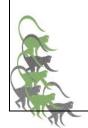


West African Primate Conservation Action ANNUAL REPORT 2020

www.wapca.org





Message from the WAPCA-Programme Manager

2020 for everyone across the world was a challenging one. A global pandemic shook all of us to our foundations and left many without loved ones, forcing some to grieve alone or at a remove. Our sympathy goes out to all our members, colleagues and supporters.

Ghana acted quickly shutting her land, sea and air borders, and implementing strict protocols: shutting schools, businesses, religious buildings and public spaces including the two zoos. The governments expedient reaction has resulted in less than five hundred deaths to date. WAPCA immediately ensured all staff working with the primates wore masks and gloves, meetings and group activities suspended, including rainforest patrols and - where possible - staff worked from home. My June visit was not possible but the team continued to work hard despite the restrictions in place and achieved great progress including the start of a new project at Cape Three Point Forest Reserve, the opening of our first community owned organic coconut oil processing centre, and in-depth capacity building training programme for our project communities. At the Centre we ensured our primates were safe, and even welcomed a new baby – Peter. Research took a big step forward with Universities both local and international holding their first scientific meeting and lots of educational programmes planned for once we can all gather together again!

Once the air borders re-opened in September I was able to visit with strict testing procedures in place: a negative test 72 hours before and another upon arrival at Kotoka airport. Ensuring social distancing and face mask wearing was adhered to, I could visit all project areas and thank the team for all their hard work in such difficult times. I take this opportunity to express my gratitude and admiration again for their unwavering dedication to the cause.

Despite its difficulties, 2020 also afforded innovative opportunities. With a surge of online conferences, trainings and webinars, it allowed the Ghana team to participate, gain knowledge and professionally grow which would not have normally been possible if held in person. In particular it was a great pleasure for the team to be able to join the WAPCA Annual Meeting, normally held at the EAZA Annual Conference where they presented their activities and met with the European Board and our Members.

We are incredible grateful to our Members for their continued support during this unprecedented time. With most zoological collections closed, it has put a financial burden on them without vital ticket sales. Despite this, we are delighted to maintain our membership level which is so vital for our core costs.

Using the online platform, the WAPCA Ghana Board have continued to meet and advise, and we were delighted this year to appoint Vivian Nuhu as Vice Chair. Vivian has dedicated her life to wildlife conservation and has served as a WAPCA Board Member for over ten years before taking this appointment.

The Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission of Ghana saw the appointment of a new Executive Director, Mr Asamoah-Boateng. We have already had a positive meeting with him and his team and are looking forward to working together and continuing the collaborative relationship WAPCA has always enjoyed with the government over its years in Ghana.

There are still many hurdles to cross in 2021, and a clear path out of this pandemic is still a treacherous one however we will remain positive and as always endeavour to work our hardest to protect the endangered primates of West Africa and their habitat.

Best Wishes for 2021,

Andrea Dempsey

What is WAPCA?

West African Primate Conservation Action (WAPCA) is an initiative of several European Zoos spearhead by Heidelberg Zoo, and the Zoological Society for the Conservation of Species and Populations (ZGAP)

What is our objective?

WAPCA's objective 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 established WAPCA Ghana, a local NGO which is managed in partnership with the Wildlife Division of the Ghana Forestry Commission.

How do we do this?

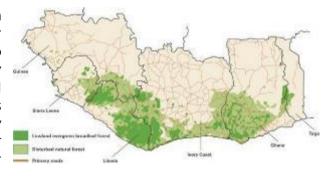
WAPCA Ghana's activities have integrated various approaches to primate conservation, categorized into the following four disciplines: 1. In-situ – community empowered, holistic conservation in wild primate habitat. 2. Ex-situ – captive breeding at the Endangered Primate Breeding Centre, as part of Accra Zoo and the Forested Enclosure at Kumasi Zoo. 3. Education - engage, inspire and empower people through the zoos, outreach programmes and community based projects and 4. Research - developing cohesive and complimentary multi-disciplined research through the WAPCA Research Group, creating a better understanding of Ghana's primate landscape and how to better protect them and care for them in captivity.

Who do we do this with?

WAPCA works closely with the Wildlife Division (WD) of the Ghana Forestry Commission which is a full managing partner of WAPCA Ghana. Other collaborating partners in include; Noe's Man & Nature, Research and Actions for the Safeguard of Primates in Côte d'Ivoire (RASAP-CI), and the University of Barcelona.

Where do we do this?

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. As well as our focal primate species it is home to lesser spot-nose monkey (Cercopithecus cephus petaurista), Lowe's monkey (Cercopithecus mona lowei) and olive colobus (Procolobus verus) as well as a swell as other unique mammals such as zebra duiker (Cephalophus zebra), royal antelope (Neotragus

pygmaeus), Liberian mongoose (Liberiictis kuhni), Dephua mouse (Dephomys eburnea), white-throated shrew (Crocidura wimmeri) and the Togo mouse (Leimacomys buettneri).

What are our focal species?

 Miss Waldron's Red Colobus (Procolobus badius waldroni)
 Status: Critically Endangered

 Roloway Monkey (Cercopithecus Roloway)
 Status: Critically Endangered

 White-naped Mangabey, (Cercocebus lunulatus)
 Status: Endangered

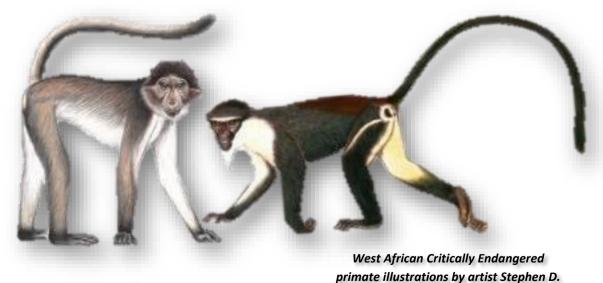
• White thighed black and white Colobus

(Colobus vellerosus)

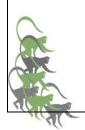
Status: Critically Endangered

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), the Critically Endangered white-thighed black and white colobus (Colobus vellerosus), and the 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 *Near Threatened* olive colobus (*Procolobus verus*), the lesser spotnose monkey (*Cercopithecus petaurista* petaurista), the Lowe's monkey (*Cercopithecus mona lowei*).









