



**AFI MOUNTAIN  
WILDLIFE SANCTUARY  
QUARTERLY REPORT:  
APRIL-JUNE 2020**



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## Summary

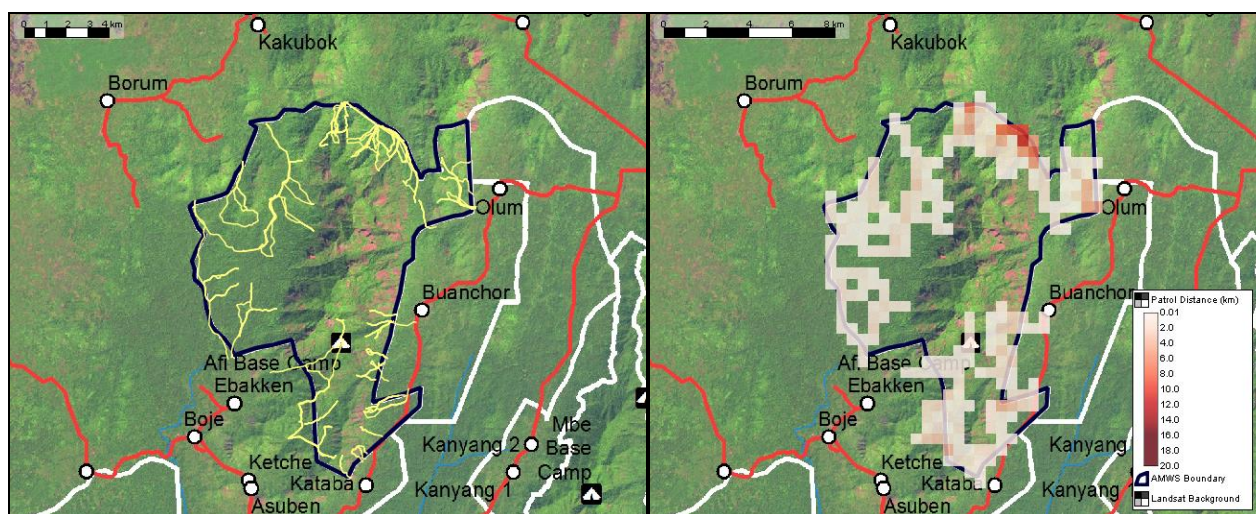
This report presents results of eleven anti-poaching patrols of Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary (AMWS) conducted by Cross River State Forestry Commission (CRSFC) rangers from April to June 2020 and facilitated and supervised by Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). The patrols covered a total distance of 337 kilometers over 77 patrol days (446 man-days). The patrols covered the Esekwe camp, Kakubok, Olum, Katabang-Katche, Njua, Buanchor, Drill Range, and Base camp sectors. In addition to gun hunting and trapping, farm encroachment and illegal logging were the other major threats to the sanctuary. Patrols this quarter arrested seven offenders including a hunter who killed a drill in the Olum axis of the sanctuary. He was handed over to the police, but released on bail. WCS is working with the CRSFC towards the prosecution of the hunter. Another notable arrest was that of an influential chief from Esekwe village who owns a large farm inside the sanctuary and is also alleged to be involved in illegal logging in the sanctuary. He has been handed over to the police for prosecution. Items confiscated from offenders this quarter include one shotgun, a chainsaw, two cutlass and rolls of snare wire intended for setting traps in the sanctuary. In addition to arrests, 522 wire snares and 83 hunting camp were destroyed. Several farms were encountered during the patrols including newly established farms. The new farms were destroyed. As a result of this action, irate youths in Esekwe community attacked some rangers in the village. The matter has been reported to the police and the paramount ruler of Boki for action. Apes were not sighted this quarter but a gorilla nest site was observed. 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

Two teams of six rangers each patrolled different areas of the sanctuary simultaneously for 7 to 10 days twice per month. The patrols covered the Esekwe Camp, Kakubok, Olum Hills, Katabang-Katche, Njua, Buanchor-Drill, and Base camp sectors (Figure 1; Table 1). All wire snares and expended cartridges found were removed and all hunting camps encountered were destroyed. Data were collected with CyberTracker and analysed using Spatial Monitoring And Reporting Tool (SMART) software.

