



YANKARI GAME RESERVE

WCS QUARTERLY REPORT: JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020



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SUMMARY

This report describes law enforcement efforts and SMART-based ranger patrols managed by WCS in Yankari Game Reserve for the period July to September 2020. A total of 2,011 patrol man days (41 patrols) were completed by rangers covering a total distance of 4,296 km. Rangers made six arrests (4 hunters, 1 fisherman, and 1 suspected elephant poacher) during the reporting period. One elephant carcass was recorded and one suspected elephant poacher was arrested during the period. Elephant crop raiding was reported from Dan, Rahama, Natsira, and Gum communities. We continue to track the elephants with the aid of five satellite collars put on them to provide better protection and mitigate human elephant conflict issues (one of the original six collars is no longer functional). Several livestock grazing incidences were recorded during the period. Three joint patrols with the army were completed. Six motorbikes were provided to the elephant guardians to enable them cover more grounds and be more efficient in helping to mitigate human elephant conflict. The new ranger barracks constructed by WCS in Wikki Camp and the extension to the Borkono bridge were formally commissioned by the Hon Commissioner.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 41 SMART-based patrols were organized during this period covering a total distance of 4,296 km and 2,011 patrol man-days (see Appendix 2 for more details). Rangers made 6 arrests (4 hunters, 1 fisherman and 1 suspected elephant poacher) 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. Three joint patrols with the army were completed to boost ranger morale and to reassure local people of our continued commitment to maintain security both for wildlife and for the communities surrounding the reserve.

PATROL STRATEGY AND CAMPING PATROL SCHEDULE

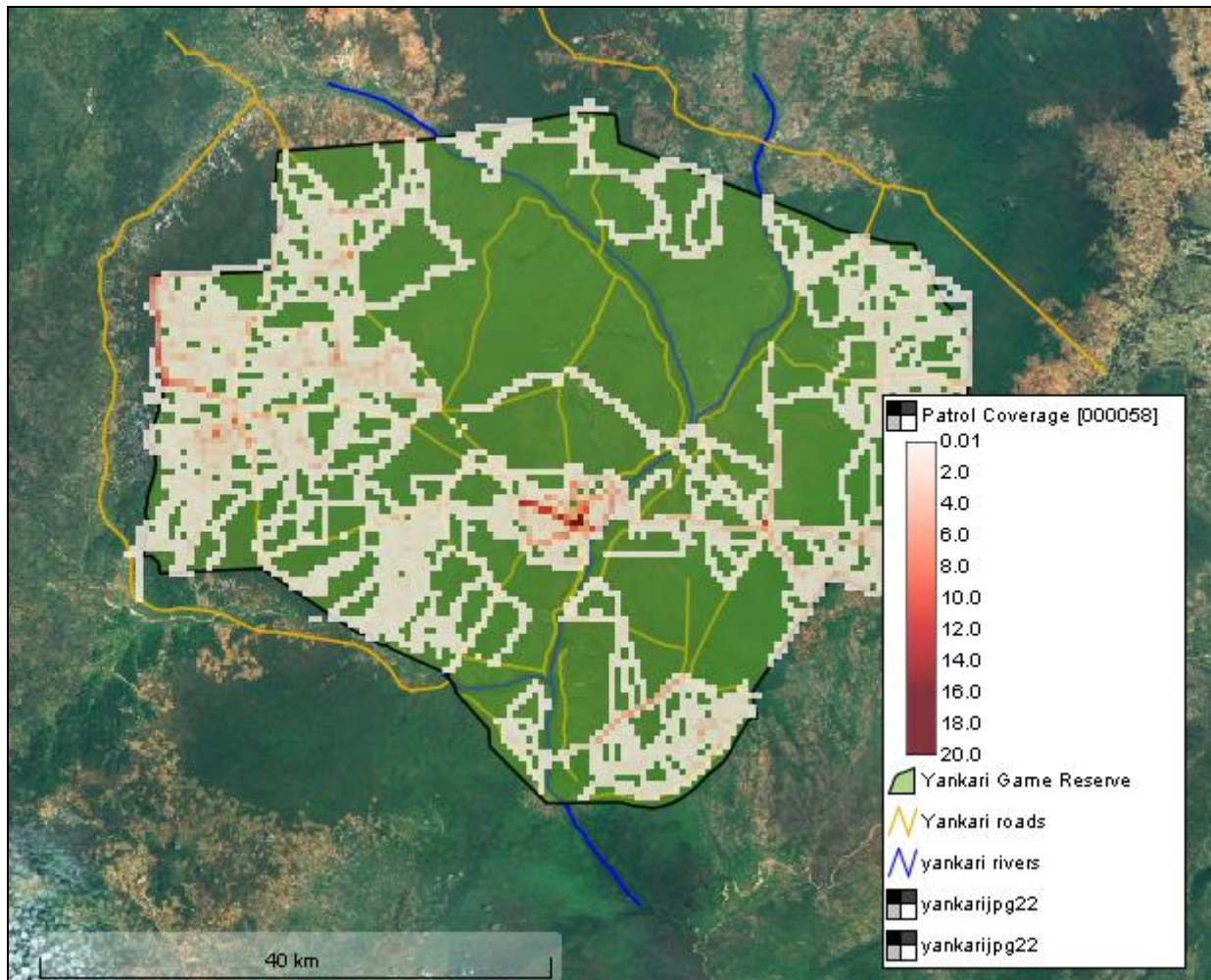
The current patrol strategy is limited by the number of firearms and vehicles available. Currently, we can only organize four camping patrols each week. Four teams consisting of 6-7 rangers per team were sent out on camping patrol each week for seven days. With only limited resources available the current 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