What are the 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 has been reduced to a mere 15% of its original forest cover. Logging, unsustainable and poor practice agriculture in cocoa and palm oil, illegal mining termed "galamsey", 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 discretion 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.

Extensive bush meat hunting for both local consumption and export to other countries, estimates of the bush meat trade run as high as \$400 million per year in Ghana and \$500 million in Côte d'Ivoire, 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".

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.



Who makes WAPCA possible?

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. Zoological Collections who become members or support us in one off donations demonstrates the important role the modern zoo plays in conservation as they adopt an One Plan Approach whereby the two worlds of in-situ and ex-situ become more and more interlinked. As a visitor supporting good zoos similarly enables them to support us in our work

Our members, who we are incredible grateful to:

- 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
- Zoo Bojnice
- Twycross Zoo
- Zoo Duisburg
- Rotterdam Zoo
- GaiaZoo
- Tierpark Berlin
- Fundacion Bioparc
- Ouwehands Rhenen
- Zoo Kosice

If you are interested in becoming a member or supporting WAPCA please do not hesitate to contact WAPCA Secretary Sandra Reichler who can facilitate your support.

Sandra.Reichler@Heidelberg.de

For EAZA members, please feel free to attend our annual meeting at the EAZA Conference in Helsinki this year where the Programme Manager would be more than happy to discuss the project and funding options.





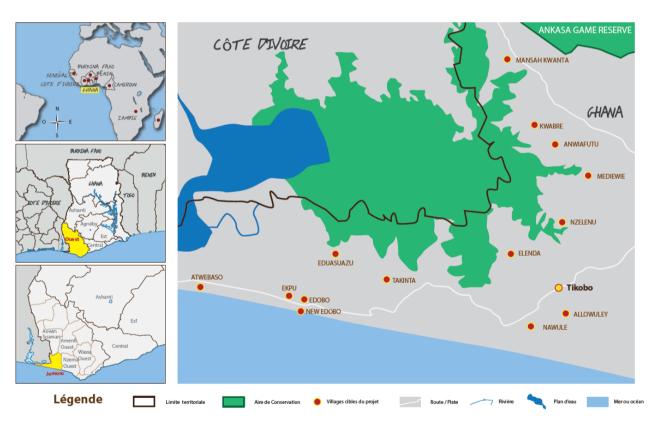


2020 ACTIVITIES REPORT WAPCA IN ACTION CREATING VIABLE LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

TRANS-BORDER COMMUNITY-MANAGED RAINFOREST PROJECT by Insitu Project Coordinator David Osei

Protecting the Last Remaining Primate Habitats in Ghana

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. This very special rainforest is home to a number of Endangered primates including the white-naped mangabey (Cercocebus lunulatus), white-thighed black & white colobus (Colobus vellerosus), the olive colobus (Procolobus verus) and the Critically Endangered Roloway monkey, which is listed on the 25 Most Endangered Primates of the World. WAPCA has been working in this area since 2012 when a primate survey rediscovered a population of Roloway after it was considered locally extinct. WAPCA works with the communities that surround the rainforest, empowering them to create a Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) which legally allows the communities to manage their natural resources and protect the Kwabre from destruction.

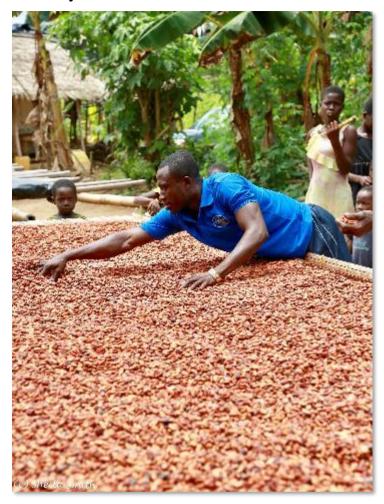


WAPCA, in partnership with the 18 communities, the Research and Actions for the Conservation of Primates in Côte d'Ivoire (RASAP-CI), Savannah Fruits Company, Yayra Glover Cocoa and Noe's Man & Nature and thanks to funding from Tulsa Zoo, Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund, French Development Bank, Ceil Azur, Nahe Cosmetics and Sofi Tucker Foundation, WAPCA have been working hard this year to maintain and develop our key goals:





Our Project Goals:



Cocoa beans drying in the sun

- 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 communitymanaged 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 organic cocoa and organic coconut oil.
- 7) Environmental awareness raising.

1. Community Resource Management Area



In 2014 when the CREMA was set up, it had ten communities making up the CREMA. By the year 2018, the number of communities had risen from ten communities to 18 communities. The CREMA is a democratically elected community management system, transferring power from the government to the communities in order to manage their natural resources.

For the sustainability of the CREMA and the conservation project itself, Challenges Ghana were contracted to conduct a capacity needs assessment of the CREMA, processors and farmers and train them based on their capacity needs.

Challenges Ghana has successfully completed four training sessions for the CREMA on financial planning and budgeting, communication, organizational management and financial literacy and entrepreneurship which were well attended and have built the capacities of the participants. These trainings will go a long way to help the CREMA to sustainably manage the project when WAPCA officially hands over to the CREMA.

Registration of the CREMA at the Municipal Assembly was initiated and is still ongoing. The Municipal Chief Executive Officer at a meeting with CREMA Executive Committee requested for the CREMA By- laws and Constitution be made available for the Municipal Assembly legal team to study and make recommendations. The CREMA was assured of the registration of the CREMA upon the recommendations by the legal team.

