

# WEST AFRICAN PRIMATE CONSERVATION ACTION



## 2017 Annual Report

West African Primate Conservation Action  
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Cover Photos: Shelia Smith



### Update from the WAPCA-Ghana Country Coordinator

It's been another activity packed year for WAPCA both in the field work and with our ex-situ programme. We would not have achieved any of this without the support of our members, donors and funding agencies worldwide – we are sincerely grateful and would like to take this opportunity to thank them all and welcome our newest member Howletts Wildlife Park, who joined this year.

2017 saw a number of visitors including what can only be described as a plethora of current and past zoo keepers from Paradise Wildlife Park in the UK – Tony, Annette and Nicky spent time at Kumasi Zoo, approximately 5 hours north of the Capital Accra, working with the Wildlife Division team. We were also delighted to be visited by Demi from Ouwehand Zoo in Germany – a recently joined member of WAPCA. Demi was able to visit all aspects of the WAPCA work in Accra, Kumasi and in our field site. It was a great opportunity to showcase our work to a member zoo and for them to experience it first-hand.

Later in the year we saw a contingency from ZSL London Zoo. Shelia Smith, a keen photographer and volunteer at ZSL came and snapped some truly excellent photos – capturing the beauty of our focal animals but also the energy of our staff and project community members. These photos have allowed us to share our work in an engaging and eye-catching manner, we have also been able to use these photos for our merchandise including a WAPCA calendar. Also from ZSL London Zoo, Tracey and Nicky, who made a short visit to the Centre at Accra Zoo. ZSL have been a long term supporter of WAPCA so it was great to show them how we are progressing in our captive management. Thank you to all our visitors for taking the time out of your busy schedules to come and see us.

Many activities dominated 2017 but one of the most significant was the construction of the Forested Enclosure in Kumasi Zoo. The 0.4ha enclosure was completed in early 2017 and a family group of 7 were transferred to the satellite/holding facility. However progression was put on hold upon the birth of 'Nana' to experienced Mother Sonja. However this time Sonja decided that she would only care for her offspring overnight resulting in the WAPCA and Wildlife Division staff working tirelessly through the day supplement feeding and monitoring this new arrival. We have never experienced this behaviour before so it was a learning curve for all of us however thanks to the dedication of both teams, Nana has grown from strength to strength. Early 2018 will see the group, of now 8, have access to the main Forested Enclosure.

We had new arrivals at the Endangered Primate Breeding Centre at Accra Zoo too. The beginning of the year saw the birth of Lisa to first time Mum, Efau-Marie, both of whom have now relocated to the Forested Enclosure. We also saw the importation of Ivy from Landau Zoo and Ziggy from ZSL London Zoo. Both females were transferred here as part of the European Endangered species Programme, contributing to the genetic diversity of the captive population ensuring long term viability. Ziggy and Ivy are very special additions to our collection as both their fathers (Lucky & Charles) were born in Ghana, therefore the arrival of the two females sees the African gene returning to Africa. Both females form two new breeding groups and have had brand new enclosures built for them thanks to a private donation, Gaia ZOO, Landau Zoo, Shelia Smith, Tommaso Mariani, Haidab Hany, Wire Weaving and the Primate Society of Great Britain.

Raising awareness is an important aspect of WAPCA's work and we have been fortunate enough this year to have been invited to speak at events and Zoological collections such as March for Elephants Day in Accra, at Paradise Wildlife Park, Twycross Zoo, Heidelberg Zoo, Landau Zoo and GaiaZOO. WAPCA was particularly proud to speak and attend the inaugural African Primatological Society (APS) Congress in

Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. The APS is a platform for African primatologists to share experiences and learn from one another, to network and to be recognised on a local and international level.

The WAPCA Research Group (WRG) was active again this year and we welcomed students from three international Universities, Chester, Barcelona and Oxford Brookes, as well as working closely with local institutions: the University of Ghana and the Presbyterian University. The WRG worked with the IUCN to develop the Red Colobus Action Plan and will be using outcomes of this action plan to develop its work over the coming years.

Our field work continues to develop, concentrating on creating a sustainable path for our conservation activities through the promotion of sustainable livelihoods and green value chains, with our project farmers. We are delighted to have partnered on this with a French NGO Man & Nature, who are well versed in this avenue of activities and together we have secured two large grants to implement this work as well as strengthen our existing project. This is a crucial element to our project work, ensuring that we approach our conservation actions in a holistic manner by both recognising the needs of the communities as well as those of our primates, resulting in sustainable conservation programme.

The end of the year saw our European Board meet, despite the heavy snow, in Heidelberg to formulate a five year strategy for WAPCA. The meeting was a huge success – full of energy, positivity and inspiration for the coming years.

The year ended on a discovery – a new population of white-naped mangabeys were discovered in the Atewa Forest, at almost the furthest East of their historical home range. Captured on camera traps set by a local NGO A Rocha clearly identify the species and are most likely the only photos in existence of wild white-naped mangabeys in Ghana. Unfortunately, this good news is somewhat diluted by the news of a mining contract between China and the Ghanaian government for bauxite. If this mining goes ahead it will devastate the landscape and home to this Critically Endangered primate, not only that, it will poison crucial water bodies which provide water for around 5 million Ghanaians. WAPCA is working closely with A Rocha who are spearheading a final lifeline campaign for Atewa – if you haven't already please do sign the online petition to help us save Atewa and the white-naped mangabey.

Lastly, thank you to all our volunteers and interns who have worked with us in 2017, again to all our members, supporters and donors and to the WAPCA Team extraordinaire – David, Kwadwo and Nuria who continue to show true dedication and commitment to the conservation of our primates.

I hope you enjoy reading more about these activities in our report. 2018 is already looking to be another busy year – I look forward to telling you all about it!

Best Wishes for 2018,

*Andrea Dempsey*

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### MISSION:

Conservation of *Critically Endangered* West African primate species and their habitat

### VISION

Long-term survival of West African *Critically Endangered* primates and persistence of their habitat

### PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

- *In situ* conservation of *Critically Endangered* West African primates and their habitats
- *Ex situ* conservation of *Critically Endangered* West African primates through the maintenance of an Endangered Primate Breeding Centre and the Forested Enclosure and participation in the EEP.
- Provide equipment and training for the staff of the Wildlife Division of the Ghana Forestry Commission to increase effective management of protected areas
- Conduct education and awareness programs with regard to the conservation of West African primates and protection of their habitat
- Provide in-country capacity building to enable local communities to sustainably manage community owned lands
- Conduct community benefit programs to help alleviate poverty and provide alternative livelihoods for local communities
- Monitor West African Critically Endangered primate populations in the Upper Guinean rainforest