## Results

Eleven patrols were completed this quarter covering a total distance of 336.6 kilometers over 77 patrol days (446 man-days) (Fig 1, Table 1).

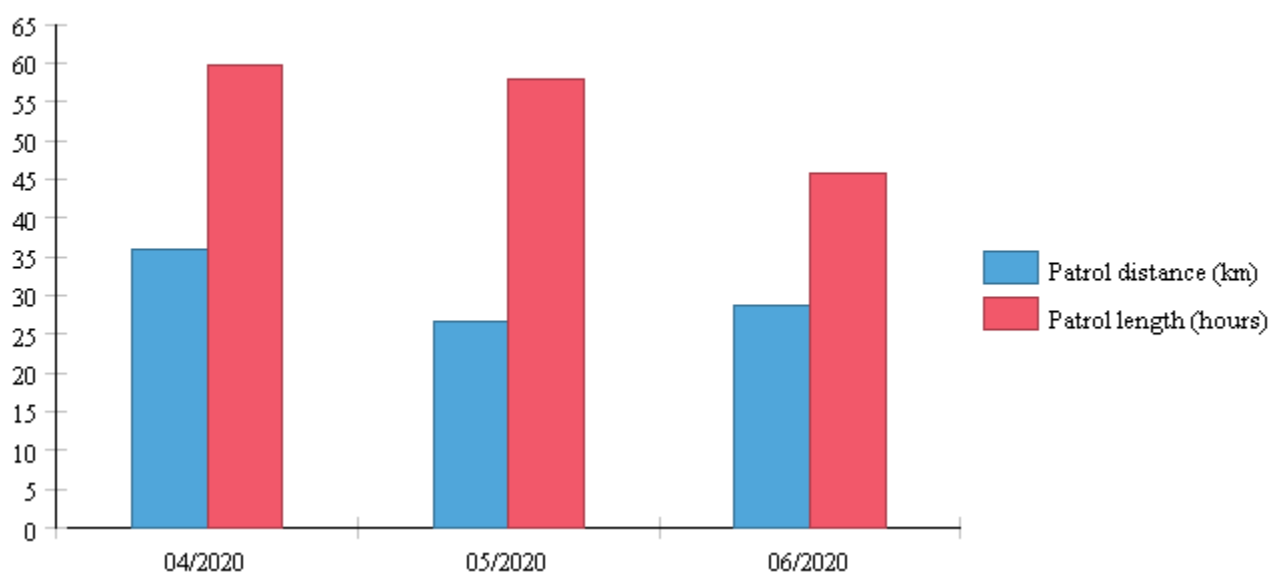


**Figure 1. Patrol tracklogs and patrol effort in km walked per grid cell from April to June, 2020. Darker red color indicates areas of more intense patrol coverage.**

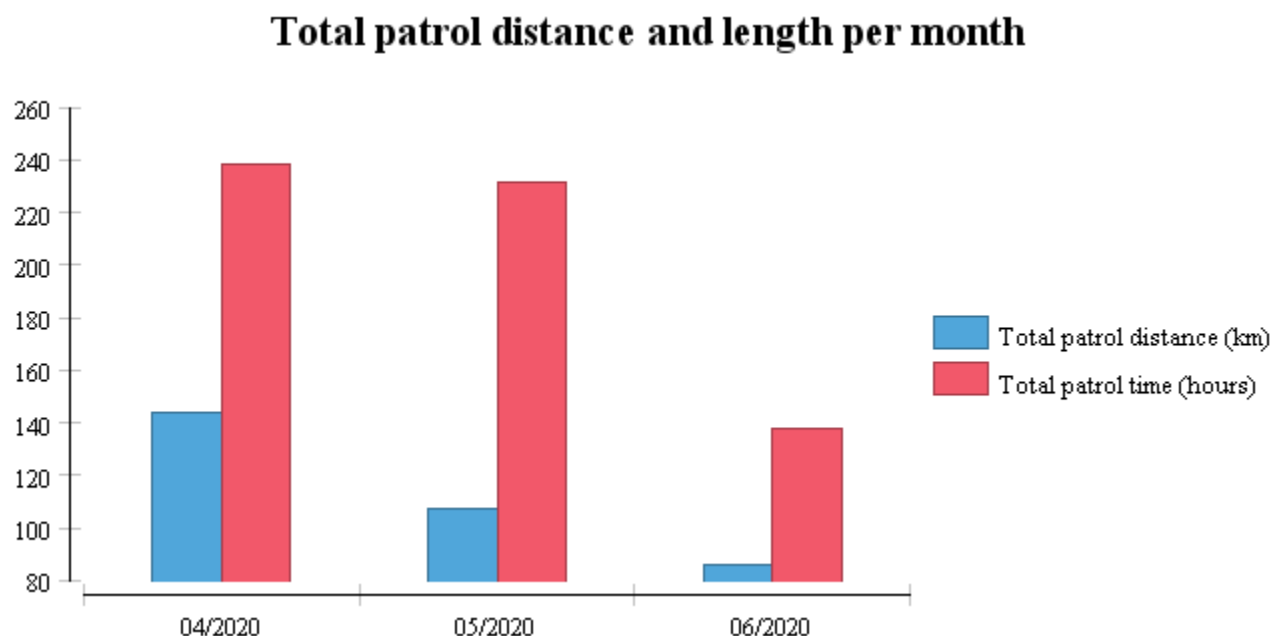
**Table 1. Summary of patrol effort by patrol area for the period April to June, 2020.**