A Conservation Fund Management Plan is currently being developed with the help of Challenges Ghana which seek to direct the management of funds accrued from Conservation Agreement to the CREMA. This when done will make the CREMA transparent and accountable to CREMA members



Challenges Ghana training session

2. Community Rainforest Protection Teams



An arrested illegal logger

The Community Rainforest Protection Teams have been instrumental in clamping down on the illegal activities in the Ankasa Tano forest.

A total of 624 local patrols and 83 joint patrols were conducted in 2020. 84 people were arrested during this period. 13 chainsaws and 1240 pieces of lumber were confiscated from illegal offenders. In addition to illegal logging, other illegal activities recorded included poaching activities and clearing for charcoal production.

Refresher training on the use of Cyber Tracker were conducted for the patrol team members. Due to the difficulty in using the Cyber Tracker by some patrol members, the Cyber Tracker has been revised to include

more pictures for easy identification and thereby user

friendly. Additionally, the patrol team have been trained on the Event Book data collection system. The new system of monitoring and data collection is in addition to the improved Cyber Tracker. Patrol team members are expected to start using it from beginning of 2021. Uniforms, identification cards, cutlasses and wellington boots have been procured and distributed to the patrol team members. This will motivate them to undertake more patrol and serve as security to them in the communities and forest.

3. Reforestation &

4. Sustainable Community-managed Agro-forestry Plantations



Saplings being distributed for agroforestry

Seven Community nurseries have been reestablished this year. About 25,000 seeds have been nursed. These includes, 10,000 seeds of Baku, 2,000 seeds of Emire, 5,000 seeds of Mahogany, 3,000 seeds of Nyankom, 2,000 seeds of Prekese (Aidan Fruit), 3,000 seeds of Ofram.

Five thousand matured seedlings were distributed to farmers for agroforestry. 500 were planted in the buffer zone. Due to unprecedented high-water levels the team were not able to plant in the core zone of the forest.

5. Transborder Collaboration with Côte d'Ivoire

Two virtual steering committee meetings have been held to discuss and draft the Transborder Management Plan. The first meeting was not successful due to bad internet connectivity. The second meeting was successful even though only one person from the Ivorian side was involved. Seven participants from the Ghana side made meaningful contributions to the discussions. The Steering Committee is awaiting the final version of the Management Plan from the Ivorian team. An activity plan has been drafted to engage the communities to discuss the management plan with them and to also allow them to make their input.

6. Develop sustainable livelihoods and promote green value chains in organic cocoa and organic coconut oil.

Since 2017 WAPCA has been working in partnership with French NGO Man & Nature's Noe, who are well versed in developing sustainable livelihoods and green value chains. The overall aim of this component is three-fold 1) to create a holistic approach to conservation whereby we recognise not only the conservation needs of the primates but the socioeconomic needs of the communities 2) to promote good agricultural practices to reduce farm expansion into the forest 3) to create a benefit sharing

mechanism to support individual farmers, communities and conservation activities thereby becoming independent of any outside unsustainable aid.







Organic Coconut Oil Green Value Chain: March 2020 saw the inauguration ceremony of the first Ankasa-Tano CREMA organic coconut oil processing centre. The ceremony was highly successful and well attended. In all about 300 people attended the ceremony. All the major stakeholders and donors which included AFD, Sofi Tucker Foundation and NOE were present. WAPCA, Wildlide Division, the traditional leaders and the CREMA executives were also all present. Speeches were given by the Stakeholders highlighting the importance of conserving and protecting our wildlife and natural resources and linking it with income generating activities to improve the local economies. During the inauguration ceremony, a Conservation Agreement was signed between the CREMA and Savannah Fruits Company (SFC). This Agreement will compel SFC to contribute to the Conservation Fund while equally the CREMA must implement its Constitution and Bylaws to sustainably manage their wildlife and natural resources. A cheque was presented by the SFC to the CREMA for the first payment of the Conservation Fund.



Cutting of the ribbon at the inauguration ceremony



Handing over the Conservation Fund cheque from SFC to CREMA Chairman

The processing centre is also furnished with three heavy machines (1 pressing machine and 2 centrifuge machines) which are to improve the quality and quantity of coconut oil to be produced at the centre. Trials have started to tune the equipment to the right specification for production.

The CREMA has instituted a new committee (Coconut Development Committee) to oversee the organic coconut oil green value chain including the management of the Fair-Trade Development Fund and negotiate with SFC on behalf of the farmers pricing for coconut and any other issues of concern. SFC also this year were able to contribute to the community Fair Trade Development Fund, through the Coconut Development Committee a decision was made to

purchase cutlasses, wellington boots for registered farmers and t-shirts for the processor groups. The purchased items were distributed at a durbar organised at the centre to the farmers and the processor groups.

Handing over the equipment bought through the Fair-Trade
Development Fund



SFC conducted five trainings for the processing group, mainly women of the communities who will process the raw coconut into oil, at the processing centre on organic certification and Fair For Life criteria and working rules. A total of 92 processors have been duly registered and trained for two processing centres (Ankasa-Tano CREMA and on in Edobo).

Additional training was organised for processors by the Municipal Environment and Hygiene department on the Environment, Hygiene and Health and Safety at workplace..

Organic and Fair for Life certification audit were completed for 202 registered coconut farmers in the months of August and October. The audit was done on separate months because of the global Covid 19 pandemic as borders were closed. There were few observations by the auditors which needed urgent attention. These were increased weeding of farms, farm borders need to be well cleared, mapping with coordinates of individual farms and improved buffer zones.



Audit

Lastly, a feasibility study was conducted on the use of the waste coconut shells at the centre to produce charcoal. After the study, efforts have been made to start with the process of establishing a charcoal production unit at the processing centre. Zaacoal is a company that produces charcoal briquettes for both an international and local market. Zaacoal want to partner with the project by buying the charcoal produced at the centre and convert it to briquettes for sale. This would provide additional income to the communities. They can also use the charcoal themselves, reducing the need to enter the forest for firewood.

Organic Cocoa Green Value Chain: In the year 2020, 76 trainings were conducted by the field officer of Yayra Glover Limited. The trainings were replicated in all the thirteen participating project communities designed to address child labour issues and good agronomic practices in cocoa farms.



