



CROSS RIVER NATIONAL PARK-OBAN
QUARTERLY REPORT (LAW ENFORCEMENT):
APRIL-JUNE 2020



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Summary

This report summarizes the results of law enforcement patrols of the Oban Division of Cross River National Park (CRNP) from April to June 2020 facilitated by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). Twelve anti-poaching patrols were completed during this reporting period. The patrols lasted for 88 patrol-days (600 person-days) and covered a total distance of 743.9 kilometers. Five poachers were arrested, 282 wire snares removed, and 14 hunting/fishing camps were destroyed. The teams confiscated 3 shotguns, 20 live cartridges and 4 machetes from hunters. Other signs of hunting observed were 414 expended shotgun cartridges and 4 gunshots heard. Primates were sighted a total of 57 times during this reporting period including Mona monkey *Cercopithecus mona* (sighted 29 times), putty-nosed monkey *Cercopithecus nictitans* (sighted 20 times), drill *Mandrillus leucophaeus* (sighted 3 times), and red-capped mangabey *Cercocebus torquatus* (sighted twice).

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 km² 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 April to June 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

Twelve anti-poaching patrols were completed during this period covering a total distance of 743.9 kilometers and lasted for 88 patrol-days (600 person-days).

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

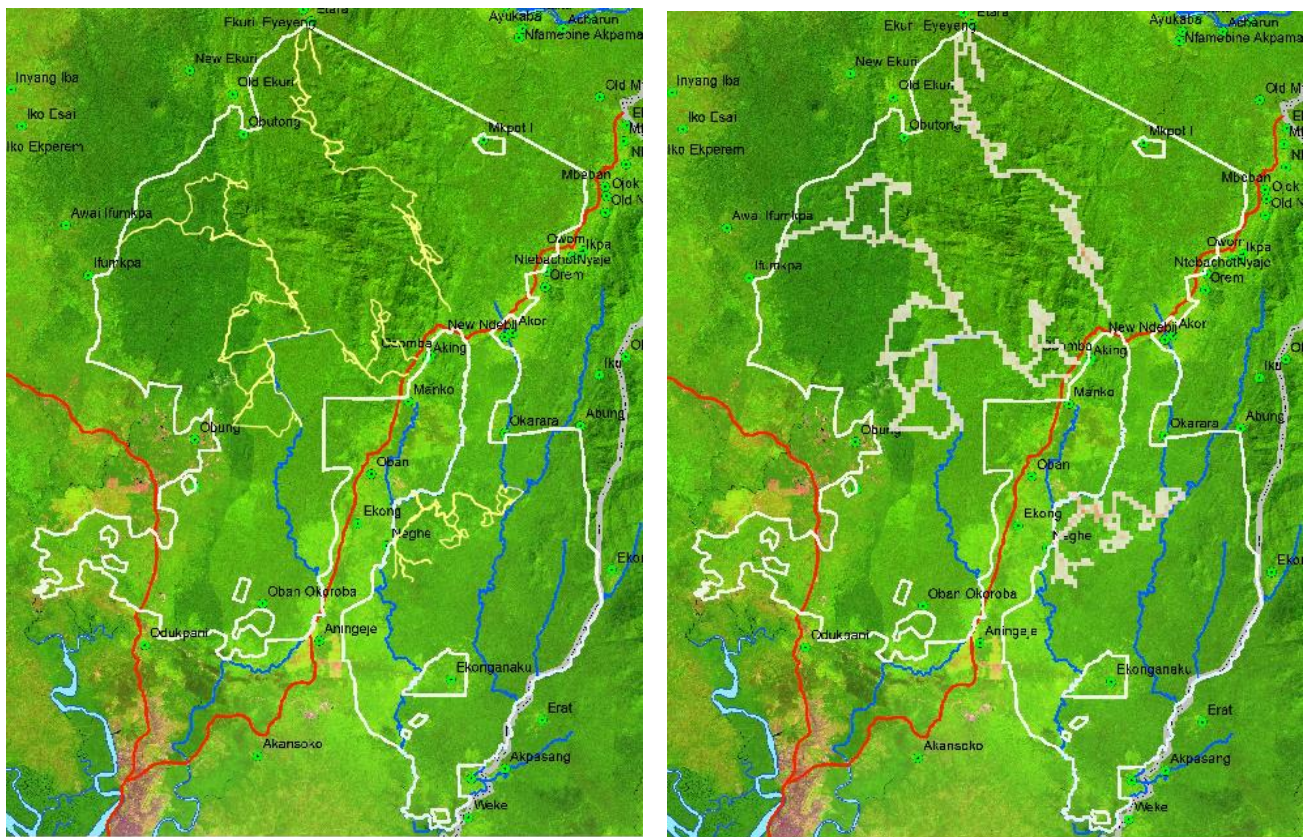
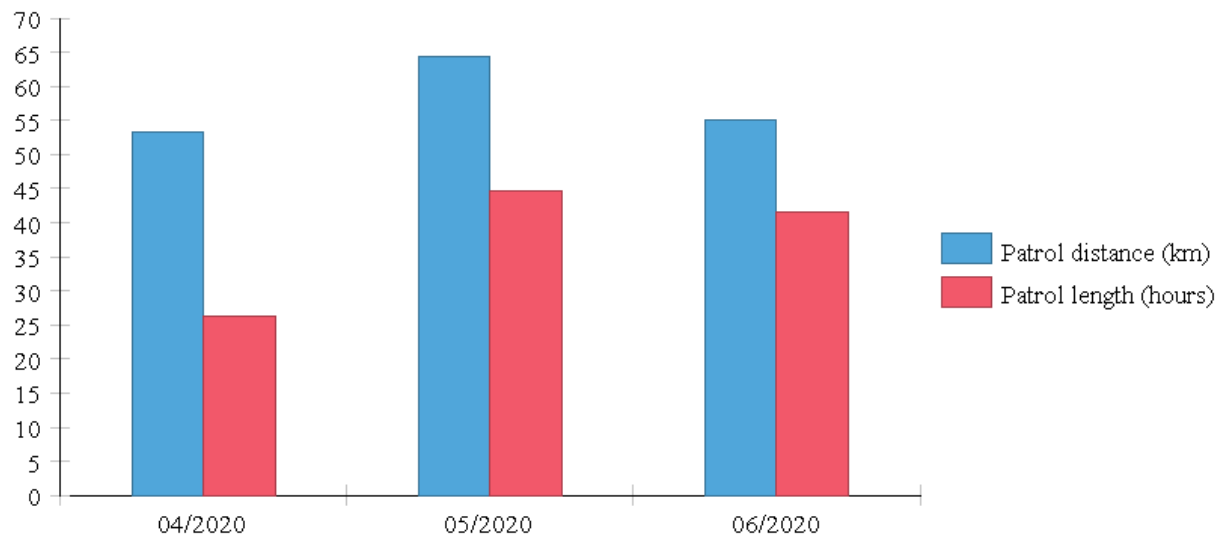