### PROJECT SUMMARY

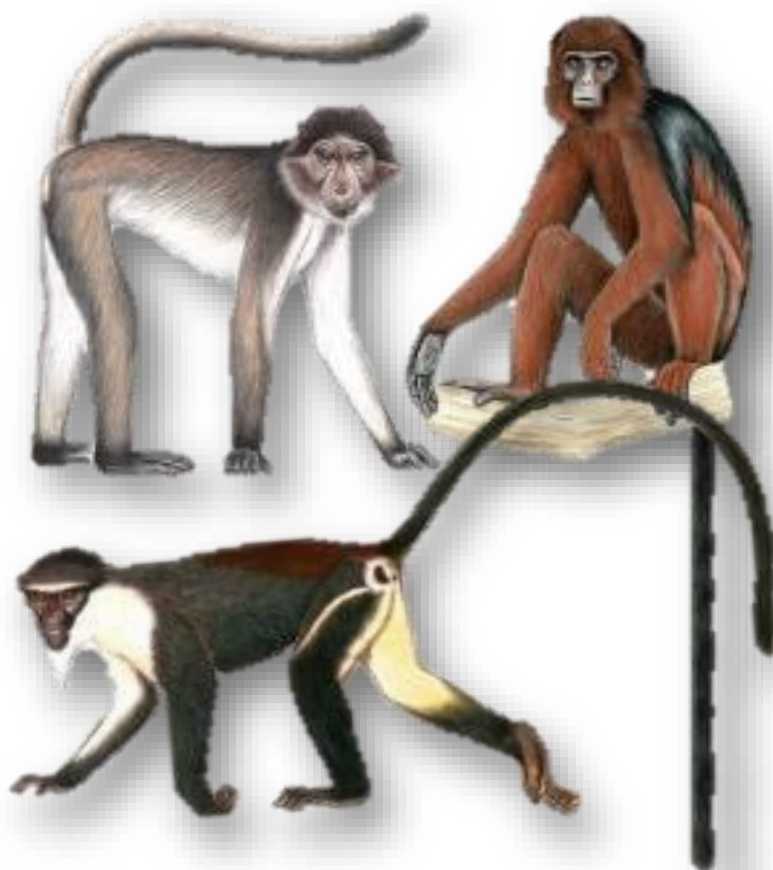
West African Primate Conservation Action (WAPCA) is an initiative of several European Zoos, the Zoological Society for the Conservation of Species and Populations (ZGAP) and its French Partner organization Conservation des Espèces et des Populations Animales (CEPA). The main goal of WAPCA is to effectively preserve primate habitat in the Upper Guinean Rainforest of West Africa, which is under serious threat of destruction. WAPCA has been promoting the protection of Critically Endangered primates in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire since 2001 and in 2007, we established, WAPCA Ghana, a local NGO which is managed in partnership with the Wildlife Division of the Ghana Forestry Commission. WAPCA Ghana's activities have integrated various approaches to primate conservation, including research to assess current population levels, training/support for Wildlife Division field staff to improve wildlife monitoring and anti-poaching, training of community members as wildlife monitors and forest patrol team members, small-scale ecotourism and livelihood projects, awareness campaign in rural and urban communities as well as the establishment



of an Endangered Primate Breeding Centre in the capitol city of Accra. WAPCA works closely with the Wildlife Division (WD) of the Ghana Forestry Commission which is a full managing partner of WAPCA Ghana and assists the Commission with the protection of the rainforests of the Western Region of Ghana which forms a significant portion of the Upper Guinean Rainforest. Other collaborating partners include; Research and Actions for the Safeguard of Primates in Côte d'Ivoire (RASAP-CI), Community Conservation Inc., the University of Barcelona and Man and Nature.

## WAPCA MEMBERS

- Zoo Heidelberg
- Zoo de Mulhouse
- Parc Zoològic de Barcelona
- Dublin Zoo
- Zoo Landau
- Allwetterzoo Münster
- Zoologische Gesellschaft für Arten-und Populationsschutz (ZGAP)
- Zoo La Palmyre
- La Vallée des Singes, Romagne
- Zoological Society of London
- Zoo Bojnice
- Twycross Zoo
- Zoo Duisburg
- Munich Zoo
- Bioparc Valencia
- GaiaZoo
- Howletts Animal Park



*West African Critically Endangered  
primate illustrations by artist Stephen D.  
Nash*

Zoo Heidelberg serves as the managing body for WAPCA. WAPCA membership dues provide the crucial funding for all WAPCA Ghana core operating expenses and also provide significant funding for rainforest protection activities in Côte d'Ivoire.

## FOCAL SPECIES AND CONSERVATION STATUS

- Miss Waldron's Red Colobus (*Procolobus badius waldroni*) Status: *Critically Endangered*
- Roloway Monkey (*Cercopithecus Roloway*) Status: *Critically Endangered*
- White-naped Mangabey, (*Cercocebus lunulatus*) Status: *Critically Endangered*
- White thighed black and white Colobus (*Colobus vellerosus*) Status: *Vulnerable*

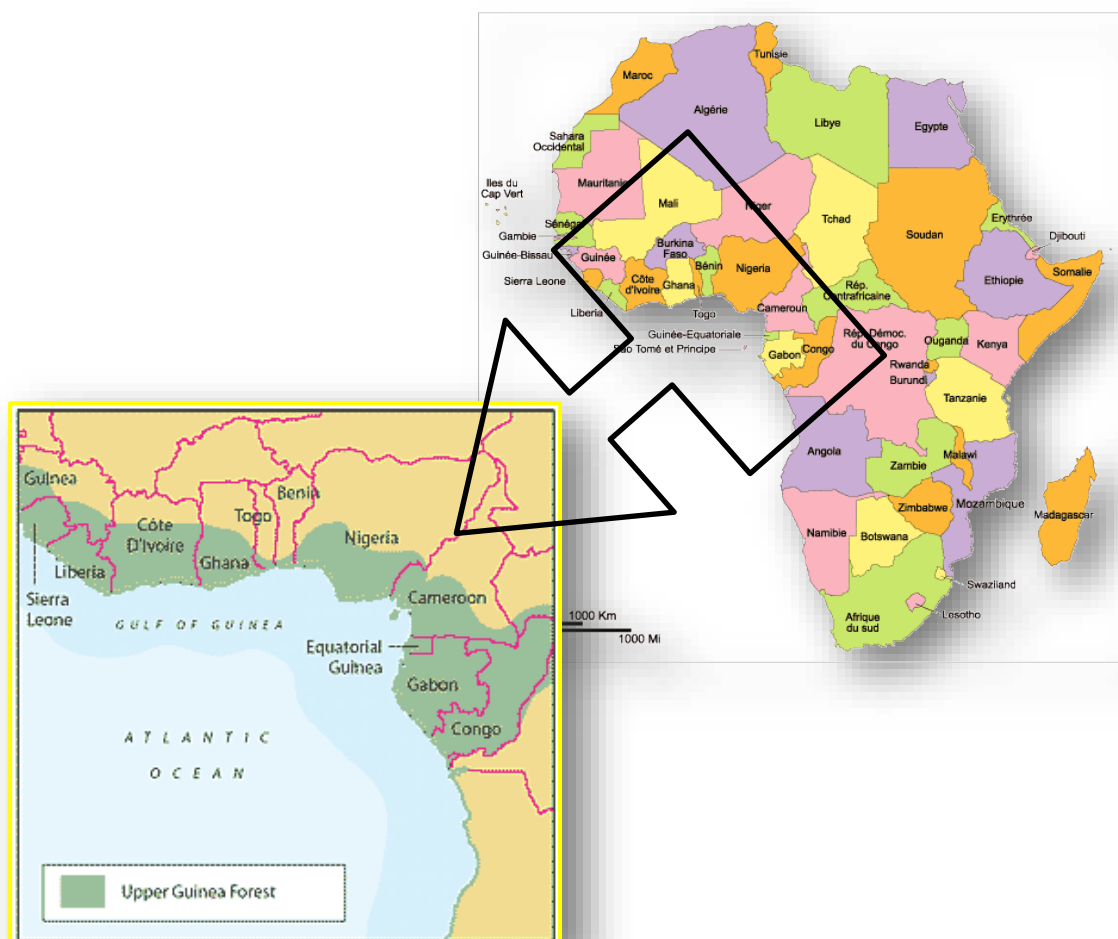
Within the eastern region of the Upper Guinean rainforest (extending from central Côte d'Ivoire to Ghana) resides a distinct community of primates, endemic to the area, including the *Critically Endangered* (possibly extinct) Miss Waldron's red colobus (*Procolobus badius waldroni*) the *Critically Endangered* Roloway monkey (*Cercopithecus roloway*) and the *Critically Endangered* white-naped mangabey (*Cercocebus lunulatus*) which are listed amongst the world's 25 most Endangered primates. While Miss Waldron's red colobus may already be extinct, the Roloway monkey and white-naped mangabey appear to be following the same path to extinction. Additional endemic primates include the *Critically Endangered* Western chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes verus*), the *Vulnerable* Geoffroy's black-and-white colobus (*Colobus vellerosus*), the *Near Threatened* olive colobus (*Procolobus verus*), the lesser spot-nose

monkey (*Cercopithecus petaurista petaurista*), the Lowe's monkey (*Cercopithecus mona lowei*). WAPCA's main mission is the protection of these last remaining rainforests and the long term survival of West Africa's Critically Endangered primates through the maintenance of an Endangered Primate Breeding Centre, the Forested Enclosure and the development of sustainable rainforest management projects.

