

WEST AFRICAN PRIMATE CONSERVATION ACTION



2019 Annual Report

West African Primate Conservation Action
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Cover Photos: Shelia Smith



Update from the WAPCA-Programme Manager

2019 has seen a significant change in the management structure of WAPCA. My position has changed from Country Coordinator full time in Ghana, to Programme Manager based in the UK at the Zoological Society of Hertfordshire Paradise Wildlife Park, traveling to Ghana four times a year for meetings, project monitoring and specific events. The transfer of my location has seen an elevation in responsibility in the WAPCA team, with the three officers (Ex-situ, In-situ and Research & Education) promoted to Coordinators. After a period of adjustment, the WAPCA team have excelled in their new roles and with myself in a more central location for meetings and funding opportunities, WAPCA has continued to grow, develop and succeed.

I am pleased to introduce Foster Poasangma, our new Ex-situ Project Coordinator who joined us in June. He was immediately thrown into the deep end with an orphaned mangabey bought to our Centre. Foster was tasked with the delicate job of introducing him to an unrelated group, through a calm and methodical attitude Foster, with support from Zoo staff and the WAPCA team, successfully introduced the new arrival - named Yellow - into a group where he can socially interact and develop well.

Our partnership with Noè (formally Man & Nature) has also achieved real progress in our insitu work. This year has seen the construction of a community managed organic coconut oil processing centre. The centre will employ women as processors of the oil and provide farmers with a buyer for their coconut. Savannah Fruit Company will buy the produce at a premium rate for organic and have agreed to sign a Conservation Agreement which contracts them to pay an addition premium into a Conservation Fund. This fund will pay for the conservation actions and thereby creating over time a completely self-financing conservation project, which benefits not only the primates but the local people too.

Our education project, My City, My Forest came to an end this year. The project which connected city dwellers with nature thanks to WAZA Nature Connect Award, saw communities in Accra changing their attitudes towards the natural world and adopting more environmentally friendly practices.

In September 2019 WAPCA welcomed a very special visitor to Ghana. Dr Klaus Wuenneemann, the WAPCA European Board Chairman, made a trip to see the activities we are undertaking in Accra, Kumasi and in the Western Region. Not only did he see our activities but also had the opportunity to join us for our Ghana Board Meeting. The time in Ghana was very fruitful for Dr Wuenneemann and a wonderful experience for the team to discuss their work with him and received deserved praise for the hard work they put in.

Dr Wuenneemann however was not the only visitor to Ghana. With the Wildlife Division, WAPCA hosted the Cercopithecus and Mandrillus Action Plan workshop. Primatologists from across the globe gathered in Ghana to discuss, format and develop the Action Plan, spearheaded by WAPCA, Bristol Zoological Society and the University of West England. The three-day workshop was a great meeting of monkey minds, and it is the aim that this Plan once published in 2020 will draw much needed attention to this group of primates.

Thank you to all our members and supporters who have so generously sustained us throughout 2019. Thank you to ZSH Paradise Wildlife Park for your hospitality and to the WAPCA team and partners for all their hard work.

Best Wishes for 2020

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?

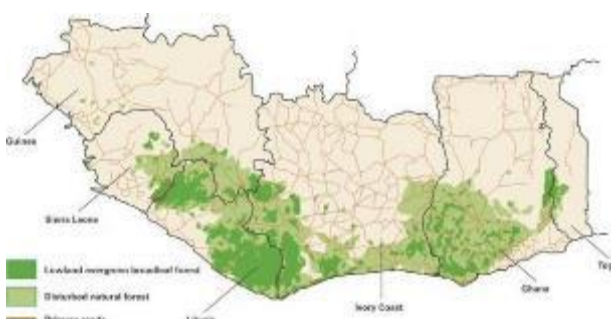
WAPCA Ghana's activities have integrated various approaches to primate conservation, categorized into the following three disciplines: 1. In-situ – community empowered, holistic conservation in wild primate habitat. 2. Ex-situ – captive breeding at the Endangered Primate Breeding Centre, as part of Accra Zoo and the Forested Enclosure at Kumasi Zoo. 3. Education & Research - engage, inspire and empower people through the zoos, outreach programmes and community based projects and 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 include; Noé, Research and Actions for the Safeguard of Primates in Côte d'Ivoire (RASAP-CI), the University of Chester 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 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*).

What are our focal species?