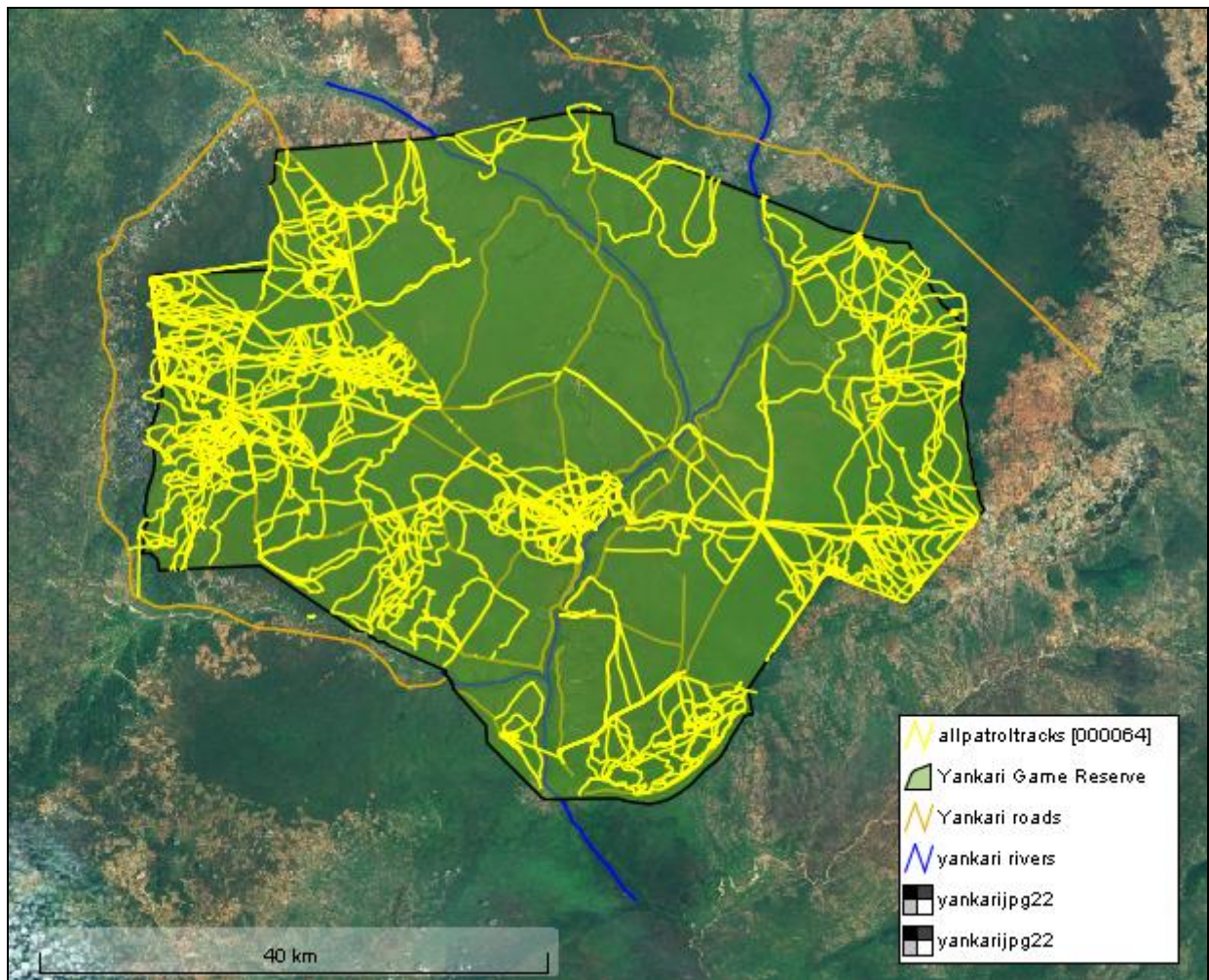
In *Map 1*, the darker red part of the grid map indicates areas that have been more frequently patrolled, the grey portions represent areas that were less patrolled while the un-shaded parts of the grid represents areas that were not patrolled during the reporting period.