## GEOGRAPHIC AREA AND HABITAT

### Upper Guinean Rainforest, West Africa

The Upper Guinean Rainforest constitutes a 350 km wide strip of West African coastal rainforest stretching from Sierra Leone to the Ghana-Togo border and is listed as one of the IUCN's 25 Key Biodiversity Areas, WWF's Global Spot region, a CI Biodiversity Hotspot, and a Birdlife International's Important Bird Area. The IUCN 25 Key Biodiversity Areas cover only 1.4 % of the earth's surface but contain more than 60% of all animal and plant species found on this planet. The Upper Guinean Rainforest is one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems on the African continent supporting over 1800 endemic plants, 31 endemic threatened birds, 35 endemic threatened mammals and 49 endemic threatened amphibians. Within the eastern portion of the Upper Guinean forest, relatively large areas of lowland rain forest are now almost entirely confined to eastern Côte d'Ivoire and western Ghana. These forests form a secondary area of endemism and are home to a number of threatened primate species including Roloway monkey (*Cercopithecus roloway*), white-naped mangabey (*Cercocebus lunulatus*), Miss Waldron's red colobus (*Procolobus badius waldroni*)-possibly extinct, Geoffrey's black and white colobus (*Colobus polykomos*), lesser spot-nose monkey (*Cercopithecus cephus petaurista*), Lowe's monkey (*Cercopithecus mona lowei*) and olive colobus (*Procolobus verus*) as well as other unique mammals such as zebra duiker (*Cephalophus zebra*), royal antelope (*Neotragus pygmaeus*), Liberian mongoose (*Liberiictis kuhni*), Dephwa mouse (*Dephomys eburnea*), white-throated shrew (*Crocidura wimmeri*) and the Togo mouse (*Leimacomys buettneri*). The unique fauna and flora of the Upper Guinean Rainforest has long been under the threat of massive deforestation and extensive bush meat hunting.



## CRITICAL ISSUES AND THREATS

Deforestation is the greatest threat to both the environment and wildlife dependent upon the rainforests of West Africa. According to a recent CEPF Ecosystem Report, the Upper Guinean Forests which stretches from Sierra Leone to the Ghana-Togo border, has been reduced to a mere 15% of its original forest cover. Logging, agriculture, illegal mining, and human encroachment have left fragmented remnants of rainforest. Studies of legal and illegal logging in Ghana have shown an increase of 600% in 15 years. As you would imagine illegal logging being the most devastating as it is wholly unmanaged with no discipline for tree species, age or size. Illegal logging is carried out by two sources – 1/3 is carried out by legal companies who take more than their quota or in areas that are protected and 2/3 is carried out by illegal chainsaw operators, operating anyway they can access by road. According Global Forest Watch between 2001 and 2014 Ghana lost more than half a million hectares, around 9% of its total forest cover.

The unique fauna and flora found within these areas of rainforest have long been under the stress of deforestation and overhunting and with diminishing forest cover in which to retreat, wildlife within these sparse forests are finding no place left to hide.

Extensive bush meat hunting for both local consumption and export to other countries has caused a massive decline in the wildlife populations of West Africa. Wildlife populations in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire are disappearing at such an alarming rate that many of the remaining rainforest habitats have become nearly devoid of mammal species, causing conservationist to now label these forests as “empty forests”.



Estimates of the bush meat trade run as high as \$400 million per year in Ghana and \$500 million in Côte d'Ivoire.

Rampant clear cutting of virgin rainforest for agroforestry plantations such as palm oil, rubber and cocoa is the major cause of deforestation of the Upper Guinean Rainforest. Unsustainable agriculture practices not only destroy the rainforests and pollute the environment, but also provide little benefit to rural communities who also depend on the rainforest for their survival.

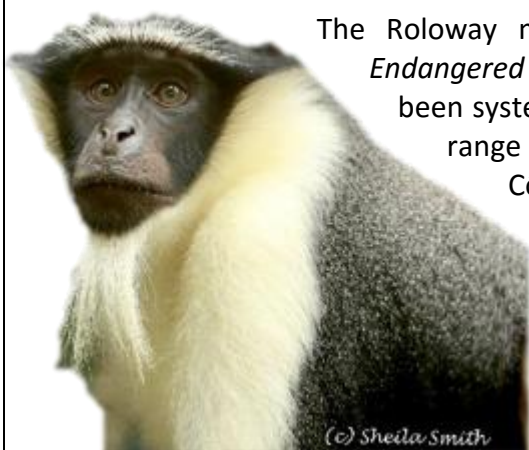
# 2017 ACTIVITIES REPORT

## WAPCA IN ACTION CREATING VIABLE LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

### TRANS-BORDER COMMUNITY-MANAGED RAINFOREST PROJECT

*by Field Coordinator David Osei*

#### Protecting the Last Remaining Roloway Monkey Habitat in Ghana



**Roloway Monkey**  
(*Cercopithecus roloway*)

The Roloway monkey (*Cercopithecus roloway*) one of the *World's 25 Most Endangered Primates* is on the knives edge of extinction! Roloway monkeys have been systematically exterminated from all former habitats across their entire range with the exception of two community-owned rainforest in eastern Côte d'Ivoire and Western Ghana respectively. The Kwabre Rainforest is a 2,550 hectare corridor of community-owned virgin rainforest which lies along the Tanoé River, directly opposite to the Tanoé Forest in Côte d'Ivoire. Until very recently, primatology experts believed that the Tanoé Forest housed the world's only remaining populations of Roloway monkeys. However, surveys conducted by WAPCA in 2011, 2012, 2014 and 2016 have revealed the presence of additional Roloway monkey populations in the adjoining community-owned Kwabre Rainforest in Ghana's Western Region. This is the first sighting of Roloway monkeys in Ghana since 2003, despite extensive surveys conducted in protected/unprotected areas throughout their former range in Ghana.