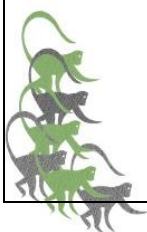
- Miss Waldron's Red Colobus (*Procolobus badius waldroni*)
Status: *Critically Endangered*
- Roloway Monkey (*Cercopithecus Roloway*)
Status: *Critically Endangered*
- White-naped Mangabey, (*Cercocebus lunulatus*)
Status: *Endangered*
- White thighed black and white Colobus (*Colobus vellerosus*)
Status: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



West African primate illustrations by
artist Stephen D. Nash

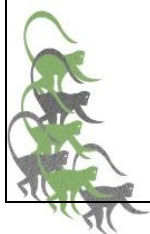


What are the threats?

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, causing 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 very grateful to:

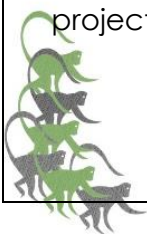
- **Zoo Heidelberg**
- **Zoo de Mulhouse**
- **Parc Zoològic de Barcelona**
- **Dublin Zoo**
- **Zoo Landau**
- **Allwetterzoo Münster**
- **Zoologische Gesellschaft für
Arten-und Populationsschutz
(ZGAP)**
- **Zoo La Palmyre**
- **La Vallée des Singes, Romagne**
- **Rotterdam Zoo**
- **Zoo Bojnice**
- **Twycross Zoo**
- **Zoo Duisburg**
- **GaiaZoo**
- **Tierpark Berlin**
- **Fundacion Bioparc**
- **Ouwehands Rhenen**
- **Zoo Kosice**
- **Zoological Society of London**



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 Leipzig this year where the Programme Manager would be more than happy to discuss the project and funding options.



2019 ACTIVITIES REPORT

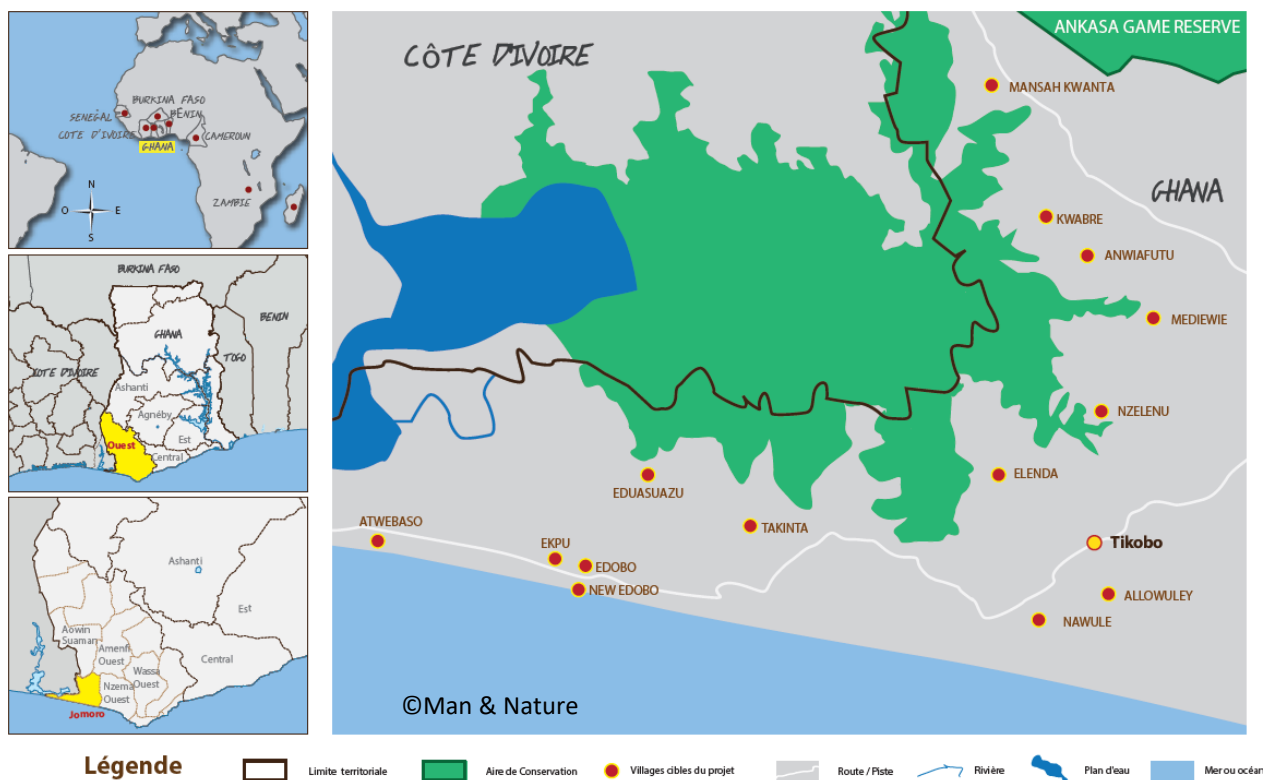
WAPCA IN ACTION CREATING VIABLE LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

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*), Geoffrey's 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) a body of elected community representatives, legally allows the communities to manage their natural resources and protect the Kwabre from destruction.