Table 1. Summary of patrol effort for the period July to September 2020

<i>No of Patrols</i>	<i>Distance (km)</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>No of Days</i>	<i>Patrol Man Days</i>
41	4,296	2,364	289	2,011



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



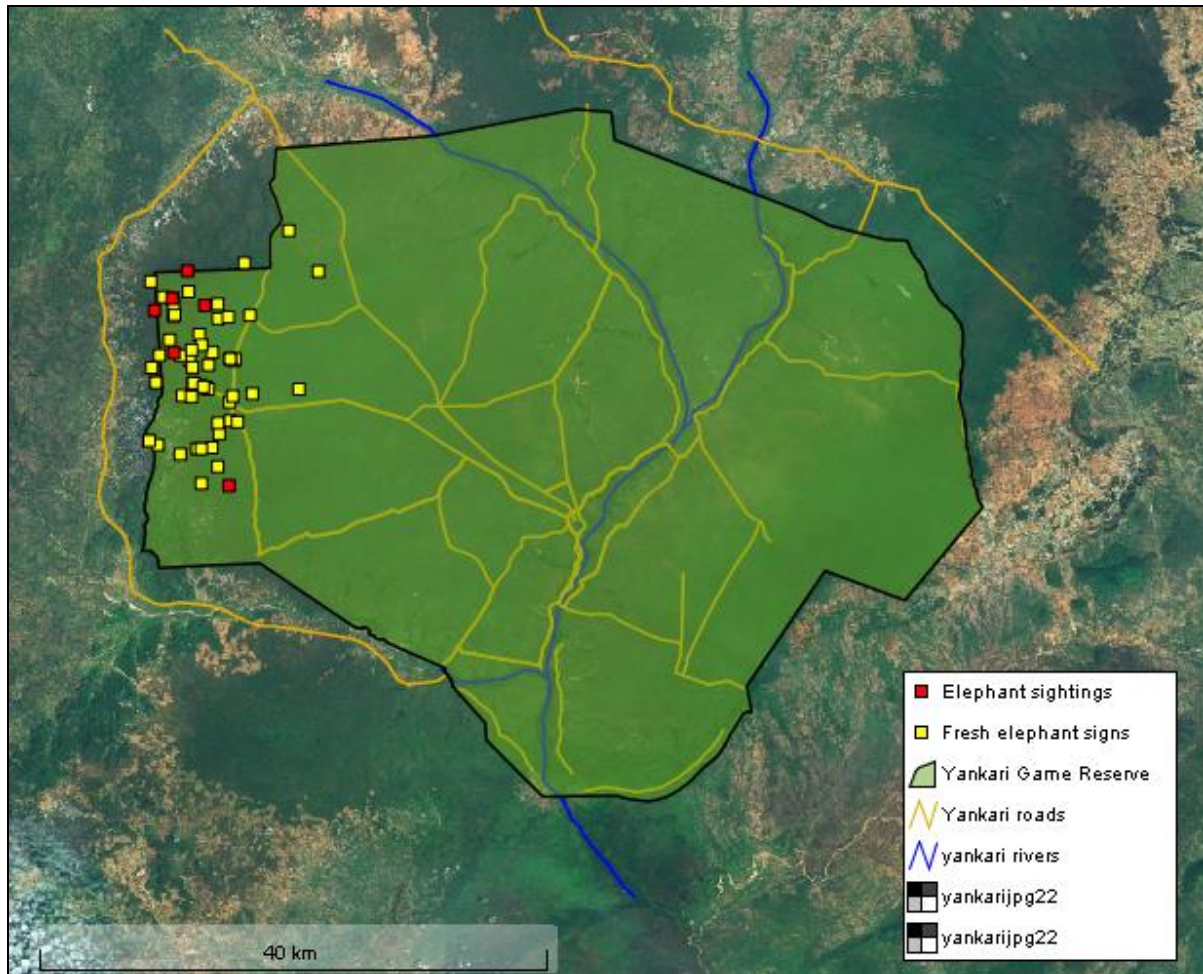
Map 2: Patrol track logs for July-September 2020