Area	Number of Patrols	Patrol Days	Patrol Hours	Distance (km)	Person - Days
Base Camp	1	6	37.9	26.2	30
Buanchor-Drill Ranch	2	13	95.1	48.1	65
Esekwe Camp	4	30	231.0	121.8	183
Ketyche-Asuben	1	6	37.6	26.1	30
Njua Lowland	1	8	51.8	55.9	40
Nkanyang-Kakubo	1	6	89.3	27.7	42
Olum Axis	1	8	65.2	30.8	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>607.9</b>	<b>336.6</b>	<b>446</b>

**Average distance and length of patrols per month**



**Figure 2. Average distance covered and time taken per patrol per month for the period April to June, 2020.**



**Figure 3. Total patrol distance and time per month for the period April to June, 2020.**

#### **Law Enforcement**

#### **Law Enforcement**

Patrols this quarter arrested four people, removed 522 wire snares and 3 destroyed 3 hunting camps (Tables 2 and 6). In addition to hunting, 24 farms and 4 illegal incidents were recorded (Table 4).

**Table 2. Summary of arrests and other law enforcement for the period April to June, 2020.**

Station	Leader	Date	Action Taken - People	Home Village	Name	Threat
Olum Axis	George Mgbang	Apr 25, 2020	Apprehended and reported	Buanchor	John Bette buanchor community	Gun hunting
Olum Axis	George Mgbang	Apr 27, 2020	Observed Only	Olum	Sabe Ochie	Farming
Esekwe Camp	George Mgbang	Apr 9, 2020	Observed Only	Esekwe	Abuo Ofre	NTFP collection
Esekwe Camp	George Mgbang	Apr 16, 2020	Observed Only	Esekwe	Group (21) clearing farm owned by Chief Ferdinand Ashijua	Farming
Esekwe Camp	George Mgbang	Apr 16, 2020	Observed Only	Esekwe		Farming
Esekwe Camp	George Mgbang	May 22, 2020	Apprehended and reported	Esekwe	Chief Ferdinand Ashijua	Logging
Esekwe Camp	George Mgbang	May 23, 2020	Apprehended and reported	Cameroon	God bless	Trapping
Esekwe Camp	George Mgbang	May 23, 2020	Apprehended and reported	Cameroon	Romanus Ekwa	Trapping
Esekwe Camp	Etta Joseph	Jun 6, 2020	Observed Only	--	--	Gun hunting
Ketche-Asuben	David Otu	May 16, 2020	Observed Only	--	--	Farming
Buanchor-Drill Ranch	Etta Joseph	Jun 25, 2020	Observed Only	--	--	Fishing
Esekwe Camp	Etta Joseph	May 24, 2020	Observed Only	--	--	Farming
Nkanyang-Kaku	George Mgbang	May 18, 2020	Observed Only	Kakubok	--	Farming