**Kwabre Rainforest**

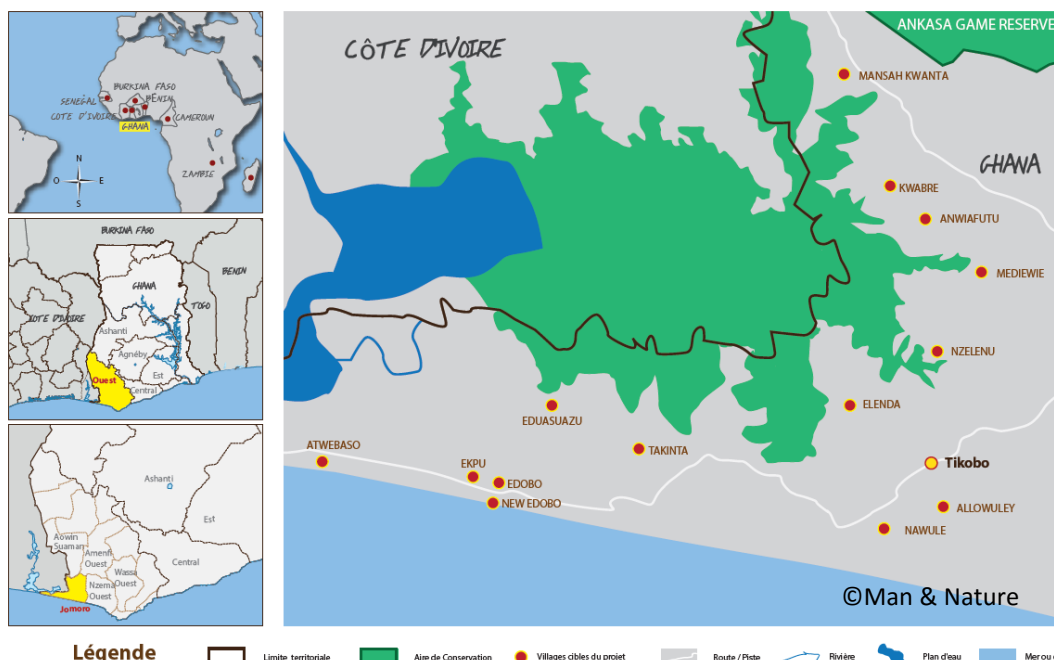
The Kwabre Rainforest surveys also identified significant populations of other highly threatened primates including white-naped mangabeys (*Cercocebus lunulatus*), Geoffrey's black & white colobus (*Colobus vellerosus*) and olive colobus (*Procolobus verus*) as well the more common Lowe's monkeys (*Cercopithecus campbelli lowei*) and lesser spot-nosed monkeys (*Cercopithecus petaurista*). WAPCA and the Research and Actions for the Conservation of Primates in Côte d'Ivoire (RASAP-CI) are currently assisting the rural communities on both sides of the border to declare the Kwabre and Tanoé Forest as federated community managed conservation areas with a long-term goal of creating a community-owned trans-border rainforest.

## 2017 ACTIVITIES REPORT

For the past six years, a lot of activities have been undertaken to save the forest from eminent destruction. The Trans-border Community Managed Forest Project along the border of Ivory Coast has contributed immensely for the conservation and proper management of this ecosystem. This multi-phased project focuses on training and empowering local community members to guard and protect the forest which is currently under heavy siege from illegal mining, timber cutting and bush meat hunting. In line with the main objectives to:



- 1) Protect and enhance 2,500 hectares of community-owned virgin rainforest through the transformation of the Kwabre Rainforest into a federated Community Resource Management Area (CREMA)
- 2) Reduce illegal activities in the rainforest through the training and implementation of community patrols,
- 3) Improve the health of the rainforest through the reforestation of areas degraded by illegal lumbering and mining
- 4) Create sustainable community-managed agro-forestry plantations to reduce harvesting of forest products and clear-cutting of virgin forests for large scale export commodities
- 5) Lay the foundation for a Trans-border Community-managed Forest Reserve between the Kwabre Rainforest in Ghana and the Tanoé Community Forests in Côte d'Ivoire.
- 6) Develop sustainable livelihoods and promote green value chains in cocoa, coconut and palm oil.



## 2017 ACTIVITIES REPORT

### 1. Community Resource Management Area



The Ankasa Tano CREMA is working very effectively. In 2017, two new members were welcomed into the CREMA. These new members are Kabblahsuazo and New Ankasa. To make the running of the CREMA effective, the CREMA Executive Committee have decided to introduce a new administration structure called the Sub CEC. There will be two sub CECs, one in the southern communities and another one in the northern communities.

This new structure will help the CREMA hold meetings regularly and also reduce the cost of transportation. In the previous years it was difficult organizing meetings due to proximity and cost. In 2017 the executive committee paid a visit to the Paramount chief Awulae Anor Agyei to brief him on the activities of the CREMA. They also reported the activities of the illegal chainsaw operators in the CREMA area to the Paramount chief. The chief was very happy to see the executive committee and asked them to visit him more often. He added that a list of the chain saw operators should be brought to him so that he can call them to order.



***The CREMA Chairman***

## 2017 ACTIVITIES REPORT

### 2. Community Rainforest Protection Teams

In 2017, a total of about 12 chainsaws and about 1000 boards were confiscated. Most of the chainsaws were confiscated in Adusuazo and Gyegyekrom. The chief of Adusuazo and his brother were making the work of the monitoring team difficult. They were deeply involved in the illegal lumber trade and so did not allow the monitoring team to work effectively. With the intervention of the CREMA chairman the chief and his brother were brought to order. The chief now has a much better understanding of the project and consequentially now deeply involved in the projects implementation and even joins the patrol team on patrols to arrest illegal offenders.



***Illegal chainsaw operators***

Most of the lumber confiscated during the year 2017 came from the Tanoe Forest in the Ivory Coast just across the Tano River. Due to the effectiveness of the patrol teams in the Kwabre, the majority of the chainsaw operators have crossed the Tano River and moved into the Tanoe forest where patrols seems to be less effective. To help solve this problem, the Ivorian side bought a wooden boat with an outboard motor which, together with Kwabre team, patrol the river as the rouge chainsaw operators try to travel back to the Ghana side with their illegal lumber. The acquisition of the boat has significantly helped to reduce the illegal activities in the Tanoe Forest. Thanks to Tulsa Zoo, WAPCA has also paid for another boat to be built. This will help the Ghanaian side to patrol areas of the Tanoe Forest close to the banks of the Tano River. These trans-border patrols has seen this year 500 lumbers confiscated

## 2017 ACTIVITIES REPORT

### 3. Reforestation &

#### 4. Sustainable Community-managed Agro-forestry Plantations

Seven community nurseries were revived and two new ones were established in the year 2017. In the previous year most the farmers did not understand the need to plant trees in their farms especially the cocoa farmers. With the introduction of the Cocoa Green Value Chain Project and education by the government's agric extension officers, the farmers are now requesting for more seedlings.



***Top left, clockwise: nurseries are demarcated with netting, beds are prepared, and seeds are planted and covered with rafta leaves to take root.***

New tree plantations were established for five CREMA communities. After some of the farmers visited the community tree plantations, they also became interested in planting trees in their unused lands for sustainable use. Planting trees is physically very demanding, therefore we were very happy to have Demi Vaartjes from Ouwehand Zoo join us for this task.

At the end of 2017 approximately 15,000 seeds had been nursed and more will be added when raining season begins in 2018. After more plantations have been created and seedlings given to farmers for agro forestry the remaining seedlings will be used to create buffer zone around the forest and planted in core zone areas of the forest which have be degraded through illegal lumbering. In all around 25000 seedlings are expected to be raised and planted within the project areas. Community members manage the nurseries and are provided with training on how to care for the seedlings, minimising the risk of poor saplings which cannot be used.

## 2017 ACTIVITIES REPORT

### 5. Transborder Collaboration with Côte d'Ivoire

A number of collaborative activities took place in 2017. Some of these activities included joint meetings, trans-border patrols, which has already been reported on, and community education.

There have been two meetings held between the CREMA Chairman and the President of the Ivorian Fetire regarding the illegal lumbering in the Tanoé forest. The CREMA Chairman made it known to the President that the project can only succeed if both parties work hard to stop the illegal lumbering especially in the Tanoé Forest. He asked the Fetire President to call his people to order especially the monitoring team members who were conniving with the chainsaw operators.

The President on his part admitted that there were some difficulties with the organization of local patrols since the patrol team members live very far from the forest. He however pledged his support for the project and added that he will ensure that the local patrols are carried out and also expel any members who have been compromised.