In all 529 farmers were trained, which included 438 male and 91 females. The following demonstrations were carried out in the designated communities to achieve the afore stated goals.

- 1. Traceability
- 2. Fertilizer application process
- 3. Integrated Pest Management
- 4. Effective weed Management
- 5. Shape pruning and maintenance pruning.
- 6. Recommended harvest procedures for cocoa
- 7. Recommended spraying procedures for organic insecticide
- 8. Recommended procedure to break cocoa pods.
- 9. Recommended procedure for good fermentation of cocoa beans



Discussions on the Conservation Agreement between the CREMA and Yayra Glover are being finalised with initial agreement by Yayra Glover to pay \$5 per tonne. Further discussion is still on going to possibly raise it to \$12 per tonne of organic cocoa beans purchased. Warehouses, purchasing committees and bank accounts for various farmer groups are almost completed. Upon completion of all the processes, purchasing of organic in transition cocoa beans will soon begin in 2021 with final full organic certification in 2022.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS RAISING

Six radio programs were successfully conducted with various stakeholders (Wildlife Division Staff, CREMA Executives and WAPCA staff). Three different topics which highlighted on environmental issues (The role of Wildlife Division in ensuring biodiversity conservation, effect of illegal mining and logging on environment and the role of the CREMA in conservation of biodiversity) were discussed thoroughly. Listeners were given the chance to also contribute to the discussion, with an average of 10 different calls to the program. People from different walks of life called in to ask questions, make contributions and suggestions which testifies the success of the radio program. Even communities from different Districts called to ask about the possible establishment of a CREMA in their area.



In the radio studio at WEST FM

For more information on the CREMA process and our green value chain work please watch:

https://youtu.be/Axtab68Jdlo

For more information on Conservation Agreements, please visit:

What on Earth is a 'conservation agreement'?





2020 ACTIVITIES REPORT WAPCA IN ACTION CREATING VIABLE LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

NEW!! CAPE THREE POINT FOREST RESERVE PROJECT

The Cape Three Point Forest Reserve is one of the last coastal forests of West Africa. Recognised as a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) and an Important Bird Area (IBA) it is also one of the last refuges for three highly threatened primates; the roloway monkey, *Cercopithecus roloway* – Critically Endangered, the white-thighed colobus, *Colobus vellerosus* – Critically Endangered and the white-naped mangabey, *Cercocebus lunulatus* - Endangered. The last captured on camera traps for the first time ever in 2018 by the WAPCA Research Group, comprising of students from Chester University, funded by Twycross Zoo..



Camera trap image

With confirmation of these species in the forest it was imperative to engage with the local communities and government to increase the protection. The forest, classified as a Reserve, has the lowest level of government protection resulting in devastating levels of illegal logging, mining, clearing for agriculture and hunting with guns and dogs.

Partnering with Hen Mpoano, a local NGO already working in the region and who had recently completed a Management Plan for the area and connecting wetlands we began project activities on the 1st July 2020, appointing Thomas Awini as our Project Lead.

The following preliminary project objectives were set:

- 1. Reenergise the dormant Community Management Resource Area (CREMA)
- 2. Select and train two individuals from each community to become Community Rainforest Monitoring Team (CRMT)
- 3. Identify nursery sites within communities, select community members to be trained in nursery husbandry and seedling care. Saplings grown will be used in the forest, buffer zone delineation and community harvest.
- 4. Engage with all members of the communities to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity through film screenings and other conservation education activities.

For project success and sustainability, it is vital to be holistic in design; improving the socioeconomic status of the area (reducing the need to enter the forest to supplement poor income) and ensuring that the communities benefit from protecting the environment. To that end it is planned to expand the project objectives to include:

- 1. Development of sustainable livelihoods and the promotion of Green Value Chains, fostering partnerships with the private sector to ensure fair prices and Conservation Agreements. Farmers will also be trained in Good Agricultural Practices, to ensure good yield within the existing farm, reducing the need to increase farm size and encroach into the forest.
- 2. Develop an ecotourism working group to develop opportunities around the Reserve and increase revenue.

In 2020 following achievements were made:

1. Reenergise the dormant Community Resource Management Area (CREMA)

All eleven communities have been sensitized about the Cape Three Points project. Each community was to invite a minimum of twenty and maximum of 25 people including CREMA Executives, Community Resource Management Committees (CRMCs) and opinion leaders. In some communities the turnout was impressive outnumbering the intended invitees. By a way of an introduction to the sensitization programme, participants were made to understand that various nations have signed agreements, ratified treaties, and conventions to protect and conserve natural resources and therefore Ghana is not an exception. And so, as a nation it is imperative for us to conserve our natural resources or the environment. Participants were taken through the importance of conservation especially at Cape Three Points. Printed photos of Endangered and Critically Endangered primate species were shared, camera traps photos were shown to emphasise the importance of Cape Three Points forest as some of the fauna it inhabits.



Community meeting

Executive Committee CREMA (CEC) and Community Resource Management Committees (CRMCs) from eleven communities attended a one day meeting in Adelazo. The meeting explained the plan to review the CREMA management structure conducting new CREMA Executive elections and expand membership of CRMCs to 16. In going forward the project implementing team were going to re-establish effective collaboration with the Ghana police, Forest Service Division, Wildlife Division, Local Assembly and the media to ensure effective management of the CREMA.

At all meetings held there was an opportunity for questions to be asked and discussions held on how the project should be developed and aspects to consider. Feedback was positive from the communities and the CEC and CRMC and welcomed the project.

2. Select and train two individuals from each community to become Community Rainforest Monitoring Team (CRMT)

The selection of the CRMT was completed. Interested individuals were interviewed and based on the following, were selected.