Table 1. Summary of patrol effort for the period April to June 2020.

Patrol ID	Number of Patrols	Number of Days	Distance (km)	Person - Days
CRNP-OB_000188	1	10	78.1	70
CRNP-OB_000189	1	9	93.7	48
CRNP-OB_000191	1	7	46.4	49
CRNP-OB_000192	1	7	47.9	42
CRNP-OB_000193	1	8	70.5	56
CRNP-OB_000194	1	8	60.2	56
CRNP-OB_000195	1	7	70.4	49
CRNP-OB_000196	1	7	56.2	49
CRNP-OB_000197	1	7	58.7	49
CRNP-OB_000198	1	9	77.5	63
CRNP-OB_000199	1	2	20.4	14
CRNP-OB_000200	1	7	63.9	49
Total	12	88	743.9	600

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

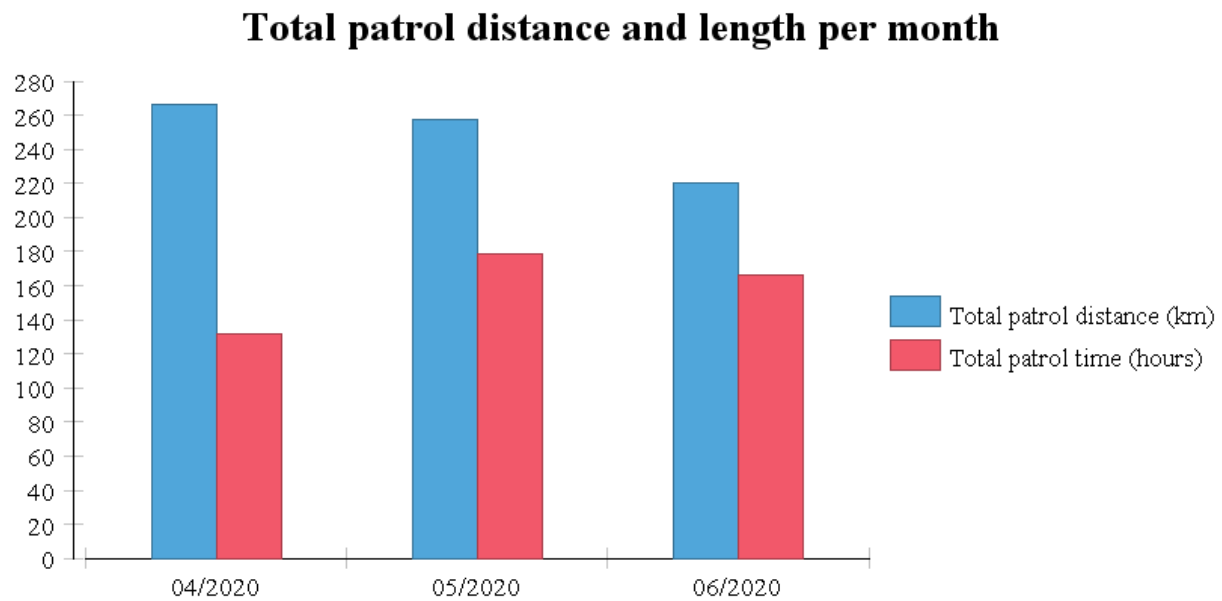


Figure 3. Total patrol distance and time per month for the period April to June 2020.

Law enforcement

During the reporting period, 5 poachers were arrested and handed over to CRNP management for prosecution. A total of 448 wire snares and 14 illegal hunting/fishing camps were destroyed. Most of the human activities observations as well as arrests were made in the Oban East axis of the park. Five incidents of farm encroachment were recorded in May, all within the Oban East axis of the park. In June, a patrol team encountered evidence of timber logging in the Netim area of the park with over 500 pieces of sawn timber seen at a logging site. The park authority has been informed and additional patrols of the area have been planned for next quarter.

Table 2. Summary of arrests for the period April to June 2020.

Leader	Waypoint Date	Action Taken	Home Village	Name	Threat
Isa Ebri	25 Jun 2020	Arrested	Aking	Ntui Ayamba, Ita Ntui Ojon, Mathew Oje Nkanu	Hunting
Bassey Effiong	14 Jun 2020	Arrested	Okarara	Elvis Etta	Gun hunting
Isa Ebri	18 Jun 2020	Unsuccessful Pursuit			Hunting
Bassey Effiong	15 Apr 2020	Arrested	Netim village	Ojong Ejukwa	Gun hunting

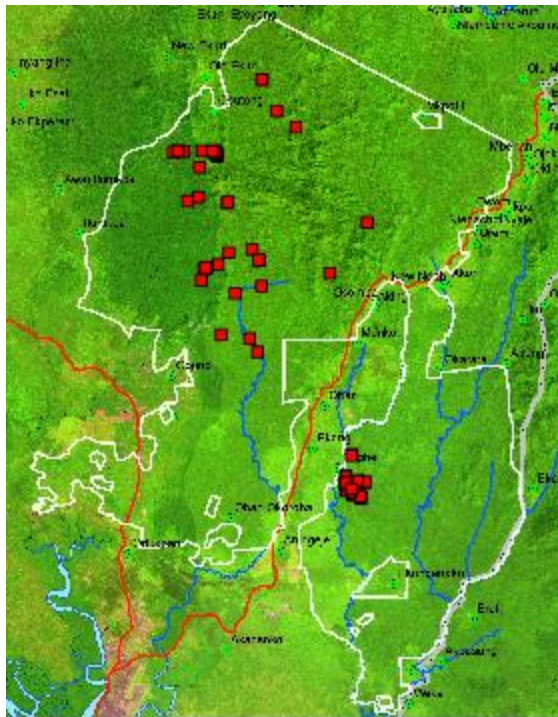
Table 3. The number of people seen by threat for the period, April to June 2020.