*Trans border patrols on the Tano River*

Four joint community education and sensitisation campaigns were conducted in Ivory Coast in 2017. These communities included Angye, Alangonou, Atsyimanu and Nouamou. The people were educated on the need to protect and conserve their resources especially the Tanoé Forest. There were open forum discussions and screening of environmental documentaries. The people were happy with the message except for the hunters and chainsaw operators in the communities. The chiefs in the respective villages advised their people to welcome the idea of protecting and conserving their natural resources because it was for their own good.

## 2017 ACTIVITIES REPORT

### 6. Develop sustainable livelihoods and promote green value chains in cocoa, coconut and palm oil

The Green Value Chain Project started in 2017 in collaboration with Man & Nature. This project is to provide sustainable livelihoods, with a greater yield and a higher income for the local communities so that they will stop the illegal activities that are destroying the forest.



#### *Savannah Fruits meets with local farmers*

This project aims at developing value chains for cocoa and coconut. This will look at introducing organic cocoa concept to the farmers and adding value to the coconut harvest in the CREMA areas that are sold at a very cheap price to Nigerian merchants. The project will help the farmer process their coconut into coconut oil and link them to an already established market.

Two companies Yayra Glover a company that is deals in organic cocoa and Savannah Fruits a coconut oil processing company have been contracted to assist WAPCA with this project. This year both companies conducted their feasibility studies and the results have already been positive. Both companies are in the process of registering interested farmers.

Man & Nature

## In Other Field News.....

### New Mangabey Population Discovered



At the end of the year WAPCA was contacted by A Rocha, a Christian motivated environmental conservation organization, regarding a new population of white naped mangabeys discovered in the Atewa Forest and captured on camera traps set as part of a larger mammal survey. We were delighted to learn of the species still existing in its historical range, outside of the Western Region. However our delight soon turned to concern as details emerged of planned mining for bauxite, a clayey rock which is the chief commercial ore of aluminum.

The hill tops of Atewa will be completely removed during mining because the bauxite deposits are only found in the top few metres. This will destroy all vegetation and associated fauna because bauxite cannot be extracted using a low impact method. Re-establishment of the original flora and fauna on areas that have once been mined is virtually impossible especially with highly complex and biologically rich forests like Atewa.

WAPCA immediately joined forces with A Rocha and other key NGOs to petition the Ghanaian government and the Chinese Development Bank to remove Atewa from the Ghana-China bauxite deal and turn Atewa into a National Forest, home to 1200 insect species, 19 freshwater fish species, 60 mammal species, 40-50 amphibians and 227 bird species including the Togo slippery frog both Critically Endangered and the long-tailed pangolin. The mining will also containment the rivers - affecting major and vital water bodies which provide water for over 5 million people. If you haven't already we urge you to sign this petition as we continue to work hard into 2018 to save this crucial forest.

<https://www.change.org/p/atewa-forest-for-national-park-not-mining-saveatewa-petitioning-president-nakufuaddo-of-ghana>

## Red Colobus Action Plan

In July WAPCA participated in the creation of the Red Colobus Action Plan. As stated on the dedicated website ([www.piliocolobus.org](http://www.piliocolobus.org)) “Red colobus monkeys are the most threatened group of primates in



Africa. Scientists are unclear about exactly how many species of red colobus there are, but we know there are 18 distinct forms, all of which are threatened with extinction. More than half of these are Endangered or Critically Endangered, and one has likely been hunted to extinction already. Despite the dire threats many red colobus face across their range, they are little known to the general public and only a few populations have been studied in detail. Without urgent conservation measures across its range, Africa will lose many of its red colobus monkeys.

In response to this critical need, the IUCN Primate Specialist Group is spearheading the first comprehensive Red Colobus Conservation Action Plan, uniting local and international conservation groups, governments, academic institutions, zoos, and interested partners to prevent a continent-wide extinction of all 18 red colobus taxa.”

WAPCA will be working to systematically survey the historical range of the Miss Waldrons Colobus as part of this Action Plan in order to confirm or deny its extinction.

## A New Partnership



This year WAPCA joined forces with Man & Nature, a french based NGO that develops an innovative biodiversity conservation approach of threatened ecosystems and encourages economic development through the sustainable use and valorisation of natural resources.

WAPCA is working with Man & Nature to create a holistic approach to conservation, recognising not only the needs of the primates but those of the local people too. We are achieving this approach by the implementation of a sustainable livelihood programme in our project communities and develop Green Value Chains for cocoa and coconut. The main objectives are to: enhance the agricultural practices of our farmers to provide a better yield, eliminating the need for larger farms in forest areas, to improve the price of their produce so they do not have to enter the forest for supplementary income and to set up a Conservation Fund with the private sector buyer so that the conservation becomes self funded by the communities and ensure longevity.

Man & Nature have also assisted WAPCA in securing funding for this work and together and with our partners in Cote d'Ivoire we have successfully obtained two large grants from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund and the Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM) grant – Small Scales Initiative Program (PPI) which will provide funding for two years.

## 2017 ACTIVITIES REPORT

### **WAPCA IN ACTION CREATING VIABLE LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS**

## **ENDANGERED PRIMATE BREEDING CENTRE**

***By Kwadwo Mensah – Primate Centre Officer***

The year 2017 saw lots of activities at the EPBC, but all these wouldn't have been possible without the help of management and staff of the Accra Zoological Gardens. I would like to thank them for their immense contribution and support within the course of the year, notably Dr. Richard Suu-Ire, Stephen Tamanja and David Turkson. Also my sincere gratitude goes to the numerous volunteers and visiting experts who came to the Centre to help with our work, spending many man hours helping provide enrichment and improve husbandry conditions for all the animals especially the primates at the zoo. They have been outstanding in their efforts. We welcome volunteers, keepers and students at the Centre so please get in touch if this interests you.



***Future Conservationist at Accra Zoo***

The Wildlife Division of the Ghana Forestry Commission maintains the Accra Zoo in the capital city, which is located in a large urban forest known as the Achimota Forest. In 2005, WAPCA constructed an Endangered Primate Breeding Centre (EPBC) on the Accra Zoo premises, which is managed by current Country Coordinator, Mrs. Andrea Dempsey. Mrs. Dempsey has been extremely proactive with the help of Dr. Richard Suu-Ire, Stephen Tamanja, David Turkson and the Wildlife Division in bringing the EPBC up to speed to its current status. They have been able to incorporate all the confiscated and orphaned monkeys into social groups and the white-naped mangabeys and Roloway monkeys living at the Centre into the European Endangered Species Programme (EEP), in order to ensure a healthy population for these endangered primate species.

## 2017 ACTIVITIES REPORT

Species focus has also expanded notably to the Patas monkey, Green Vervet and Spot nosed Monkey which now come under the care of WAPCA. This is in addition to our sixteen white-naped Mangabeys (nine males and seven females) at the Centre, the world's largest collection of white-napped Mangabeys under human care, housed in one location at the beginning of 2017. The Centre also holds a pair of Roloway Monkeys.



**Back row: L-R Felix Amoak, David Turkson, Martin Apusynaba, Stephen Tamanja**

**Front row: L-R Daniel Ayamga, Mathias Dodo, Nuria Badiella, Kwadwo Mensah, Theophilus Klevor, Agnes Kumanya**

### **NEW BABY MANGABEY – Efua Maries's 1st**

On the 22th of January, Efua Marie Sonia's daughter gave birth to a female young, making Sonia a grandmother. The healthy female was named Lisa, after our energetic and proactive intern then, Ms. Lisa Kopsieker from Germany.