- 1. Physical appearance
- 2. Age
- 3. Knowledge of ground coverage of Cape three forest reserve
- 4. Knowledge of forest fauna and flora
- 5. Residing in the CREMA community for not less than five years
- 6. Not involved in illegal activities or have stop the act for not less than five years

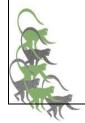
3. Identify nursery sites within communities, select community members to be trained in nursery husbandry and seedling care

All the communities were visited to inspect sites that has been earmarked for nursery establishment. Six areas were deemed suitable. Suitability is reliant on area size, soil, sun light and shade.

In addition to these activities, WAPCA Project Lead had meetings with all key stakeholders, this included members of the government, Traditional Authorities, and the Police Department. The Project Lead also had t-shirts printed for the project communities.



Unfortunately, after only three months Thomas Awini left the project. This has caused activities to slow down, however WAPCA has now appointed a new Project Lead – Charles Afosah who is now in place. WAPCA has submitted four funding applications to increase project budget so we can expand our remit, including petitioning the government upgrade the Reserve to the Park. However, with the funding from Yorkshire Wildlife Park Foundation and Tulsa Zoo, we can continue with the core activities and personnel in place. Having this bedrock funding is crucial for maintaining momentum with the communities and long-term commitment and success.





2020 ACTIVITIES REPORT WAPCA IN ACTION CREATING VIABLE LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

EX-SITU CONSERVATION By Exsitu Project Coordinator – Foster Poasangma

1. ENDANGERED PRIMATE BREEDING CENTRE

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 to house confiscated and orphaned monkeys, placing them into social breeding groups. The Centre currently has 18 mangabeys, in four groups and one male Roloway. Both species are part of the European Breeding Programme, and we have made a number of exchanges between Ghana and Europe, playing a vital role in maintaining the genetic viability of the captive populations.

WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

This year saw the unexpected death of Annan. Annan was born on the 1st August 2008. He was in a breeding group with female and had already sired an offspring Mama. He become suddenly very ill and despite all efforts of the Accra Zoo staff and Veterinary Team he passed away. Annan was a clever monkey, who was trained to accept conscious injection and which he loved to do regardless of the need!



Gift of the Year - In spite of the challenges the year has brought not only to human race but to other wildlife life globally, WAPCA has recorded a new additional to the reserved population of white-naped mangabeys at our Endangered primate Breeding Centre within Accra zoo. The male baby has been named Peter in the memory of one of the hard working staff of Kumasi Zoo, who contributed immensely to the upkeep of the group at the Forested Enclosure, who sadly passed away earlier in the year. Baby Peter was born to Mother Chaachele, and Father Kweku – their second offspring to date. To celebrate this gift, we have written a press release on the new birth which was published by media houses in Accra. Through this publication, some generous individuals expressed interest in adopting Peter of which we are most grateful.

Chaachele & Baby Peter

NEW GROUP

After the death of breeding male Annan it was important to keep the group breeding and ensure continuity. We were therefore given a recommendation from the EEP Coordinator, Maria Teresa Abello to transfer Yaw, an adult male from the group in Forested Enclosure at Kumasi Zoo. Once Yaw arrived in Accra, with assistance from Nuria Badiella, we conducted a series of strategic

introductions for Yaw, Ivy and her daughter Mama. All the introductions were successful and now Yaw is happily integrated into his new family. As Mama is not related to Yaw it means she can stay in this group and become a breeding female with her mother.

However all this would not have been possible without the support and cooperation the zoo mangers and their staff in both Accra and Kumasi. We are ever grateful to them.



Ivy grooming Yaw

CENTRE IMPROVEMENTS



Termite-proof metal structures

Since furniture in enclosures is very crucial for captive primates, the zookeepers are working tirelessly to get furniture in the enclosures at EPBC and other primates in good shape. However, the forest land is termite prone and hence the wooden upright structures planted in the ground constantly get destroyed by termites. This puts pressure on the staff and their time. To solve this permanently, we thought it wise to replace them with metal poles moulded in that fork like form. This has lessened the work of the keepers and as well provide better and strong climbing structure, at different levels for the primates.

WAPCA is not only concerned about the welfare of primates at the zoo but that of the zoo keepers. So in the midst of the pandemic, WAPCA was able to secure funding from Yorkshire Wildlife Park Foundation (as part of a three year commitment) to construct a new washroom for the staff of Accra zoo. This modern facility is designed to allow both male and female staff to wash down after the daily cleaning of the enclosures. This was a great improvement as female staff previous could not wash down due to the unfit nature of the old structure. The staff are so grateful to WAPCA and of course to the funders of the project.



Old washroom, in the middle of the zoo



New washroom, in a secluded area of the zoo



VOLUNTEERS & VISITORS

Just before the pandemic WAPCA welcomed Louise Moody, a Zookeeper from Woburn Safari Park in the UK. Woburn Safari Park in 2018, after the sad loss of their patas group in a fire raised funds for WAPCA so we could completely refurbish the old EBPC structures. Louise and her partner worked with the keepers to develop their enrichment creating skills, and exchange knowledge in primate care. Louise kindly donated a number of items so that we can continue to create new enrichment for our monkeys. We also welcomed two volunteers through the Akwaaba Volunteer scheme, Daniel & Gemma who assisted me in my duties at the Centre.



Louise Moody from the UK

PRIMATE PET TRADE

Trading in wildlife is an age-old problem globally which for the past decade's conservation bodies and institutions with interest have joined the fight in combating. Ghana of course is not left off the hook. Wildlife especially primates are constantly being remove from their natural habitat by poachers and introduced into the pet trade market either as meat for consumption or to be used as pets. These engagement poses a serious threat to the population of these species as well as possible disease transmission between humans and these animals.

WAPCA, in complementing our mission of safeguarding the endangered primates and their habits in West Africa, we have started a project focusing on the primate pet trade in Ghana. The goal is to obtain a greater understanding of the situation. The primary objectives are;

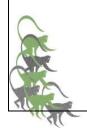
- To understand the general perception of Ghanaians on primate pet trade
- To understand their level of awareness of disease transmission human and non-human primate
- To ascertain their knowledge of regulations and laws governing wildlife trade.