Threat	Number of people seen	Encounter rate per km
Hunting	5	0.005

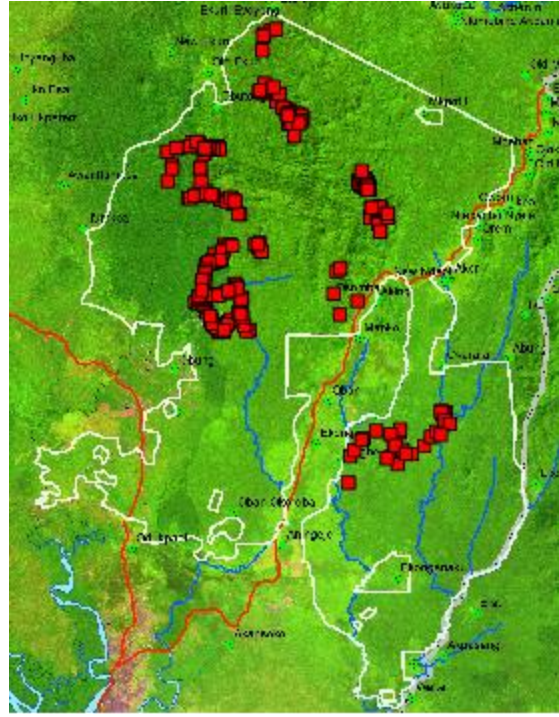
Table 4. Total encounter rates of signs of human activity for the period, April to June 2020.

Activity	Number of Incidents	Encounter Rate per km
Farming and Land Clearing	5	0.007
Gunshot heard	4	0.005
Human Sign	10	0.013
Logging and Tree Cutting	1	0.001
People seen	5	0.005
Shed or Camp	20	0.027
Traps, Weapons & Equipment	337	0.453

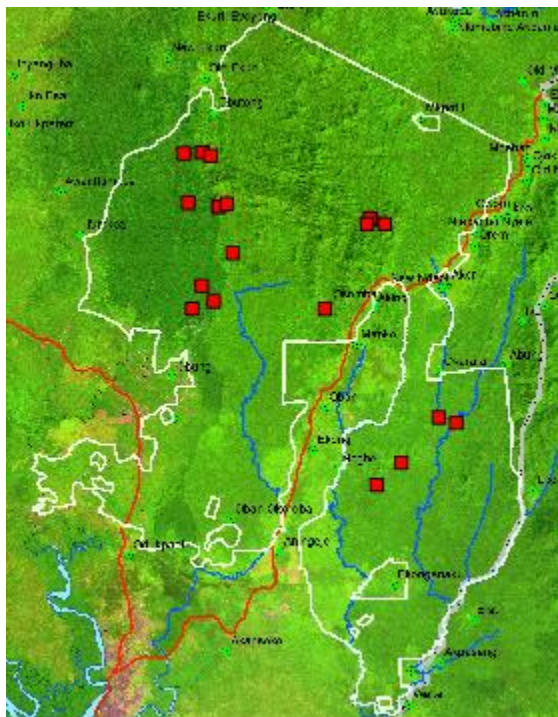
Figure 4. Distribution of all signs of human activities recorded during the period April to June 2020



a) Wire snares



b) empty cartridges



c) Shed and Camps



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

Table 5. Hunting signs recorded for the period, April to June 2020.

Sign	Number of Observations	Encounter Rate per km
Gunshots heard	4	0.005
Set wire snares	167	0.224
Unset wire snares	281	0.378
Empty cartridges	414	0.557
Hunting camps	14	0.019

Table 6. Total encounter rates of signs 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
Cut Pieces	Seen Only	Recent	50		500	4

Wildlife Observations

Primate

During this quarter, Primates sighted include Mona monkey *Cercopithecus mona* (sighted 29 times), Putty-nosed monkey *Cercopithecus nictitans* (sighted 20 times), Drill *Mandrillus leucophaeus* (sighted 3 times), and Red-capped Mangabey *Cercocebus torquatus* (sighted 2 times). Vocalization of the Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee was recorded.