Through routine observation of the genital swelling of our female Mangabeys, we were able to establish that Sonia was also pregnant and would be due at the later part of the year 2017. And we were not wrong, in October Sonia gave birth but by this point she had been transferred to the Forested Enclosure...please carry on reading the Annual Report to know more!

Efua Marie and daughter, Lisa, also made this move to the Forested Enclosure with the family group.



**Efua Marie and Lisa**

## **2017 ACTIVITIES REPORT**

### **ARRIVAL OF NEW MANGABEY PAIR FROM EUROPE.**

In March and May, the EPBC received two new female mangabeys, one from Landau Zoo in Germany and one from ZSL London Zoo in the UK as part of the European Endangered Species Programme (EEP). The respective pair are Ivy and Ziggy. Ivy's dad (Charles) was wild caught in Ghana and that of Ziggy (Lucky)



***Ivy arrives at the EPBC***

was born at the EPBC making this transfer very interesting and important – signalling as a home coming for both females.

Ivy forms part of a new breeding group with Annan who was born at the EPBC and with female Obyibiefye who was rescued from the pet trade. Ziggy forms part of a new breeding group with Kweku and Chaachele who were both born at the EPBC.

These transfers play a vital role in the conservation of the species, by exchanging animals with Europe enables the captive population maintain a high genetic diversity which is essential for long term survival of the captive population.

### **CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ENCLOSURE**

In order to ensure a healthy breeding population for these highly endangered primate species and WAPCA's commitment to improving the living conditions of the primates at the EPBC, regrouping occasionally occurs depending on evolving social trends observed at the EPBC. The construction of a new enclosure was began in earnest on 20th Feb., 2017 and handed to WAPCA by close of the year. The new enclosure is to house our new breeding group, a (1.2) group, namely Kwaku, Chaachele and Ziggy. The design incorporates to shifts and one large main enclosure. The space has maintained its natural vegetation with additional branches and is approximately four foot higher than the old enclosures. Our thanks to all the generous donations which has made this new enclosure possible.



***New enclosure at the EPBC***

## **2017 ACTIVITIES REPORT**

### **BEHAVIOURAL TRAINING FOR TRANSFER**

This year has seen a number of behavioural training programmes implemented, with a focus on minimising stress when transferring animals between enclosures or zoos.

The largest task was to train the animals transferring to the Forested Enclosure in Kumasi. The programme required the team to inject the male Nuba by hand while simultaneously locking individuals into a transfer box. The training required all most all members of the workforce in a joint event to achieve this challenging programme. Despite the hard work of all involved and previously successful training sessions on the day of transfer we were unable to inject Nuba and managed to lock three out of the six in the transfer box.

Not disheartened by this, training continued with Kweku and Chaachele to follow a target sit into a transfer box for reward. This is in preparation for them to be transferred to the new enclosure.



***Box training for Forested Enclosure transfer and target training with Chaachele at the EPBC***

### **TRANSFER OF GROUP TO FORESTED ENCLOSURE IN KUMASI**

The year also saw preparations being made far in advance, to move a breeding group to the new Forested Enclosure at the Kumasi Zoo. The group were moved on the 8th of September 2017 thanks to the hard work of the Wildlife Division staff at both Accra and Kumasi Zoo. All WAPCA staff accompanied the group to Kumasi, arriving just as the heavens opened. Regardless the group arrived safely in their new home and settled in quickly. A special thank you must be made to Comexas Ghana who kindly donated the use of their air conditioned van and a driver to transfer the animals five hours North.

## 2017 ACTIVITIES REPORT

### MANGABEY AWARENESS DAY

1st August we celebrated Mangabey Awareness Day at Accra Zoo. The day was organized and run by WAPCA intern Nuria and I. It was our second time celebrating this event, and it was to be a great day. Nuria prepared several activities for the public adults and children, as I was on my annual leave then and was to resume exactly on the day of the celebration. These activities consisted of a raffle, a gymkhana where the children had to find mangabey pictures hiding around the zoo and mangabey art and crafts. The raffle prize this time round was a Primate of West Africa Handbook, which a couple with no interest in conservation and passing through won! So we hope it will change their mind in the foreseeable future about conservation. Huge thanks to all for such a fantastic day for WAPCA and the families that came.



*Participants at Mangabey Awareness Day*

### EXPERTS, INTERNS AND VOLUNTEERS VISIT AT THE EPBC

The EPBC saw lots of visits from volunteers, interns and an experts this year. Sheila, a nature photographer and a volunteer from Zoological Society of London (ZSL) visited and took some very nice photographs of the staff, facilities and primates at the centre for merchandise that will be sold to support the welfare of the primates at the centre, you can spot a few of her photos throughout this report too. Demi a keeper from WAPCA member Ouwehands Zoo in The Netherlands spent time at the centre to help with my work and also give expert advice on standard zoo practice, husbandry and welfare of zoo animals. I say a huge thank you to all the interns and volunteers that helped with the years' work at the EPBC, and a special thank you to Demi and Sheila for your excellent advice and nice pictures respectively.



*Demi and Shelia visiting the EPBC*

## 2017 ACTIVITIES REPORT

### **WAPCA IN ACTION CREATING VIABLE LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS**

### **FORESTED ENCLOSURE AT KUMASI ZOO**

In 2017 WAPCA has expanded and improved its captive capacity by building a forested semi-free enclosure for a breeding group of white-naped mangabeys in Kumasi Zoo. The enclosure will allow the primates to exhibit natural behaviours as they explore their 0.4ha home. It is the first project of its kind in Ghana and is one of the largest forested primate enclosures in the world. Not only will this significantly improve the welfare of these primates but it also provides an educational opportunity like no other for visitors and researchers to learn about the species and how best to protect them.

In addition, this project serves as the first step in a long-term goal to reintroduce the species back into the wild, as they begin the process of living in a more natural environment and with enough space to reduce their familiarization with humans.

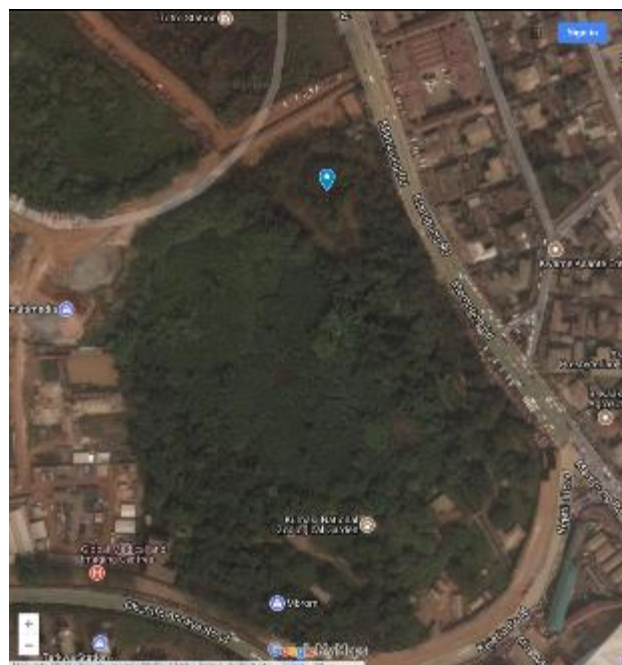
The design is based on those used in Europe and at other primate facilities in Africa. The fence line uses chainlink fence and treated teak poles. 20 electricity strands run from top to bottom of the entire fence line, preventing the animals escaping. The fence is powered by two solar panels operating independently, so should one fail power is still being supplied to the fence. Attached to the forested exhibit is a satellite, this is a more traditional roofed construction. This can be reached by the monkeys by two tunnels. It also has the ability to divide providing a medical block if needed, this area has a concrete floor to maintain a sterile environment.