**Table 3. Number of people seen by threat for the period April to June, 2020.**

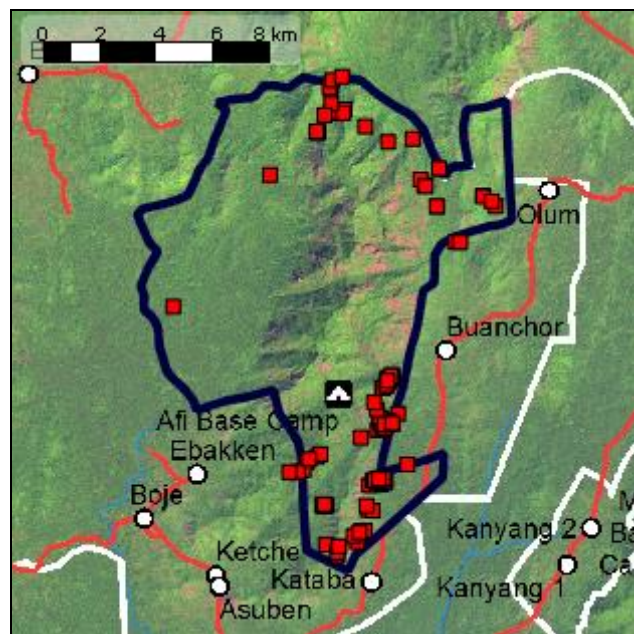
Threat	Number of People	Encounter Rate per km
Farming	6	0.018
Fishing	1	0.003
Hunting	4	0.012
Logging	1	0.003
NTPF Collection	1	0.003

**Table 4. Total encounter rates of signs of human activity for the period April to June, 2020.**

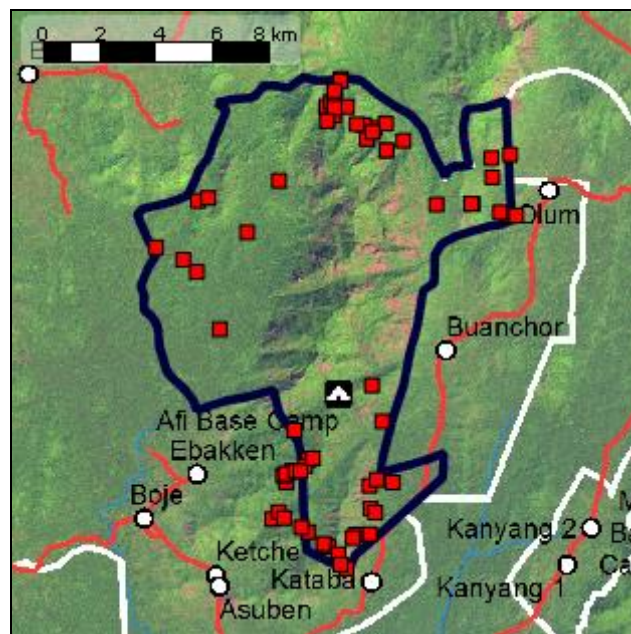
Activity	Number of Incidents	Encounter Rate per km
Farming and Land Clearing	24	0.071
Gunshot heard	18	0.053
Human Sign	39	0.116
Logging and Tree Cutting	4	0.012
People seen	13	0.039
Shed or Camp	4	0.012
Traps, Weapons & Equipment	215	0.639

**Table 5. Specific evidence of logging for the period April to June, 2020.**

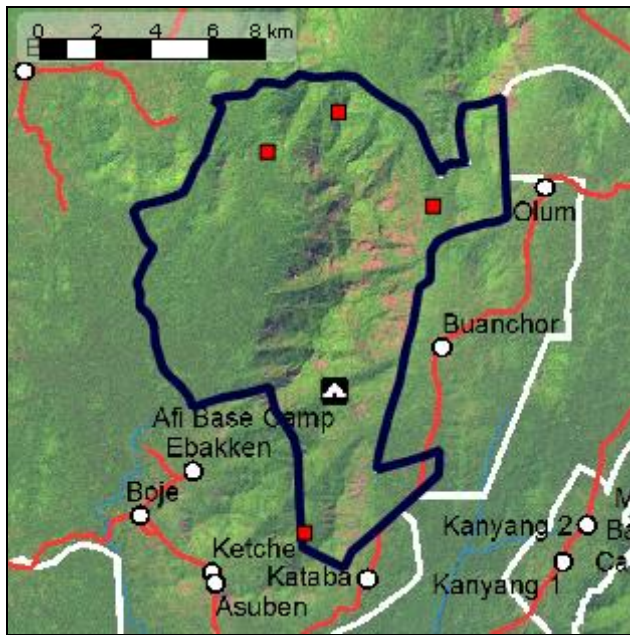
Type of logging evidence	Action Taken - Items	Age of Sign	Number of cut pieces	Number of Logs	Number of Planks	Number of Stumps	Tree Species
Stump	Seen Only	Recent				40	NA
Stump	Seen Only	Fresh				1	Iroko
Planks	Seen Only	Fresh			8		Iroko
Logs	Destroyed	Fresh		2			Iroko



