific name	Number of Sightings	Encounter Rate per km
Mona monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mona</i>	20	0.0300
Putty-nosed monkey	<i>Cercopithecus nictitans</i>	16	0.0240
Drill	<i>Mandrillus leucophaeus</i>	1	0.0015
Red-capped mangabey	<i>Cercocebus torquatus</i>	1	0.0015

### **Other Wildlife**

Other wildlife sighted during the period include forest elephant, dwarf crocodile, and bay duiker. Signs of buffalo, red river hog and blue duiker were also encountered (Appendix I).

### **Acknowledgments**

Funding for this project was provided by the African Elephant Fund and the Great Ape Survival Partnership (GRASP). We have also enjoyed donations, continuous support, and collaboration from the North Carolina Zoo on this project since inception. WCS appreciates the support and collaboration of the Cross River National Park on the project. WCS is formally registered in Nigeria through an agreement with the Ministry of Budget and National Planning of the Federal Republic.

**Appendix I. Encounter rate of wildlife species observed (all sign types) during patrols January to March 2020.**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Number of Observations</b>	<b>Encounter rate per km</b>
Mona monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mona</i>	67	0.101
Putty-nosed monkey	<i>Cercopithecus nictitans</i>	30	0.045
Bay duiker	<i>Cephalophus dorsalis</i>	28	0.042
Red river hog	<i>Potamochoerus porcus</i>	28	0.042
Blue duiker	<i>Philantomba monticola</i>	24	0.036
Brush-tailed porcupine	<i>Atherurus africanus</i>	14	0.021
African forest elephant	<i>Loxodonta cyclotis</i>	11	0.017
Forest buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>	10	0.015
Common cusimanse (mongoose)	<i>Crossarchus platycephalus</i>	10	0.015
Unidentified monkey	-	7	0.011
Nigeria cameroon chimpanzee	<i>Pan troglodyte ellioti</i>	6	0.009
Unidentified small duiker	-	6	0.009
Drill	<i>Mandrillus leucophaeus</i>	5	0.008
Unidentified large duiker	-	5	0.008
African pied hornbill	<i>Tockus fasciatus</i>	4	0.006
Grey parrot	<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>	2	0.003
Helmeted guineafowl	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	2	0.003
White-bellied pangolin	<i>Phataginus tricuspis</i>	2	0.003
Green turaco	<i>Tauraco persa</i>	2	0.003
Unidentified medium duiker	-	2	0.003
Red-capped mangabey	<i>Cercocebus torquatus</i>	1	0.002
Yellow-backed duiker	<i>Cephalophus silvicultor</i>	1	0.002



## Appendix II. Patrol effort statistics from January to March 2020

Date	Number of Patrols	Distance (km)	Number of Hours	Number of Rangers
2020-01-13	2	12.4	11.9	13
2020-01-14	2	14.1	11.2	14
2020-01-15	2	19.0	12.8	14
2020-01-16	2	12.4	9.2	14
2020-01-17	2	16.1	12.3	14
2020-01-18	2	18.9	17.3	14
2020-01-19	2	22.2	12.2	14
2020-01-20	2	14.3	6.8	14
2020-01-21	1	1.5	1.6	6
2020-01-24	2	17.4	6.7	15
2020-01-25	2	19.2	11.8	15
2020-01-26	2	19.9	10.9	15
2020-01-27	2	14.9	8.1	15
2020-01-28	2	18.7	7.3	15
2020-01-29	2	15.4	8.3	15
2020-01-30	1	9.4	3.7	9
2020-02-14	2	19.1	6.6	14
2020-02-15	2	13.8	9.6	14
2020-02-16	2	22.8	10.8	14
2020-02-17	1	8.3	2.6	6
2020-02-18	1	7.5	3.2	8
2020-02-19	1	6.4	2.2	8
2020-02-20	1	10.3	2.0	8
2020-02-21	1	5.7	2.9	8
2020-02-25	2	13.8	9.1	12
2020-02-26	2	11.7	8.0	12
2020-02-27	2	24.4	11.4	12
2020-02-28	2	16.2	8.6	12
2020-02-29	2	16.2	6.2	12
2020-03-07	2	12.0	4.2	11
2020-03-08	2	17.1	6.9	13
2020-03-09	1	6.2	3.9	7
2020-03-10	2	16.2	7.6	13
2020-03-11	2	15.7	8.0	13
2020-03-12	1	7.7	6.8	7
2020-03-13	2	10.5	8.9	13
2020-03-18	2	15.1	6.5	13
2020-03-19	2	20.5	8.1	13
2020-03-20	2	12.6	7.4	13
2020-03-21	2	18.6	11.1	13
2020-03-22	2	16.5	10.7	13
2020-03-23	2	14.1	10.2	13
2020-03-24	1	13.9	6.9	7
2020-03-25	2	30.4	17.1	13
2020-03-26	1	17.1	3.5	6

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Number of Patrols</b>	<b>Number of Patrol Days</b>	<b>Number of Patrol Hours</b>	<b>Total Patrol Distance (km)</b>
George Itambu Okpan	1	8	45.8	76.7
Godfrey Lawo Ashu	3	20	87.6	194.8
Isa Ebri	5	34	144.3	310.8
John Effiom Edet	2	15	77.2	94.4
Mathew Ojong Neji	1	9	52.9	55.1
Onyo Isong Ita	1	8	45.8	76.7
Oru Patrick Erom	2	12	62.3	115.6
Patrick Omo Okwo	1	7	35.1	67.0
Peter Etim Ekun	2	14	67.7	124.7
Samuel Ekun Effa	3	17	74.8	143.3
Sunday Keyo Onu	2	10	39.7	76.3
Sylvester Ojong Akat	2	10	38.4	86.9
Ntui Ojong	3	20	87.6	194.8
Odo Ntui Mba	1	5	16.8	45.8
Okon Edet Edet	5	33	155.7	248.1
kingsley Ramsel Udoh	4	27	113.9	236.8
Lekam Anim	1	8	35.7	82.0
Dominic Inyang Anki	2	10	38.4	86.9
Eba Asinya E.	2	13	55.4	114.7
Edet Asuquo Ndifon	1	8	42.2	75.0
Ekun Effiong Ekpe	2	14	67.7	124.7
Ekuri Ogut Nkom	1	5	16.8	45.8
Charles Sampson	2	13	55.4	114.7
Christopher Agbachom	2	15	65.6	130.0
Cornelius Itafaha Onyo	3	23	103.4	155.6
David Clement Agu	2	12	62.3	115.6
Delvis Okon	4	26	112.2	204.1
Dominic Abel Samuel	2	13	52.5	127.8
Bassey Effim Ajom	2	14	79.7	92.4
Bassey Prince	4	26	118.1	204.3
Aondona Michael	5	31	133.0	289.7
Asuquo Edet Itaya	1	8	42.2	75.0
Austine Etta Etta	1	9	52.9	55.1
Ene Okon Okon	1	1	6.5	4.9
Ernest Achura Anwah	2	14	50.6	100.5
Etim Itomin Nyane	1	4	16.5	38.9
Felix Achifone	1	7	27.2	45.5
Felix Emmanuel	1	8	45.8	76.7