The trade is dominated by the patas monkey, the green monkey and the spot-nosed, often infants sold at the side of the road in poor condition.

It is hoped by having a greater understanding we can develop education and awareness material that will reduce the trade. In the meantime, WAPCA has joined efforts with the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission to confiscate monkeys either from traders or individuals keeping them as pet. In the long term we hope to be able to release the primates in a protected area and believe over time with effective confiscation and penalties, coupled with education we can nip the trade in the bud.



A patas for sale



2. FORESTED ENCLOSURE

After many years of planning 2018 saw the completion of the 0.4ha Forested Enclosure, within the walls of the Kumasi Zoo. The enclosure houses a family unit of white-naped mangabeys totally one breeding male, one breeding female, a retired breeding female and their collective six offspring. The Enclosure was created so we can understand the adaptation mangabeys develop in a natural habitant; space use, diet, group composition. This information will then contribute to a conservation translocation feasibility study.



NEW HOME FOR YAW



Yaw stationed in the transfer box, touching target with his mouth for reward.

As mentioned earlier in my report, it was recommended that Yaw should be transferred from the Forested Enclosure to Accra Zoo, to be the new breeding male for Ivy & Mama.

To avoid manual restraint which would put much stress on the animal and perhaps introduce some psychological effect it was necessitated to target train Yaw into transfer box, purpose built into one of the enclosure tunnels. I improvised a training stick which has a plastic rubber tied to one end of it. With high value food like egg, I will reward the animal when he stationed correctly and touched the rubber end with his mouth. Yaw was a quicker learner and so only took me two and a half day to finally gain his confidence and get him to sit in the transfer box. On the day of the transfer, it was quite easy getting him safely locked in the transfer box and his journey to Accra stress free.

KEEPING UP APPEARANCES.

The year has seen a number of repair work at the Forested Enclosure ranging from furniture in the satellite enclosure to electric fence maintenance. The Zookeepers at Kumasi Zoo undertake daily checks to ensure that the enclosure is secure, identify any repairs immediately. Usually during heavy storms, falling trees sometimes effect the wires thereby destroying some bobbins holding the wires. These broken bobbins were often replaced to ensure the fence functions properly for the animals to be regularly. A new battery was also replaced in the course of the year as the old one was not strong enough to power the fence. Within the satellite enclosure, we constructed two boxes which were mounted inside. This is keep the animals safe and provide coverage during heavy rains.





2020 ACTIVITIES REPORT WAPCA IN ACTION CREATING VIABLE LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

NEW!!

The Conservation Translocation and Population Restoration of White-naped Mangabeys, Cercocebus lunulatus, in their Indigenous Range of Ghana, West Africa by Programme Manager, Andrea Dempsey

The purpose of this project is to understand the potential and put WAPCA in a position, if determined as a clear conservation tool, to translocate groups and/or individuals of Cercocebus lunulatus into their indigenous range.

The aim is to restore the population through:

- 1) **Reinforcement**, the intentional movement and release of an organism into an existing population of con-specifics with the aim to enhance population viability through increased population size, increased genetic diversity and/or increased representation of specific demographic groups or stages.
- 2) **Reintroduction**, the intentional movement and release of an organism inside its indigenous range from which it has disappeared with the aim to re-establish a viable population of the focal species.

WAPCA will create a reintroduction working group and following the IUCN Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations, will look to undertake FOUR key activities, which are crucial to inform or proceed onto the next stages.

- 1. Habitat Assessment -a forty day 'recce' survey carried in and around Kwabre Community Rainforest. Data collected will include primate presence, illegal activity, holding capacity and vegetation study. Data collected will be combined with annual surveys conducted since 2014 to identify suitable release sites (i.e., low human disturbance, presence of other mangabey, feeding trees and water sources). In addition, systematically survey the historical range, using foot surveys, camera traps and audio recordings to find other potential release sites.
- 2. Socioeconomic study interviews in all 18 communities surrounding the Community Forest will be undertaken. We aim to interview 10% of each community population (~ 40 individuals/community), representing the communities demographic to determine community attitudes and values, motivations and expectations, behaviours and behavioural change, and the anticipated costs and benefits of the translocation. Results will also be used to design appropriate community outreach, awareness, and training programmes.
- 3. Species Adaption data collection of 7.2 group of mangabeys held in a 0.4ha Forested Enclosure as discussed below in detail.

4. Disease and Parasite Management working in partnership with Wildlife Vets International to ensure that WAPCA should find that the introduction of mangabeys be the most effective conservation tool it is done so with rigorous safety measure in place for both captive and wild populations

In early 2020, Wildlife Vets International (WVI) made a scoping visit to Ghana to explore partnership opportunities with WAPCA. WVI is a British charity which has been providing critical



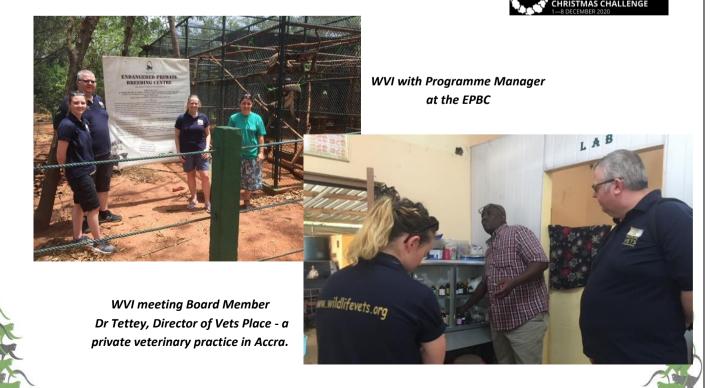
veterinary support to international wildlife and conservation projects since 2004. The visit aimed to get a greater understanding of the ex-situ work that WAPCA undertakes and how WVI could support this. WVI were particularly interested in collaborating with WAPCA and the Wildlife Division in understanding better the potential, scope and conservation need of introducing captive **WILDLIFE VETS** born mangabeys into wild habitat. WVI would develop protocols and programmes to improve the bio-security not only of our zoos, but also for any animal being considered for introduction

(conservation translocation).