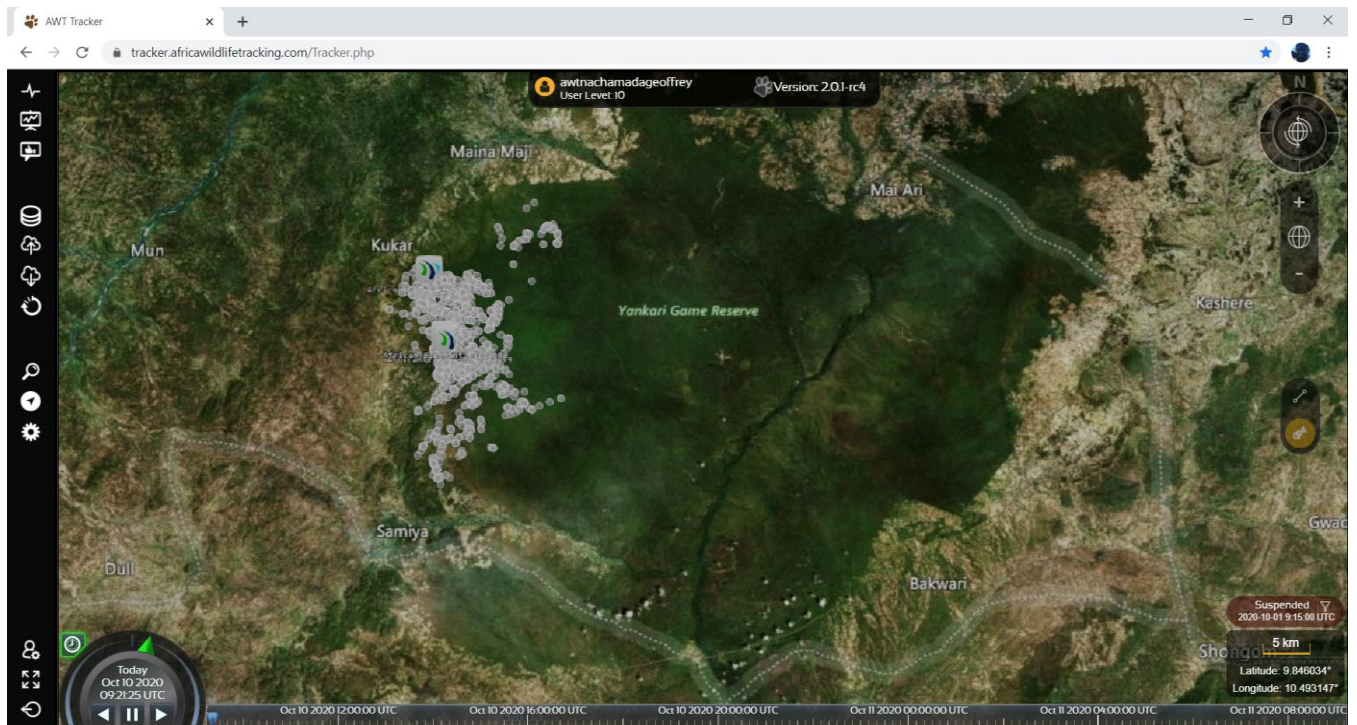


New ranger barracks completed and commissioned during the period, July 2020

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, Rahama, Natsira, and Gum communities. Rangers were sent to the areas concerned, although typically elephants raid crops overnight and by the time the rangers arrive the following morning the elephants have already left and returned to the reserve. One elephant carcass was recorded (see picture below) and a suspected poacher was arrested and charged to court, and the investigation is ongoing. 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 4: Elephant Location Data from Satellite Collars Recorded during July-September 2020



Camera trap photo of an elephant herd at one of the reserve's watering holes, September 2020



Elephant carcass discovered during a ranger patrol, August 2020



Baushe Danjuma Adamu, suspected elephant poachers arrested, September 2020



Elephant guardians with their new motorbikes, July 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. Lion roaring was reported twice at night from the Wikki camp. We have put out camera traps in those locations as well as other parts of the reserve.



Camera trap photo of the African wolf.

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.