WAPCA, in partnership with the 18 communities which make up the Ankasa-Tano CREMA, 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, Sofi Tucker Foundation and IUCN PPI programme, 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 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 organic cocoa and organic coconut oil.



1. Community Resource Management Area

The CREMA is made of up two elected bodies, the Community Resource Management Committees which each community democratically creates and the Community Executive Committee which has elected representatives of the different CRMCs and oversees all CRMCs and the CREMA as a whole. This year elections for Community Resource Management Committees (CRMC) were held for the newly added communities namely New Ankasa, Kablasuazo and Edobo. The newly elected executives were taken through series of trainings for them to understand the CREMA concept, the CREMA constitution and the roles and responsibilities of the executives. After the trainings, the new CRMC executives were introduced the CREMA Executive Committee (CEC).

A key development towards sustainability for the CREMA this year was the CREMA Executive Committee together with the private sector Savannah Fruits Company participating in a Conservation Agreement. The objective of the Agreement, based on a template devised by Conservation International, is to provide a framework to foster the relationship between the parties involved in the implementation of conservation and economic development activities in the Ankasa-Tano CREMA, and the fulfilment of commitments undertaken by the parties involved.

The Agreement formalises the contribution the private sector, in this case, Savannah Fruits Company, will make to the Ankasa-Tano CREMA conservation actions. The signing of the document binds SFC to contribute a percentage of the profit made by the company from the coconuts provided by the CREMA farmers to a Conservation Fund. After the drafting of the Agreement, there were series of meetings held with the CREMA executives and the community people to explain and educate them on the Agreement. Further explanation was made on the sanctions that are in place if compliance is not met by all parties.



Community Meeting

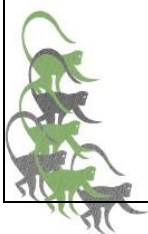
2. Community Rainforest Protection Teams

This year, 2019, has seen a total of 872 weekly patrols by the CRMT resulting in 14 arrests and ten chainsaw and 100 boards of lumber confiscated. Joint patrols, when WAPCA and Wildlife Division join the weekly patrols, have totalled 128, resulting in 23 arrests and 12 chainsaw, 855 boards of lumber, two bundles of firewood, two motorbikes and 500 motor poles confiscated.