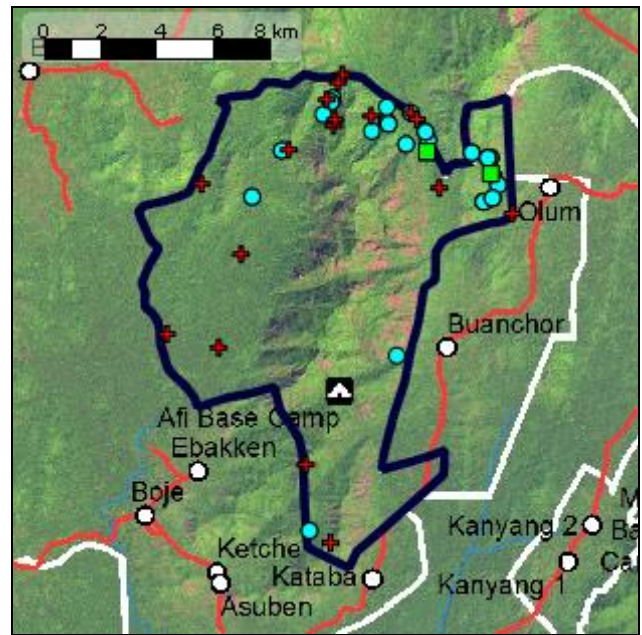
a) Wire snares



b) Empty cartridges



c) Sheds and camps



d) Farms (circles), gunshots heard (crosses), logging (squares)

**Figure 4. Distribution of all signs of human activity recorded during the period April to June, 2020.**

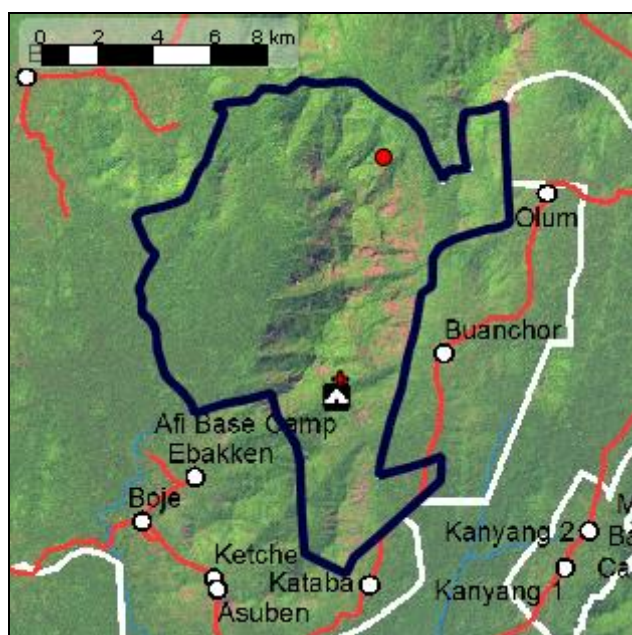
**Table 6. Hunting signs recorded for the period April to June, 2020.**

Sign	Number of Observations	Encounter Rate per km
Gunshots heard	18	0.053
Set wire snares	522	1.551
Unset wire snares	1	0.003
Empty cartridges	110	0.327
Hunting camps	3	0.009