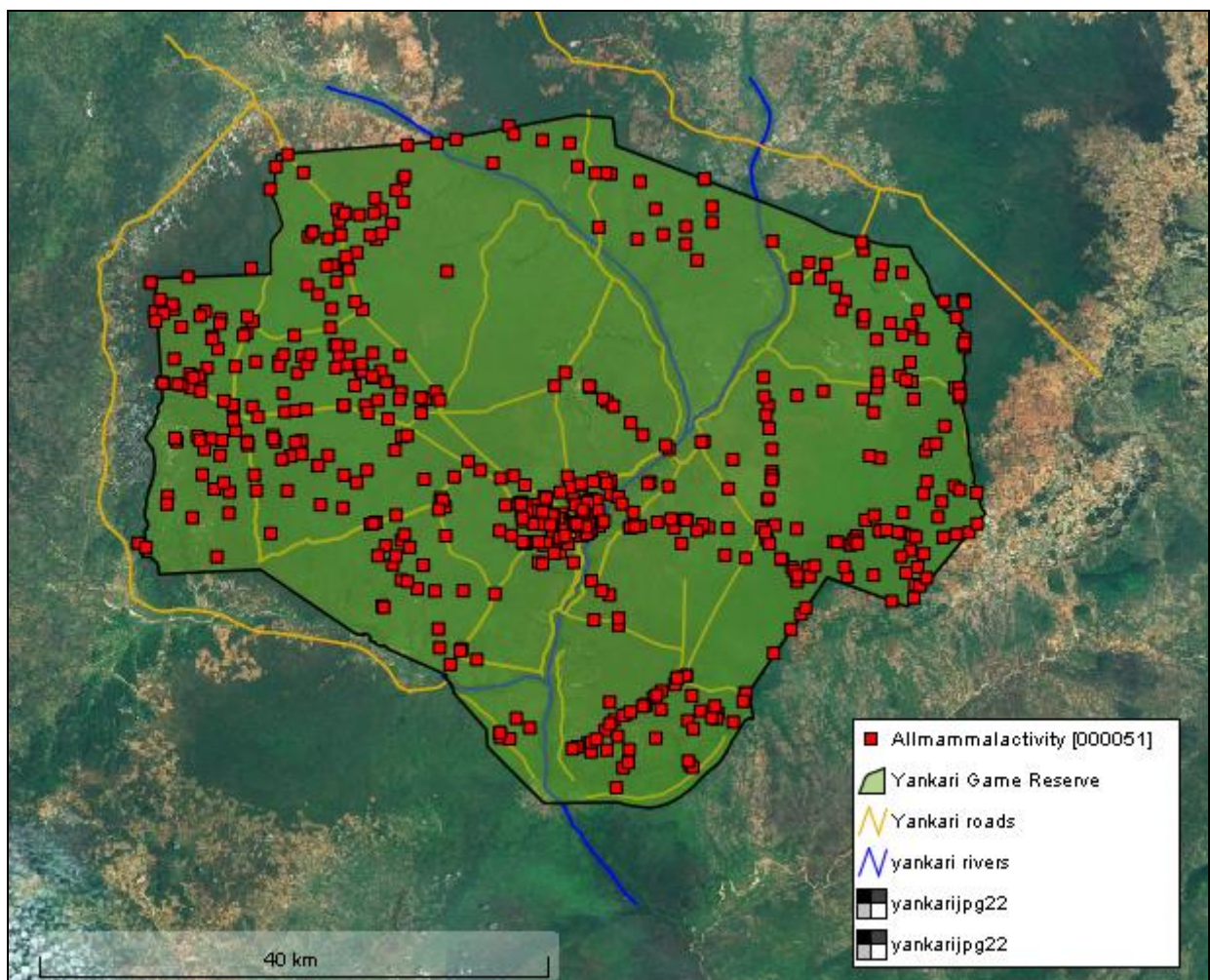
Commissioning of Borkono bridge, July 2020