KUMASI is 250km from the Capital City Accra and is situated in the Ashanti Region. Among the largest metropolitan areas in Ghana Kumasi is the commercial, industrial and cultural capital of Asanteman. Kumasi is alternatively known as "The Garden City" because of its many beautiful species of flowers and plants.

The Kumasi Zoo (Kumasi Zoological Garden) is located in the heart of Kumasi. The zoo occupies a 1.5-square-kilometre (370-acre) area between the Kejetia Bus Terminal, the old race course and the Kumasi Centre for National Culture. The zoo was established in 1951 and officially opened in 1957 by the Asanteman Council to conserve nature and display indigenous wild animals of Ghana.

As you enter the zoo, the Forested Enclosure is situated in the far right hand corner, secluded away from the main exhibits and public walkways. The perimeter of the Forested Enclosure can be seen from Google Earth



## 2017 ACTIVITIES REPORT

The entire zoo is enclosed by a concrete wall; there is one main entrance and a service gate near the Forested Enclosure. The Forested Enclosure is made up of three areas: the forested enclosure, the satellite enclosure and the medical block

### FORESTED ENCLOSURE

The enclosure is fenced using chainlink fencing and teak poles. The total height of the fence is 3 metres, the teak poles stand 2.1m with a metal extension of 0.9m. The poles are placed 3 metres apart and are sunk 0.9m into the ground with cement. The chain link fence is also buried 39cm deep and cemented, to prevent digging under.



The fence has 20 strands of electric wire; the strands alternate with power source so that should one power source fail the fence is still active. The strands are placed 15 cm apart, running the entire height of the fence. Power is provided from two solar panels, positioned in two areas.

A five metre clearance has been created on both sides of the fence and any overhanging branches removed so that the animals cannot jump across the fence line and so that the electrical wires are clear of any debris which may interfere with the current.



There is one entrance to the Forested Enclosure, which uses an airlock system and can fit a wheelbarrow in.

## SATELLITE ENCLOSURE



The main enclosure (highlighted in yellow) is 7.4m x 4.7m and 4m high. It has one double door keeper entrance.

The enclosure has shelves and inter-joining branches. Part of the enclosure has a metal roof to provide shelter from the rain and shade from the sun; in addition there is a rafta plant which also creates natural shade. The substrate is dirt and grasses.

The mangabeys have two exit points from this enclosure, one to the forested enclosure through a tunnel and one to the shift area, through a slide. The shift (highlighted in red) is 2.2m x 4.7m and 3.2m high. From the shift they can access the medical block through a tunnel. The medical block is 3.1m x 3.2m and 2m high and can be divided in half. From the medical block, which has a concrete floor for disease control, the forested enclosure can also be reached, again through a tunnel. When all slides are open and circular route is created.



***Tunnel from main satellite enclosure to  
Forested Enclosure***



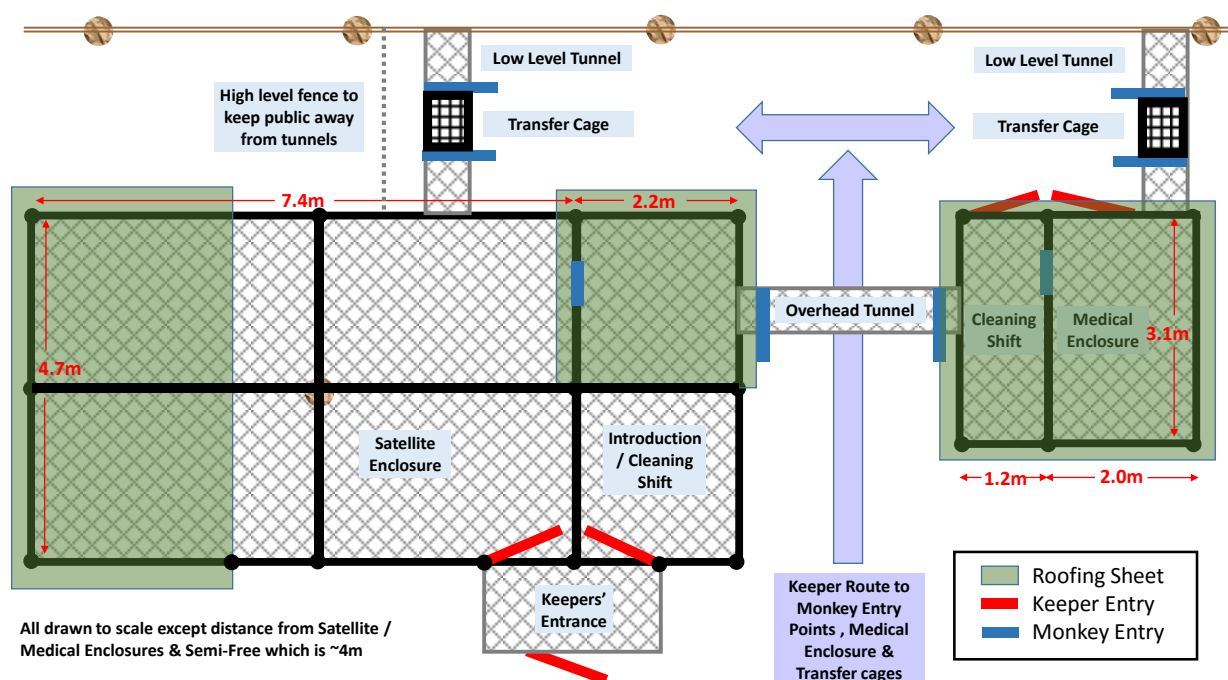
***Tunnel to medical block  
(Medical block still under construction in photo)***

## 2017 ACTIVITIES REPORT

Both tunnels leading to the forested enclosure have removable transfer boxes. The animal can be stationed here; the box and tunnel can then be secured and the box removed. The box leading from the medical block to the forested enclosure in addition has a crush facility for the administration of medicine.



An aerial view of the satellite enclosure design.



## MAINTENANCE



**GUARD**  
PATROL PRODUCTS

Daily inspection of the Forested Enclosure will be scheduled into the working protocol, ensuring that the electrical fence is working, the fence line is clear of branches, grasses and weeds and the solar panels are clear of debris, amongst other tasks. The perimeter fence must be walked at least three times a day and every hour at night. On every 5th teak pole around the enclosure is a small disk (touch button). The keeper or security guard, with the hand held reader, must touch each button on its patrol. The reader is then connected to a computer where the patrols can be downloaded and checked for compliance with the protocol. This technology was kindly donated by Guard Patrol Products

## **2017 ACTIVITIES REPORT**

### **SECURITY**

The security of the mangabeys and the enclosure is of the upmost important. WAPCA has employed a full time security guard – Baaba Arologo. Baaba worked on the construction of the forested enclosure and therefore has a huge sense of ownership and is dedicated to protecting it from intruders, who are likely to more interested in stealing the solar panels and wire than the animals. Baaba works 18.00 to 7am.

In addition to Baaba, there are five motion triggered solar lights around the enclosure, two of which are stationed next to the solar panels. Mounted with the lights are dummy cameras. The mounted platform can be easily lowered for maintenance.



### **MANGABEYS ON THE MOVE**

By September the enclosure was ready to receive the mangabeys. The group were placed into the satellite enclosure while they habituated to the new area. The WAPCA team stayed in Kumasi to facilitate a handover process so that the keepers could identify them, correctly look after them and understand the species well. It also added a sense of familiarity for the mangabeys.



## 2017 ACTIVITIES REPORT

### NEW ARRIVAL

However just as plans were under way to allow the animals access to Forested Enclosure, along comes baby No. 6 for Sonia. We had predicted this birth and as an experienced mother we did not expect any challenges. We were wrong.