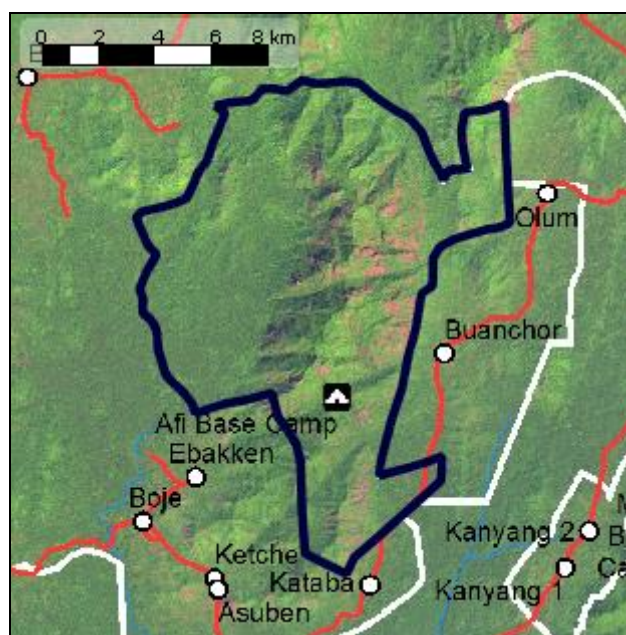
## Wildlife Observations

### Great apes

A total of 1 great ape nest sites were sighted and recorded, this was identified as Cross River gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla diehli*) nest sites. None was recorded as Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes ellioti*) nest sites.



a) Gorillas



b) Chimpanzees

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

**Table 7. Number and encounter rate of nest sites recorded for the period April to June, 2020.**

Species	Number of nest sites	Encounter rate of nest sites per km
Chimpanzee	--	--
Gorilla	1	0.003
Unidentified great ape	--	--

**Table 8. Nest sites recorded for the period April to June, 2020.**

Species	Nest site type	Age of Sign	Dung present	Number of ground nests	Total number of nests	Note
Gorilla	Night nest(s)	Recent	true	0	2	

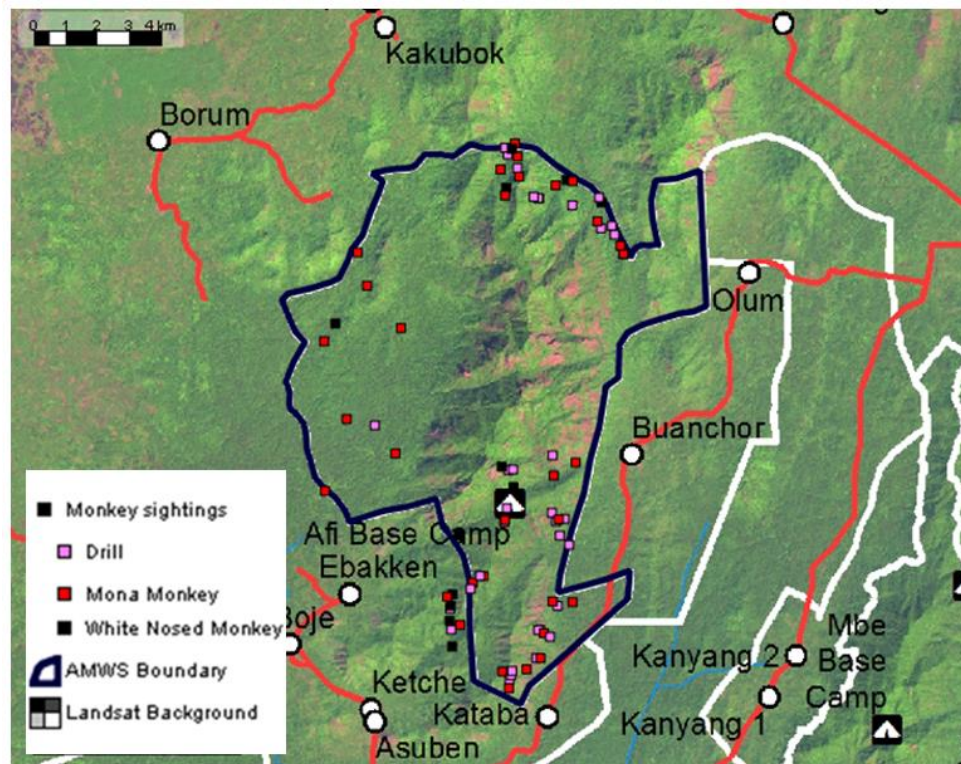
## Other Wildlife

### Monkey species sighted

Three monkey species were sighted during patrols this quarter Table 9; Figure 6): drill (*Mandrillus leucophaeus*), Mona monkey (*Cercopithecus mona*) and putty-nosed monkey (*Cercopithecus nictitans*). Several groups of drill were sighted in the Esekwe area and other monkey species were heard vocalizing at different times during the patrols.