Camera trap photo of waterbuck and hartebeest, July 2020



Camera trap photo of hartebeest, July 2020



Map 5: Location of All Other Mammal Sightings July-September 2020

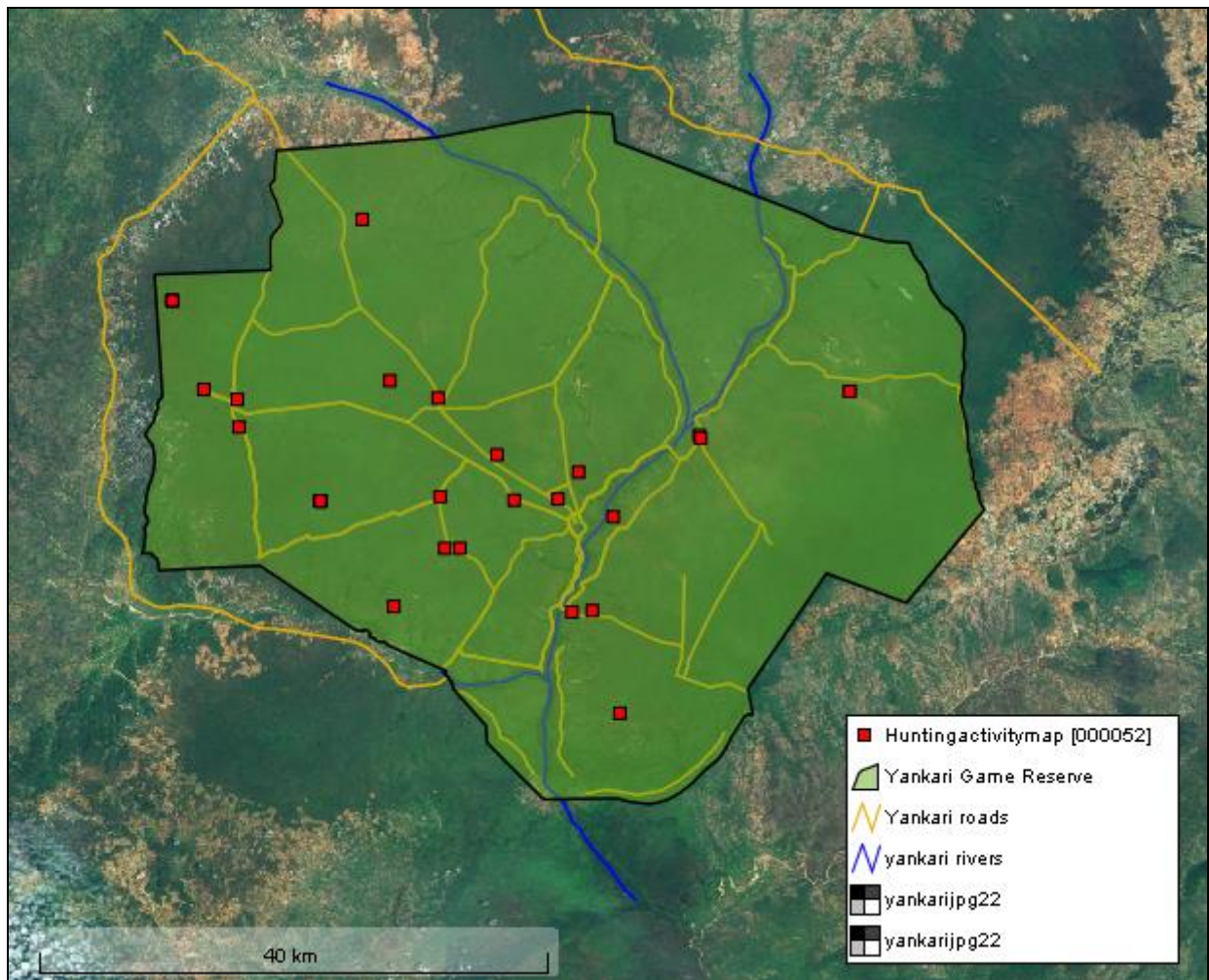


Camera trap photo of buffalo at a salt-lick, July 2020

HUNTING EVIDENCE

Four hunters were arrested during the reporting period (Appendix 1). There were fewer hunting signs this period because the grasses are now tall and it is difficult to see wildlife and most of the hunters are also farmers so they are occupied with farm work.

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.



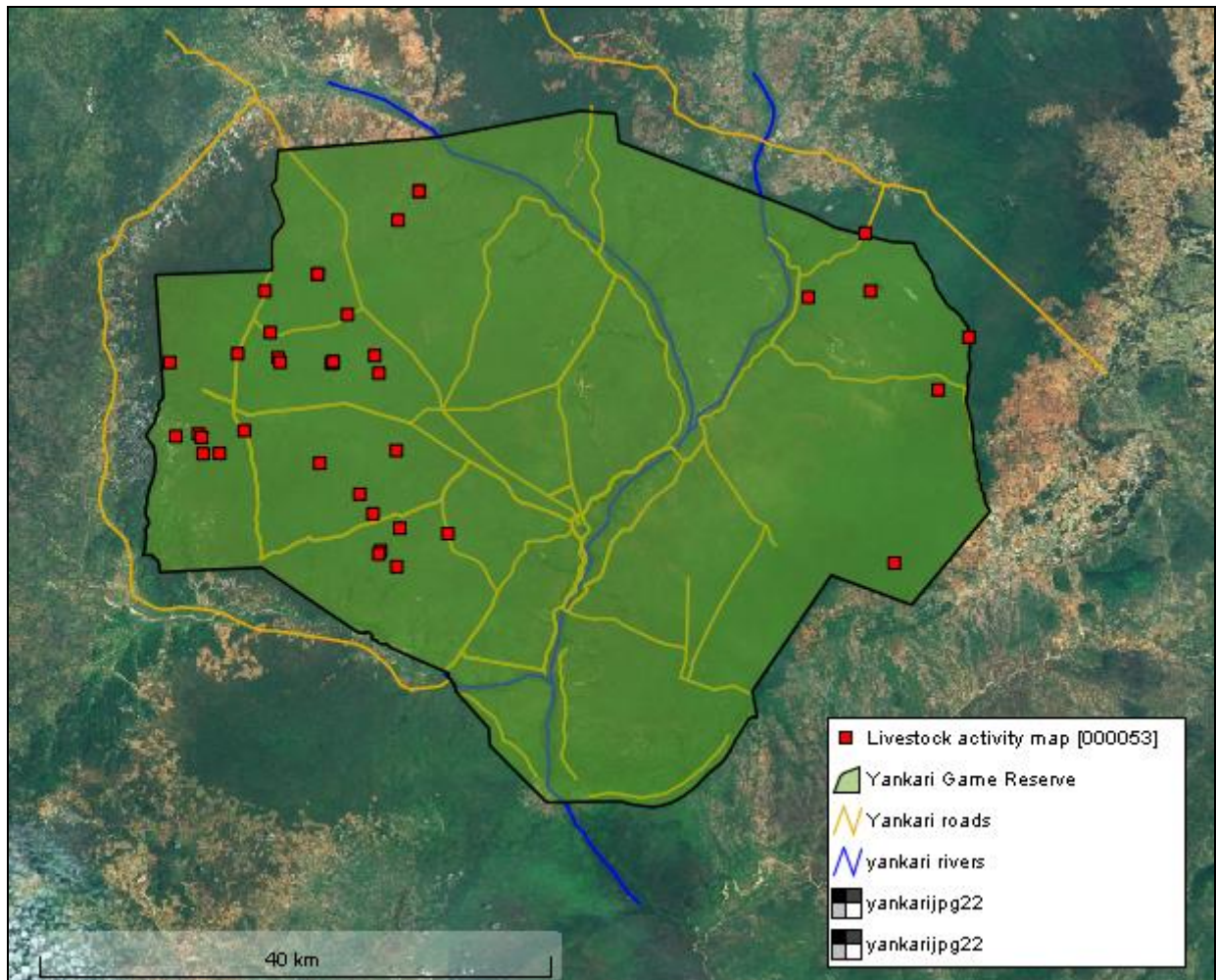
Map 6: Hunting Activity Recorded by All Ranger Patrols July-September 2020

LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Livestock grazing in the reserve was a major problem encountered during the period but no arrest was made because the grazers usually send in the cattle unaccompanied by any human. Livestock grazing sign recorded this reporting period is shown in Map 7 below.



Camera trap photo of cattle in the reserve, July 2020



Map 7: Livestock Grazing Activity Recorded by All Ranger Patrols July-September 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 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 thirty (30) months now. The lack of payment of the funds by the state government has put pressure on the limited funds WCS has and made it tough to sustain current patrols and impossible to increase the patrols.
- **Problems with Patrol Vehicles.** The four vehicles we have which help to support ranger teams while on patrol are old now due to overuse, bad road network and frequent breakdown.
- **Firearms.** The firearms that the rangers use are old now and would 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 notwithstanding rangers have continued enforce zero tolerance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Revise and strengthen the Yankari protection law.
2. Repair the VHF radio system after obtaining approval from Airtel to use their existing masts.
3. Bauchi State Government should provide counterpart funding to WCS in accordance with the terms of the MoU.
4. Purchase new Patrol Vehicles to replace old and increasingly unreliable vehicles.
5. Purchase additional firearms for rangers.

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 and the A.P. Leventis Conservation Foundation for their support.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Six Arrests and Court Outcome July-September 2020

Date	Name	Location	Offence and exhibit	Village	Outcome
06/07/20	Mohammed Sani	Bogwas	Arrested for fishing in the reserve with a net and some fish he caught	Bogwas	Released on bail by the court as the prisons are no more accepting persons except for homicide cases due to Covid-19 fears. The exhibits are in our custody.
13/07/20	Baffawuro Usman Sallau Magaji	Wolakerol	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.
26/07/20	Garba Abubakar	Faliyaram	Arrested for hunting in the reserve with a Dane gun, knife, gun powder	Sabon Layi	Released on bail by the court as the prisons are no more accepting persons except for homicide cases due to Covid-19 fears. The exhibits are in our custody.
17/09/20	Baushe Adamu Danjuma	Gum	Arrested in connection to elephant carcass recorded in August with an unlicensed Dane gun, ammunition and other wildlife products at home.	Gum	Sent to remand for two weeks awaiting trial as investigation is ongoing
29/09/20	Isiyaka Mohammed	Hawan Zubairu	Arrested for hunting in the reserve with a Dane gun, 2 knives, axe, cutlass, and ammunition	Gaji-Gamu	Sent one week in remand awaiting trial.

Appendix 2: Elephant Carcass Data July-September 2020

Date	GPS Long	GPS Lat	Carcass Age	Age	Sex	Death cause	Meat taken	Ivory status	Hec_ situation	comment
28/08/20	N09.91 315°	E10.2 2145 °	Fresh	Adult	Fem ale	Shot with a Dane gun	No	Ivory was removed	There were elephant crop raiding reported from the area during the time.	The elephant was shot on the right hand side of the chest with a Dane gun. Investigation is ongoing to find the killer.