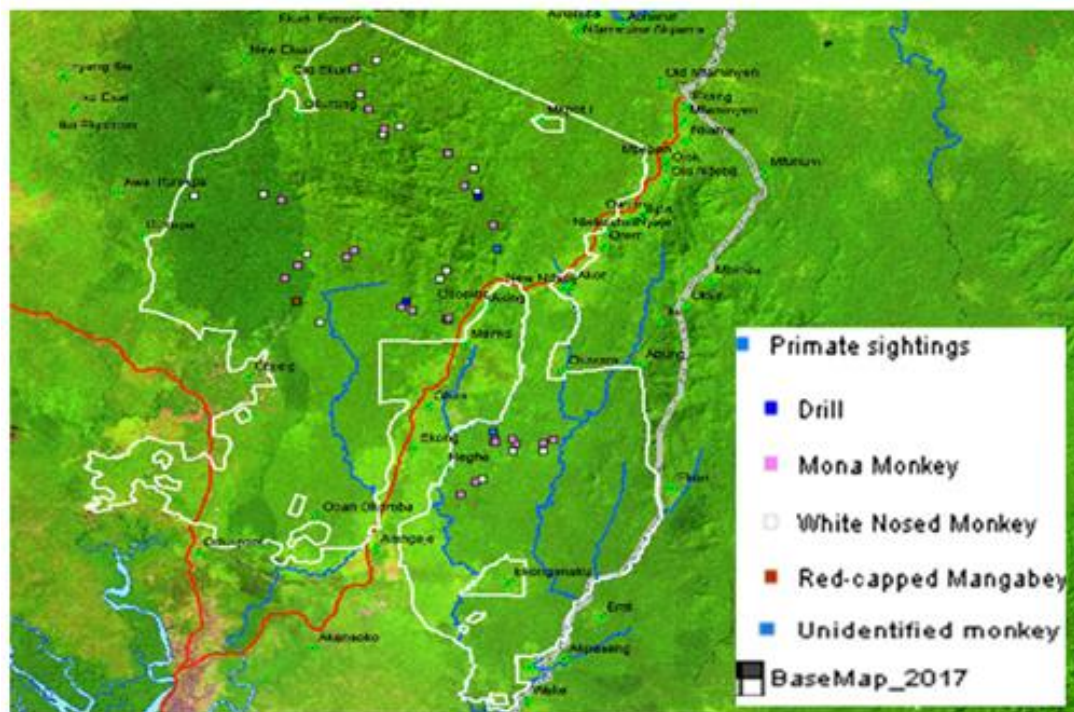


Figure 5. sighting all primate for the period, April to June 2020

Table 7. Sightings of primate species for the period, April to June 2020

Species	Scientific name	Number of Sightings	Encounter Rate per km
Mona monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mona</i>	29	0.0390
Putty-nosed monkey	<i>Cercopithecus nictitans</i>	20	0.0269
Drill	<i>Mandrillus leucophaeus</i>	3	0.0040
Red-capped mangabey	<i>Cercocebus torquatus</i>	2	0.0027
Unidentified monkey	-	3	0.0040

Other Wildlife

Other wildlife signs encountered during the period include forest elephant, bay duiker, forest buffalo, red river hog and blue duiker (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. WCS is formally registered in Nigeria through an agreement with the Ministry of Budget and National Planning of the Federal Republic.

Evidence of illegal activities



Appendix I. Encounter rate of wildlife species observed (all sign types) during patrols April to June2020.