**Table 9. Number and encounter rate of monkey species recorded for the period April to June, 2020.**

Species	Number of observations	Encounter rate per km
Drill	34	0.101
Mona monkey	33	0.098
White-nosed monkey	12	0.036



**Figure 6. Monkey species observed for the period April to June, 2020.**

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.

### **Covid-19 sensitization in communities**

To create awareness and prevent the spread of COVID-19 WCS printed and distributed Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) posters with information on COVID-19 and recommended health guidelines in communities around AMWS. Communities on their part placed the posters in strategic places in their communities including health centers, markets, town halls and village squares. Communities were also encouraged to report any strange illnesses to the nearest health center and should also take the preventive measures outlined in the posters. To date there have been reported cases of COVID-19 in the communities surrounding sanctuary.

### **New farms in the sanctuary/arrest of new farm owners**

This year's farming season has come with several new farms appearing in the sanctuary, majority of these farms are found in the Esekwe, Njua, Kakubok, Katche and Olum axes of the sanctuary. The WCS Afi project manager met with the chiefs of Esekwe to discuss the new farms being established in Esekwe section of the sanctuary. The head chief of the village expressed his displeasure about the situation and supported the idea that defaulters should be dealt with in line with the CRSFC law. The town crier was also mobilized to make announcement in the community informing farm owners in the community to stop

further encroachment. A visit was also made to the Divisional Police Officer in Okundi to solicit the support of the Police, working in partnership with WCS and the CRSFC, in dealing with the increasing farm encroachment on the sanctuary. The WCS Afi project manager also visited the Boje Forest Officer at his Ntamanta office. The issue of farm encroachment and other illegal activities in the sanctuary were discussed with him, and names of farmers identified as owners of newly established farms handed to him. He promised to forward a letter to the Zonal Director of Forestry in Ogoja that contains all the names of defaulters and recommendations for action. He pleaded for logistic support to enable him carry out this tasks. He also promised to visit the Divisional Police Officer in Okundi with the Zonal Director of Forestry to discuss the way forward with regards to illegal activities in the sanctuary. Through the joint effort of the CRSFC and the Nigerian Police, two owners of new farms in the Eskewe area of the sanctuary were arrested in the month of May. In addition, with support from WCS, the CRSFC sent letter of invitation through the police to new farm owners in Kakubo and Esekwe communities. As at the time of writing this report, the invited persons had not honored the police invitation.

### **Attack on Ranger by Esekwe Youths**

The destruction of new farms and the invitation of some farmers from Esekwe village by the police angered some community members, especially youths, who attacked rangers in their community on 13 June 2020. A large number of irate youths, on the orders of the Esekwe youth president, accosted the rangers who were gathered at the chief ranger house hitting them with sticks and cutlasses before chasing them out of Esekwe community to the neighboring Okubushi village. The matter was immediately reported to the Divisional Police Office at Okundi. The Police was also mobilized to arrest those responsible for the attack. Sadly, till date no action has been taken by the police. The paramount ruler of Boki has also been informed and he has promised to hold a meeting with the Erruan chiefs to discuss the matter.

### **Appendix I. Patrol effort statistics April to June, 2020.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Number of Patrols</b>	<b>Distance (km)</b>	<b>Number of Hours</b>	<b>Number of Rangers</b>
2020-04-09	2	10.5	14.4	12
2020-04-10	2	9.1	12.9	11
2020-04-11	2	10.0	16.1	12
2020-04-12	1	2.7	5.9	7
2020-04-13	2	10.7	14.8	11
2020-04-14	2	8.8	12.5	12
2020-04-15	2	12.2	12.5	12
2020-04-16	2	12.4	11.0	12
2020-04-17	1	5.6	5.7	5
2020-04-20	2	6.1	12.4	12
2020-04-21	2	8.8	23.8	12
2020-04-22	2	8.3	23.8	12
2020-04-23	2	10.5	15.8	12
2020-04-24	2	6.7	14.0	12
2020-04-25	2	6.9	16.2	12
2020-04-26	2	7.6	15.2	12
2020-04-27	2	6.8	11.5	12