In summary to:

- Create one or two bio-secure or 'clean' holding areas for mangabeys away from the current captive areas
- Develop a robust evidence-based Disease Risk Analysis for the species
- Develop safe health screening protocols for several different situations in which WAPCA receive mangabeys from the wild, and other animals.
- Understand the genetic diversity of those that are wild born, within the existing captive population.

Despite the trip clashing with the outbreak of Covid, the team were able to meet a number of key veterinary individuals and have since been able to develop a project proposal. At the end of 2020 WAPCA were part of the Big Give Christmas Challenge a fundraising campaign to support this work.



2020 ACTIVITIES REPORT WAPCA IN ACTION CREATING VIABLE LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

WAPCA RESEARCH & EDUCATION

by Research & Education Coordinator Núria Badiella

Our education and research activities this year 2020 were affected by the global pandemic. Despite the challenges faced, we focused on planning educational activities to be implemented in the Ankasa-Tano CREMA communities and research to restart in 2021.

Three interns from around the world also joined WAPCA team to develop skills in primate conservation. And we celebrated the first meeting of the WAPCA Research Group Scientific Committee, among other activities I explain below.

Finally, this year WAPCA's office was branded with our logo and a signboard placed at the roadside which we hope will help you all to find us easily on your visits to WAPCA.



New road sign, and exterior painting of the WAPCA office in Accra



1. EDUCATION

WELCOME CHARLOTTE



Charlotte in the Accra office

Charlotte joined the WAPCA team as an education intern in late February 2020. She had an interest in the combination of protection of biodiversity through sustainable development which made her choose WAPCA. She adapted very well to working from home when we were all under lockdown.

Together we developed a Treasure Hunt – a conservation education activity plan to be implemented in the schools of the Ankasa-Tano CREMA communities. She also assisted Foster - Exsitu Projects Coordinator - at the Endangered Primate Breeding Centre as and when it was possible.

NEW SIGNS AT THE EPBC

After the sad loss of Annan, which was suspected to be toxication, there was a particular concern about the interactions of zoo visitors and the primates. To ensure visitors' awareness on this, we placed signage at the EPBC explaining why uncontrolled feeding or getting close to a monkey can be dangerous.

The sign was written in both English, and local diglect – Twi to

The sign was written in both English, and local dialect – Twi, to ensure maximum reach.



Signboard at the zoo

MY CITY MY FOREST

MCMF project implementation started in September 2018 and saw an end in August 2019. Funded by WAZA Nature Connect grant it aimed to connect urban families from four different communities of Accra (capital city of Ghana) with the environment through a series of activities, while helping them play a part in conservation. The activities included two workshops on the importance of trees and waste recycling and three activities; a beach clean-up, a visit to the zoo to learn about wildlife conservation and a final tree planting exercise. The results of the project were evaluated through a survey provided by Zoowise, which showed a positive impact the views of participants towards on At the end of the project the communities were awarded seed funding for a community-led project according to their results in the activities conducted. Achimota started a plastic collection in the community, to reuse to make beautiful handicrafts like pencil cases, flowerpots, and vertical gardens.





(L) Participants of Achimota cleaning bottles to give them a second use; (R) Nima representatives holding a meeting to present pavement bricks creation proposal

Nima, the community awarded 1st Prize, presented a proposal to start producing pavement bricks from recycled plastic, but with the restrictions and elections at the later part of the year they could not start the implementation yet. La and Narhman will work on a school library, and a community beautification project, respectively, also saw a delay in the project implementation as the schools were closed.



We were delighted that our MCMF project also got featured in the new World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Education Strategy developed by Sarah Thomas.

The World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Education Strategy where MCMF project was featured.

DEVELOPMENT OF ADVOCACY STRATEGY

Wildlife policies and decision-making processes in Ghana are often hindered by global landscape issues. Although closely related, forestry and Community Resource Management Areas sectors attract interesting discussions to protect the country landscapes, but less is talked about issues affecting, specifically wildlife.

This year a few organizations working towards the protection of biodiversity in Ghana have come together to start the creation of a platform as an avenue to advocate securing biodiversity and ecosystem services in Ghana.



Several meetings were held with the intention to set up the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Ghana Forum.

MANGABEY AWARENESS DAY



MAD banner at Kumasi Zoo

As it happened with many other activities this year, we could not celebrate Mangabey Awareness Day in the CREMA communities as large gatherings were restricted. For the past two years we have been enjoying in a two-day event full of fun activities to reward the communities for the great job they have been doing as well as to continue to raise awareness of the mangabey species.

Therefore, this year we joined the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission to celebrate a press release event for 'Closed Hunting Season' in Kumasi Zoological Gardens, which included a brief about Mangabey Awareness Day, where we had the opportunity to explain the conservation work WAPCA does insitu and exsitu to members of the Forestry Commission of Ghana, police and prison officials.





For future years we have also started developing a free downloadable activity pack full of fun activities that we will soon share on our website for all of you to join us celebrate Mangabey Awareness Day around the world on the 1st August 2021 and beyond. Stay alert for more news!



Sample of one of the activities that have been compiled for the MAD Activity Pack

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Later in the year I had the opportunity to join a workshop on 'Community engagement through music, drama and video'. This was an amazing opportunity given to six Ghanaian organizations to learn other methodologies to engage people emotionally towards nature to drive behaviour change in the field of conservation.

We had the opportunity to see an example of the work undertaken at Cape Coast through a small community named Mesomagor, which has been sharing conservation education stories through drama and music. Such combination is an original and less used tool to share messages in a fun and engaging way. In this same workshop we were also trained to create a real example – divided into groups we were to create a video and a drama story to present the challenges the community of Mesomagor is facing in terms of nature conservation and development.

From this workshop WAPCA, Resource Trust Network and Hen Mpoano together have developed a drama project to implement with the Cape Three Points CREMA in 2021. A practical and inspiring workshop for conservation education in Ghana!