Appendix 3: 41 Camping Patrols Completed July-September 2020

No	Area patrol	Patrol Start	Patrol End	Patrol Man Days
1.	Tungan-Kifi Adamu-Jumba, Maidawa, Yalo,	02/07/20	08/07/20	49
2.	Guza, Duguri, Shaman, Buri, Yelwan-Duguri	02/07/20	08/07/20	56
3.	Shaman, Maidawa, Buri, Gwambaza, Shaffa	02/07/20	08/07/20	49
4.	Daban-Maje, Shaman, Saltlick A & B	09/07/20	15/07/20	35
5.	Faliyaram, Kalba, Jibrin-Nayaya	09/07/20	15/07/20	42
6.	Giwa, Shehu-MASKa, Kwaffa, Shaushau, Jada	09/07/20	15/07/20	42
7.	Bogga, Adamu-Jumba, Dagudi	09/07/20	15/07/20	49
8.	Jar-Kasa, Filin-Tsintsiya	16/07/20	22/07/20	49
9.	Buri, Saltlick A & B, Buri, Maidawa, Kalban	16/07/20	22/07/20	42
10	Saltlick A & B, Shaushau, Kariyo, Bogga,	16/07/20	22/07/20	49
11	Tungan-Dutse, Dimil, Guruntum, Dogon-Kurmi	16/07/20	22/07/20	42
12	Shafale, Faliyaram, Kalba, Jibrin-Nayaya	23/07/20	29/07/20	42
13	Guruntum, Kalli-Imam, Yalo,	23/07/20	29/07/20	56
14	Shaffa, Rimi, Shaushau	23/07/20	29/07/20	48
15	Maikonkoni, Dagudi, Duguri, Mainamaji, Shaffa, Kariyo,	30/07/20	07/08/20	72
16	Tungan-Kiyashi, Yalo, Bogga, Ruwan-Rakumi	02/08/20	07/08/20	48
17	Kalban, Duguri, Dagudi, Shaman, Faliyaram	02/08/20	07/08/20	42

18	Shaman, Jan-Dutse, Fararkasa, Kuka, Maikonkoni	08/08/20	14/08/20	49
19	Shaushau, Tungulum, Ruwan-Rakumi, Yalo	08/08/20	14/08/20	56
20	Jarkasa, Kariyo, Tungan-Kiyashi, Bogga, Gale	15/08/20	21/08/20	56
21	Garangaran, Jibrin-Nayaya, Kalban, Dagudi	15/08/20	21/08/20	49
22	Shaman, Mainamaji, Duguri, Natsira, Gum	15/08/20	21/08/20	56
23	Shaman, Garangaran, Duguri, Maikonkoni, Duguri	22/08/20	28/08/20	56
24	Salt lick A & B, Kalban, Borkono, Shaman	22/08/20	28/08/20	35
25	Ruwan-Rakumi, Pali, Malla, Kali-Imam, Kwalla	22/08/20	28/08/20	49
26	Dogon-Kurmi, Shaushau, Kwala, Tungulum	22/08/20	28/08/20	42
27	Dogon-Ruwa, Bogga, Tungan-Kiyashi, Jada, Shaushau, Rimi	29/08/20	04/09/20	56
28	Borkono, Tungulum, Kwala, Ruwan-Rakumi, Pali, Malla, Yalo	29/08/20	04/09/20	49
29	Mai-Kogo, Dagudi, Shaman, Libline, Yelwan-Duguri	29/08/20	04/09/20	35
30	Kalban, Jibrin Nayaya, Batta, Buri, Mainamaji	29/08/20	04/09/20	44
31	Shaman, Yelwan-Duguri, Gobir, Dagudi	05/09/20	11/09/20	56
32	Nata'ala, Kalban, Shaman, Maikonkoni	05/09/20	11/09/20	56
33	Dagudi, Kalban, Jibrin-Nayaya, Saltlick A & B	05/09/20	11/09/20	56
34	Dagudi, Kwaffa, Shaman, Natsira, Gaji-Gamu	12/09/20	18/09/20	49
35	Duguri, Dogon-Ruwa, Dan, Libline	12/09/20	18/09/20	53
36	Kariyo, Giwa, Yalo, Malla, Bogga, Wolakerol	12/09/20	18/09/20	42
37	Faliyaram, Kalban, Nata'ala, Maidawa, Fararkasa, Garangaran, Saltlick A & B	19/09/20	25/09/20	56
38	Tonglong, Jan-Dutse, Maikonkoni, Kwaffa	19/09/20	25/09/20	56
39	Kali-Imam, Jada, Malla, Guturu, Ruwan-Rakumi	19/09/20	25/09/20	56
40	Libji, Shaman, Dagusi, Dan, Mainamaji	26/09/20	02/10/20	35
41	Malla, Kariyo, Yalo, Ruwan-Gogo, Tungan-Kiyashi, Garangaran, Tungan-Baki	26/09/20	02/10/20	49