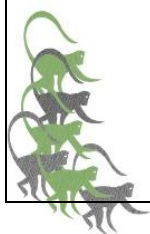
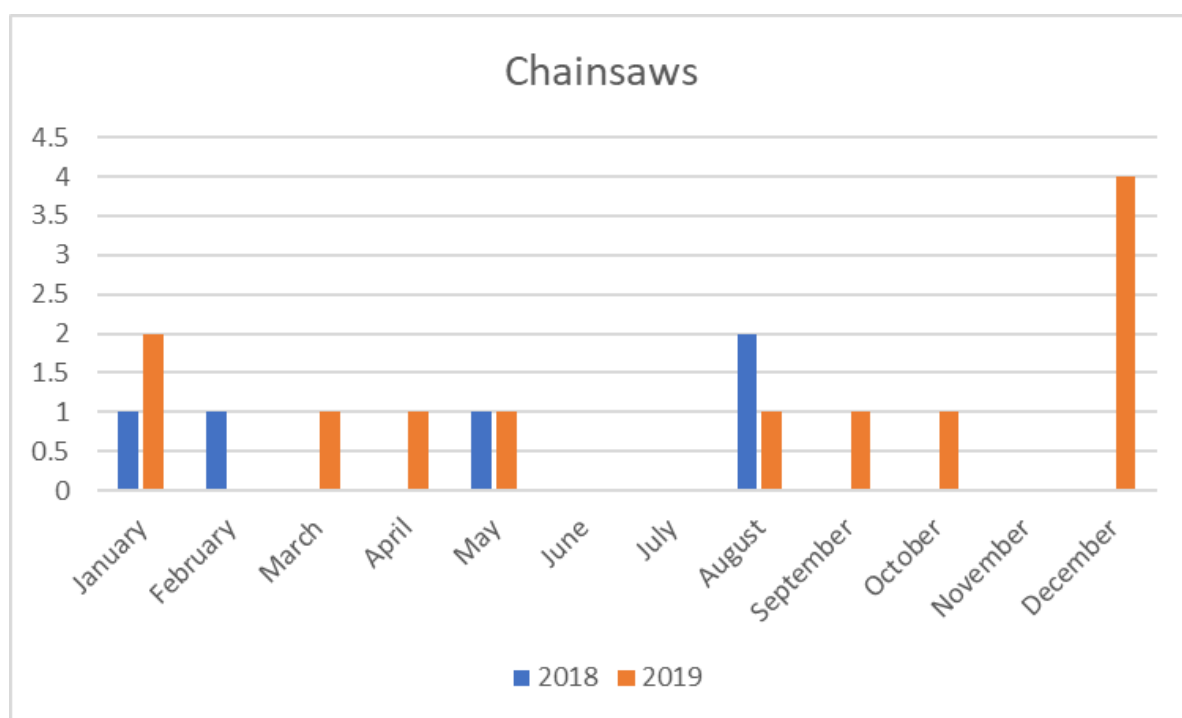
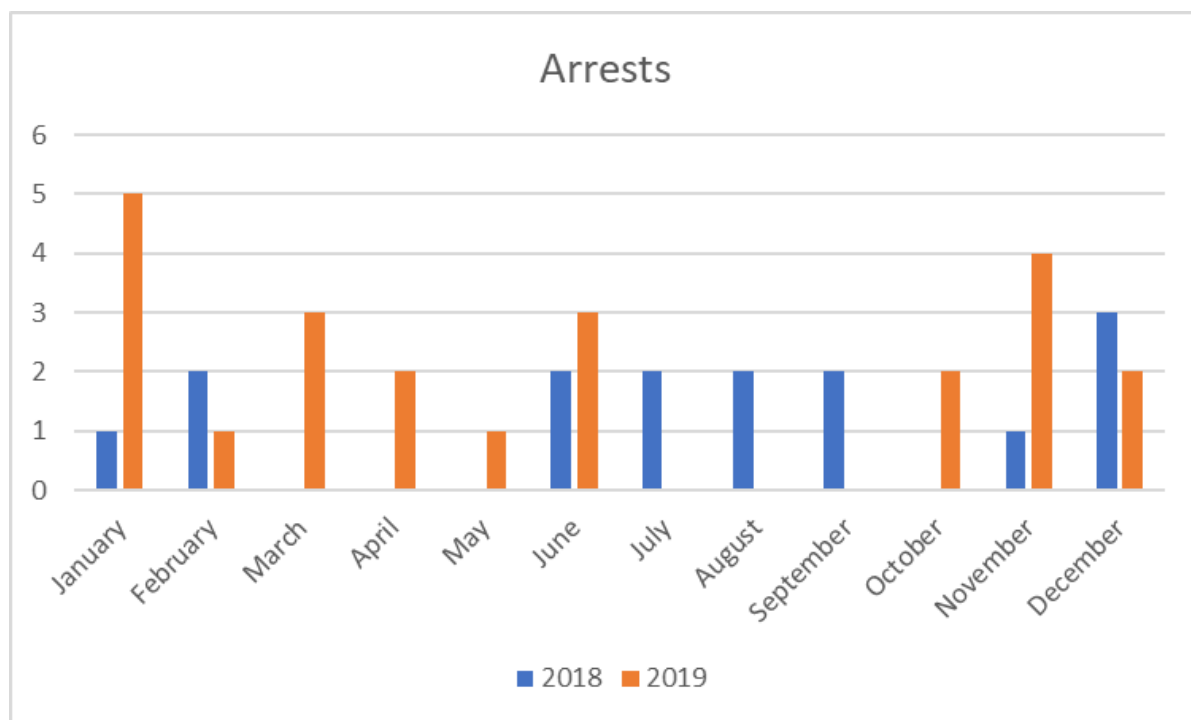
Weekly Patrols		Arrests	Confiscations
January	72	11	9 chainsaws, 100 boards
February	72		
March	72		
April	72		
May	72		
June	72		
July	72		
August	72		
September	72		
October	72	3	1 Chainsaw
November	80		
December	72		
Total	872	14	10 chainsaw, 100 boards
Joint patrols		Arrests	Confiscations
January	14	5	2 Chainsaws
February	13	1	60 boards
March	15	3	1 Chainsaw, 150 boards, 2 motorbikes
April	11	2	1 Chainsaw, 100 boards
May	15	1	1 Chainsaw, 500 mortars (fufu stick)
June	9	3	230 boards
July	12	0	0
August	7		1 Chainsaw
September	11		1 Chainsaw
October	7	2	1 Chainsaw, firewood
November	7	4	350 boards
December	7	2	4 chainsaws, 100 boards
Total	128	23	12 chainsaws, 855 boards, 2 firewood, 2 motorbikes, 500 motors