2. RESEARCH

WRG SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

As part of the WAPCA Research Group (WRG), this year we celebrated the first meeting of WRG



Scientific Committee: an advisory body – with an aim to strengthen the quality of research, while improving WAPCA's decision-making towards primate conservation.

Scientific Committee

1st Meeting - September 2020







This has been possible through the collaborative effort of the several institutions. Two zoological institutions, Barcelona Zoo and Yorkshire Wildlife Park; the Suisse Centre of Scientific Research from Cote d'Ivoire; two Ghanaian universities: Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) and Presbyterian University College; and three European universities: University of Chester, University of Barcelona and that of the West England.

This meeting was an opportunity to present to all academia involved WAPCA's priority research projects, as well as plan future steps on achieving the desired outcomes in these presented topics. It was also a good moment to exchange views and opinions on how to proceed with an international collaboration in research projects due to the current restrictions on international travel.

FORESTED ENCLOSURE RESEARCH - SPECIES ADAPTATION

Since 2018, behavioral data collection has been ongoing at the Forested Enclosure to know how the mangabeys are adapting to this new habitat. This enclosure gives the mangabeys opportunity to display a wider repertoire of natural behaviors, e.g., climbing up high the canopy, foraging, hunting, or avoiding predators.



Research Interns

In March, Camille Luccisano joined our team as a research assistant and continued the ongoing behavioral data collection. Although we had planned this collaboration to last at least three months, she was repatriated to France not long after starting due to the coronavirus global alert.



Camille Luccisano







Later in the year Seda Kavlak, a student from Germany with great interest in ethology, continued monitoring the mangabeys through focal and sampling methodology as well as assisted in the camera trap placements for research on use of space. On her arrival, she started training with the mangabeys housed at the EPBC in Accra to recognize their basic behaviours. These observations also served us to identify the triggers of an ongoing worry with the juveniles in Ape's family group who do not give much space to the latest introduced orphan to eat.

Seda Kavlak

Vegetation Survey

Dr Bright O. Kankam, an adjunct professor in KNUST University and Senior Researcher at CSIR-FORIG, led a tree survey this year to understand the vegetation composition of the enclosure. This study helps us understand the current vegetation status in the enclosure, which showed a great abundance of an invasive tree species, Broussonetia papyrifera to be spreading rapidly. The research team additionally provided us with recommendations for restoring the area with indigenous trees adequate for the species. Permanent plots were also set in the enclosure to be able to monitor the vegetation through future assessments.



Daniel, one of the mangabey keepers, assisting the researchers

Use of space



Every other year WAPCA conducts a survey in the Kwabre Rainforest to monitor the primate population and the anthropogenic activities in the forest as an evaluation method for the whole CREMA project. As this year the pandemic did not allow us to undertake the Kwabre survey - it has been shifted to next year, 2021 - we borrowed the camera traps funded by Tulsa Zoo to place them in the Forested enclosure to understand how the troop use the enclosure space. This will inform the management of the group and let us understand if there is capacity for more individuals to be joining the troop.

Daniel setting a camera trap.





IN OTHER WAPCA NEWS......

Presentations

It was planned that Nuria would attend the IZE 2020 Conference, however this was cancelled, and an alternative online version arranged. For Nuria going to San Diego Zoo in person would have been an incredible experience however as this could not happen, she equally felt extremely lucky to virtually present the MCMF project at the IZE 2020 Conference.





Thanks to the incredible generosity of our members, we were able to buy a new vehicle this year. Our old pick up had served us well - over 15 years but had become unreliable and dangerous to drive.

Uniforms

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Paradise Wildlife Park and Five Sisters Zoo for their generous donation of uniforms this year. The uniforms that are donated are distributed among our staff working at the Centre and the Forested Enclosure as well as those in the field. We are more than happy to take any stock you might have when a logo or design is changed.



New Vice Chair



This year saw the appointment of Vivian Nuhu as the Ghana Board Vice Chair. Vivian has been involved in wildlife conservation for nearly 40 years, devoted to communication, education and public awareness creation. Vivian spent time in Tanzania, becoming the 1st African female wildlife Ranger before returning to Ghana to work with Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and leading the inauguration of the Wildlife Clubs of Ghana as the junior wing of the Ghana Wildlife Society, an NGO aimed at promoting the cause for wildlife in the country.

IUCN Red List Update

This year saw the IUCN Red List publish new assessments for all our focal species, for which WAPCA co-authored.

Plan for WAPCA. This will feed into WAPCA 2021 strategy document.

Staff Capacity Building

Funded by IUCN's PPI project WAPCA staff undertook training sessions, run by Resilience Now. The two training sessions focused on external communication skills and fundraising. In additional we all participated in an Action Plan facilitation workshop which enabled us to devise an Action

White-naped Mangabey

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 2018. 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 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
Dra. MaTeresa Abelló Poveda -Vice Chair of the Board
Dr Brice Lefaux -Secretary
Mrs Sandra Reichler-Treasurer
Mr Roland Wirth- Advisor to the Board
Mr Tjerk terMeulen – Advisor to the Board
Dr Matt Hartley – Advisor to the Board

WAPCA GHANA BOARD

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

Mr David Nuku Tettey – Chairman of the Board Mrs Vivian Nuhu – Vice Chair of the Board

Board Members:

Prof. Erasmus Owusu Mrs Carly Edwards
Dr Richard Suu-Ire Mr Stephen Tamanja
Dr Selorm Tettey Dr Edward Wiafe
Dr Meyir Ziekah Mrs Chaachele Ponu

Mrs Andrea Dempsey - Secretary



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU WAPCA MEMBERS!

It is the support of WAPCA membership that has allowed WAPCA to implement vital *in situ* and ex *situ* conservation efforts throughout the year. Zoo Heidelberg serves as the managing body for WAPCA. Funds for specific projects are acquired through major sponsor donations.







































MAJOR FIELD PROJECT FUNDERS











INTERNATIONAL SUPPORTERS











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