Species	Scientific name	Number of Observations	Encounter rate per km
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
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 troglodytes 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 April to June2020

Date	Number of Patrols	Distance (km)	Number of Hours	Number of Rangers
2020-04-08	2	22.9	7.1	13
2020-04-09	2	22.3	8.4	13
2020-04-10	2	19.2	6.1	13
2020-04-11	2	10.4	7.5	13
2020-04-12	2	14.4	7.8	13
2020-04-13	2	17.3	10.0	13
2020-04-14	2	17.1	8.8	13
2020-04-15	2	22.7	17.3	12
2020-04-16	2	16.6	9.6	13
2020-04-17	1	9.0	4.7	7
2020-04-22	2	12.6	4.1	13
2020-04-23	2	17.5	9.7	13
2020-04-24	2	11.3	7.6	13
2020-04-25	2	14.8	7.5	13
2020-04-26	2	14.7	9.6	13
2020-04-27	2	12.7	2.3	13
2020-04-28	2	10.8	3.2	13
2020-05-12	2	12.7	6.6	14
2020-05-13	2	20.5	11.7	14
2020-05-14	2	17.2	11.0	14
2020-05-15	2	14.7	9.7	14
2020-05-16	2	19.1	15.1	14
2020-05-17	2	14.9	9.6	14
2020-05-18	2	13.9	12.0	14
2020-05-19	2	17.7	11.4	14
2020-05-25	2	20.8	13.5	14
2020-05-26	2	18.2	12.9	14
2020-05-27	2	20.4	13.6	14
2020-05-28	2	15.1	12.8	14
2020-05-29	2	15.2	13.1	14
2020-05-30	2	17.7	13.4	14
2020-05-31	2	19.2	12.0	14
2020-06-11	1	6.3	5.5	7
2020-06-12	2	24.5	16.0	14
2020-06-13	2	14.9	14.8	14
2020-06-14	2	14.8	14.2	14
2020-06-15	2	20.1	15.7	14
2020-06-16	2	19.1	13.5	14
2020-06-17	2	15.9	12.1	14
2020-06-18	1	7.0	5.1	7
2020-06-19	1	7.3	5.9	7
2020-06-20	1	6.5	6.7	7
2020-06-24	2	17.2	13.4	14
2020-06-25	2	17.4	13.3	14
2020-06-26	1	7.1	5.5	7
2020-06-27	1	9.4	6.9	7
2020-06-28	1	13.5	7.4	7
2020-06-29	1	8.9	5.0	7
2020-06-30	1	10.9	4.7	7

Appendix III. Ranger work time for the period, April to June2020.

Name	Number of Patrols	Number of Patrol Days	Number of Patrol Hours	Total Patrol Distance (km)
Abel Ita Akpu	3	22	116.0	165.3
Aondona Michael Aernyi	6	45	252.9	405.1
Austine Etta Etta	2	14	65.4	102.6
Bassey Effim Ajom	3	21	116.4	161.3
Bassey Effiong	6	45	252.9	405.1
Bassey Prince	2	14	76.0	105.1
Cornelius Itafaha Onyo	3	16	73.2	124.5
Cyril Maurice Ogar	1	10	45.0	78.1
David Clement Agu	1	9	40.4	68.2
David Onyi Eyong	1	1	4.6	9.8
Delvis Okon	4	27	117.9	206.6
Dominic Abel Samuel	1	7	42.5	63.9
Dominic Inyang Anki	1	9	58.7	77.5
Ekpe Etta Joel	4	33	199.0	312.1
Ekun Effiong Ekpe	4	25	152.0	241.7
Felix Emmanuel	1	10	45.0	78.1
Godfrey Lawo Ashu	3	24	148.2	211.9
Isa Ebri	6	43	222.9	338.8
John Effiom Edet	1	7	19.1	47.9
Kingsley Ramsel Udoh	3	17	104.8	139.3
Lawrence Akuba Mgbang	1	8	40.1	60.2
Lekam Anim Obongha	2	16	84.9	157.6
Joseph Agbor Agbor	1	8	47.0	70.5
Mathew Ojong Neji	3	22	116.0	165.3
Ntui Ojong	5	34	195.1	313.0
Okon Edet Edet	1	2	13.8	20.4
Onok Isong Ita	1	1	3.1	7.5
Onyo Isong Ita	2	8	39.4	86.3
Oru Patrick Erom	3	26	154.6	226.0
Patrick Godwill Ekpe	1	7	42.5	63.9
Patrick Omo Okwo	1	8	40.1	60.2
Roland Tansung Etumon	1	7	40.4	56.2
Samuel Ekun Effa	3	16	73.2	124.5
Sunday Keyo Onu	1	7	19.1	47.9
Sylvester Ojong Akat	2	16	91.4	141.1
Victor Njah Ajom	1	7	50.9	70.4