Date	Number of Patrols	Distance (km)	Number of Hours	Number of Rangers
2020-05-12	1			7
2020-05-13	2	6.1	30.3	12
2020-05-14	2	9.9	30.1	12
2020-05-15	2	7.9	23.0	12
2020-05-16	2	9.9	15.4	12
2020-05-17	2	9.5	14.4	12
2020-05-18	2	10.5	13.8	12
2020-05-22	2	7.9	14.8	13
2020-05-23	2	10.4	16.9	11
2020-05-24	2	7.4	13.8	13
2020-05-25	2	7.1	14.9	13
2020-05-26	2	6.4	15.5	13
2020-05-27	2	7.0	15.9	13
2020-05-28	2	6.9	13.0	13
2020-06-04	1	4.5	15.4	5
2020-06-05	1	3.9	11.2	5
2020-06-06	1	2.6	8.0	5
2020-06-07	1	5.4	6.5	5
2020-06-08	1	9.1	6.9	5
2020-06-09	1	6.4	8.4	5
2020-06-10	1	7.1	9.1	5
2020-06-11	1	3.5	6.6	5
2020-06-16	1	4.1	4.9	5
2020-06-17	1	3.4	8.5	5
2020-06-18	1	3.8	7.1	5
2020-06-19	1	6.4	6.5	5
2020-06-20	1	4.2	5.1	5
2020-06-21	1	4.3	5.8	5
2020-06-25	1	4.4	6.4	5
2020-06-26	1	3.2	5.4	5
2020-06-27	1	3.3	5.9	5
2020-06-28	1	2.7	5.6	5
2020-06-29	1	3.8	4.2	5

**Appendix II. Encounter rate of wildlife species observed during patrols April to June, 2020.**  
**Species not encountered during patrols are not shown.**

Species	Number of observations	Encounter rate per km
Blue duiker	<i>Philantomba monticola</i>	1.138
Red river hog	<i>Potamochoerus porcus</i>	0.841
Drill	<i>Mandrillus leucophaeus</i>	0.713
Brush-tailed porcupine	<i>Atherurus africanus</i>	0.600
Unidentified monkey	-	0.535
Mona monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mona</i>	0.520
Common mongoose	<i>Crossarchus sp</i>	0.345
Hornbill	-	0.282
Putty nosed monkey	<i>Cercopithecus nictitans</i>	0.241
Turaco	-	0.232
Yellow-backed duiker	<i>Cephalophus silvicultor</i>	0.211
Unidentified medium duiker	-	0.166
Bay duiker	<i>Cephalophus dorsalis</i>	0.107
Unidentified small duiker	-	0.092
Pangolin	<i>Phataginus tricuspis</i>	0.077
Unidentified large duiker	-	0.062
Cane rat (grasscutter)	<i>Thryonomys swinderianus</i>	0.053
African civet	<i>Civettictis civetta</i>	0.039
Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee	<i>Pan troglodytes ellioti</i>	0.039
Rock fowl	<i>Picathartes oreas</i>	0.030
Unidentified great ape	-	0.024
Cross River gorilla	<i>Gorilla gorilla diehli</i>	0.018
African palm civet	<i>Nandinia binotata</i>	0.003

**Appendix III. Ranger work time for the period April to June, 2020.**

Name	Number of Patrols	Number of Patrol Days	Number Patrol Hours	Total Patrol Distance (km)
Alphonsus Oweh	4	29	268.6	118.8
Patrick Bankong	4	29	268.6	118.8
Patrick Kejie	7	47	334.1	214.5
Vincent Ayang	4	27	255.3	111.8
Peter Adie	1	1	5.2	3.2
Peter Nsan	4	29	268.6	118.8
Philip Ashijua	4	28	257.9	110.4
Anthony Osang	7	48	339.3	217.8
Bernard Akpa	1	6	49.5	25.8
David Otu	7	48	339.3	217.8
Donald Ojie	7	48	339.3	217.8
Etta Joseph	7	48	339.3	217.8
George Mgbang	4	29	268.6	118.8
Henry Achua	4	29	268.6	118.8