Upon reaching the enclosure that morning, the baby was discovered not on Sonia but on her Brother Togbi! We allowed for Sonia to retrieve the baby but even when it cried, she showed no interest. Briefly Sonia's oldest daughter, Efua Marie, carried and fed (she herself had, had Lisa at the beginning of the year) but soon tired of the baby and would too abandon it. Although the siblings enjoyed carrying the baby, they themselves were too small to travel with the infant safely and concerns were soon raised.

The decision, in consultation with the EEP Coordinator, was made to place Sonia and baby in the shift and every few hours feed it by bottle. Sonia showed little interest in the baby and as night fell we began to worry for its survival, incapable to hand rear in Kumasi. On the last feed of the day as the night crept in, we placed the baby in a blanket on the ground wishing it luck for the night. As we quietly moved away, we were delighted to see Sonia make her way down to ground and retrieve the little one! We couldn't believe our eyes! Baba the security guard maintained a vigil overnight as the pair slept but come morning, Sonia again



**Kwadwo (WAPCA EPBC Officer) bottle feeding Nana.**



had left the baby alone. So again the team bottle fed the infant throughout the day and once again as night fell Sonia retrieved the baby only to leave it again come morning. And so on and so on! The baby, named Nana, is now 3 months old and getting stronger every day. Both the WAPCA team and the Wildlife Division team worked tirelessly to care for the Nana and the hard work paid off. We have slowly been introducing him to group so that we can move forward and give the mangabeys full access to their new home in 2018.

**Nana, at 3 months**

## 2017 ACTIVITIES REPORT

### THANK YOU



### Du Paul Timber Poles



A huge thanks to all those that generously donated to the construction of the Forested Enclosure, in particular two private individuals who donated their time and expertise to oversee the majority of the construction but most importantly to the hardest working team of Ghanaians whose strength and resilience in the harshest of conditions did not once deter them from the completion of the job in hand: Onetime, Monica, Mohammed, Baba, Kofi, Isaac, Eddie and Yaw.



# 2017 ACTIVITIES REPORT

## **WAPCA IN ACTION CREATING VIABLE LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS**

### **WAPCA RESEARCH GROUP**

The WAPCA Research Group (WRG) was formed in 2015 mandated to promote primate research in a collaborative manner, coordinating research to create a larger more comprehensive data base. All research, regardless of discipline, is fundamental to understanding and increasing our knowledge of the animals in our care at the Centre or under our protection in the field.

The WRG partners with a number of international Universities, well versed in primatology however working with and recognizing the ethos of the African Primatological Society, the WRG looks to encourage African primatologists and actively engages with local Universities to facilitate projects undertaken by Nationals.

This year saw three field projects and two captive research projects. Two students from Chester University working in the Kwabre Forest and in Cape Three Point Reserve. Tom Fairclough placed camera traps in the Kwabre Forest to better understand the mammal population including primates while Lorna Fazakerley carried out line transects and vegetation studies in Cape 3 Point. Meanwhile academics from Barcelona University & Zoo continued work started in 2016 conducting interviews with local communities to understand primate frequency in the bushmeat trade and for medicinal use.

Our captive work continued to focus on the mangabeys destined for the Forested Enclosure. This has been a long term study undertaken by Barcelona Zoo to monitor the primates as they adapt to a more natural existence.

Masters student Mimi Swift, from Oxford Brookes, carried out research at Kumasi Zoo, with a focus on the chimpanzee group and how enrichment, social interactions with co-specifics and visitor behavior can impact these primates. Although WAPCA does not focus on the Western Chimpanzee the data will be transferable for other captive primates.



***L-R Chrissy (Chester Supervisor) Tom, Lorna, Nuria & Mercedes***

## IN OTHER WAPCA NEWS.....

### Awareness

#### Presentations



The Country Coordinator delivered a number of presentations this year at both member and non-member zoos. Thank you to all that invited the Coordinator and made her feel so welcome: Paradise Park & Twycross Zoo, UK. Heidelberg Zoo & Landau Zoo, Germany and GaiaZOO, Netherlands.

The Country Coordinator was also invited to speak at a local event in Accra "March For Elephants" and at the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) Old World Monkey Taxon Advisory Group (TAG) open meeting about the Forested Enclosure in Emmen, Netherlands.

All presentations were well received with lots of engaging and interesting questions and discussions afterwards.

#### African Primatological Society

At the IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group African Primate Red List Assessment Workshop held in Rome, it became evident that there should be greater commitment from all stakeholders towards the

conservation of African primates and in particular, Africans must be better positioned to lead efforts if long term, effective conservation of African primates is to be realized.

A steering committee was immediately constituted in Rome, which WAPCA sat on, to deliver on the mandate of first Congress inaugurating this new society, and undertaking associated activities to facilitate the affairs of the group.

The in-augural Congress was held in July this year in Cote d'Ivoire. The Congress was a huge success with over 150-200 African Primatologists, non-African researchers and conservationists working on African primates as well as other stakeholders. David Osei (left) WAPCA's Field Projects Coordinator gave a presentation at the Congress giving a general overview of the work of WAPCA.





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The West African Primate Conservation Action was formed by a consortium of European zoos and conservation organizations. WAPCA began working in Ghana in 2001, with additional activities commencing in Ivory Coast in 2004. In 2007, WAPCA established the local NGO, WAPCA Ghana. WAPCA Ghana operates in full partnership with the Wildlife Division of the Ghana Forestry Commission. We would like to thank the Wildlife Division for all their support over the past year, without which the activities and achievements of WAPCA Ghana would not be possible.



## WAPCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

West African Primate Conservation Action Ghana would also like to formally thank our board members for all their support and advice throughout 2017. The WAPCA boards are the backbone of our organization and it is through their support and advice that WAPCA Ghana is able to have a positive effect on preservation of West African primate habitat and the successful breeding of Critically Endangered West African primates.

### WAPCA EUROPE BOARD

WAPCA's global activities are overseen by the WAPCA Europe Board of Directors which includes the following members:

Dr. Klaus Wuennemann-Chairman of the Board  
 Dr Brice Lefaux-Vice Chairman of the Board  
 Dra. M<sup>a</sup>Teresa Abelló Poveda -Secretary  
 Mrs Sandra Reichler-Treasurer  
 Mr Nick Lindsay-Advisor to the Board  
 Mr Roland Wirth- Advisor to the Board

### WAPCA GHANA BOARD

WAPCA Ghana is a local NGO, overseen by a Ghanaian board of directors, who direct all WAPCA's Ghana's in situ and ex situ activities. The WAPCA Ghana Board of Directors includes the following members:

Mr David Nuku Tetey – Chairman of the Board  
 Mrs Vivian Nuhu – Director of the Board  
 Dr Erasmus Owusu – Director of the Board  
 Dr Richard Suu-Ire – Director of the Board  
 Mr Stephen Tamanja- Director of the Board  
 Dr Selorm Tetey – Director of the Board  
 Mr Edward Wiafe – Director of the Board  
 Mr Kwame Tutu – Director of the Board  
 Mrs Andrea Dempsey - Secretary

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

# THANK YOU WAPCA MEMBERS!

WAPCA membership provide the crucial funding for all WAPCA Ghana core operating expenses and also provide significant funding for rainforest protection activities in Côte d'Ivoire. It is the support of WAPCA membership that has allowed WAPCA to implement vital *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation efforts throughout the years. Zoo Heidelberg serves as the managing body for WAPCA. Funds for specific projects are acquired through major sponsor donations.



## MAJOR FIELD PROJECT SPONSORS



## INTERNATIONAL SUPPORTERS



## LOCAL SUPPORTERS

WAPCA is very grateful to our local supporters who over the past year have donated goods, services or provided discounted rates.