The patrols, through the use of Cybertracker have also been collecting biodiversity data and in the 12 months have seen 754 primates, mostly in mixed groups and including the white-naped mangabey and the rolaway guenon.

Simple Patrols		Primates Observed
January	72	136
February	72	
March	72	
April	72	
May	72	
June	72	
July	72	
August	72	
September	72	131
October	72	104
November	80	122
December	72	
Total	872	493
Joint patrols		Primates Observed
January	14	60
February	13	
March	15	
April	11	
May	15	
June	9	
July	12	20
August	7	
September	11	76
October	7	61
November	7	44
December	7	
Total	128	261



Comparing data from 2018 and 2019, in particular looking at the joint patrols, WAPCA has been consistent in number 51 in 2019, 47 in 2018. The data clearly demonstrates a shift in patrol impact in 2019, becoming more proactive and consequence driven with more chainsaw confiscations (12 v 5) and arrests (23 v 15) and less lumber (2666 v 990).



3. Reforestation &

4. Sustainable Community-managed Agro-forestry Plantations

The reforestation project aims at creating a buffer zone for the forest and also replanting degraded areas in the core zone of the forest. The project also aimed at encouraging agroforestry. In all nearly twenty thousand seedlings were planted in the year 2019. Eleven thousand, five hundred seedlings were distributed to farmers to plant on their farms. Seven thousand, five hundred were planted in the buffer zone of the forest but only two hundred planted in the core zone of the forest due to extreme high rain fall, making the area too water logged to plant in, likewise trees planted in the buffer zone died and had to be replaced.



Tree saplings ready to plant

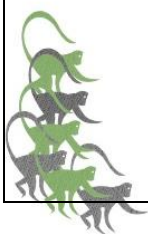
5. Transborder Collaboration with Côte d'Ivoire

Two meetings were held in the year 2019 to draft a management plan and to also discuss joint patrol activities to halt illegal activities on both sides. Other issues discussed were benefit sharing. Both sides wanted to know how benefits from confiscated lumber and chainsaws would be shared and which laws would be applied when illegal offenders are apprehended. The decisions made at the meetings were not conclusive so another meeting has been scheduled in the year 2020 to bring finality to this issue. Present at both meetings were representatives from the government forestry departments from both countries.

Unfortunately patrol activities during this reporting period were low. This was due to the continuous rainfall and high levels of water in the forest. There were a lot of local border patrols to check illegal transport of lumber from the Ivorian side to Ghana.



Transboundary Meeting



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



Since 2017 WAPCA has been working in partnership with French NGO Man & Nature, which this year merged with 'Noé' both well versed in developing sustainable livelihoods and green value chains. The overall aim of this component is three-fold 1) to create an holistic approach to conservation whereby we recognise not only the conservation needs of the primates but the socio-economic 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: To implement this GVC, WAPCA is working with private sector company Savannah Fruits Company (SFC), who already produce organic coconut oil in their processing centre near our project area. In the year under review, all the farmer groups have been formed. All the certification trainings and processes have been completed. Savannah Fruits Company has started buying coconut from the certified farmers. SFC has also begun paying organic premium to the certified farmers. In the previous year, the CREMA acquired a land for the construction of a CREMA coconut oil processing centre. The construction of the centre is almost complete and the process for registering and training of women within the communities to process the oil has begun. When the new processing centre starts its operation, it is going to create employment in the communities thereby improving the local economy. This will also help reduce the pressure on the forest.



Processing Centre

Organic Cocoa Green Value Chain: Yayra Glover, the private sector company working with the CREMA on the organic cocoa green value chain, has this year registered 516 farmers from 13 communities encompassing a total of 400 farms covering on 2,497 acres.

A full time field officer has been appointed to work with and train the farmers to ensure that all the organic standards are being adhered to. In total 54 trainings and 3 demonstrations were conducted. The trainings and demonstrations were designed to address child labor issues, deforestation and good agronomic practices to promote the protection of flora and fauna in the designated organic enclave.

Since all the farms were conventional farms, using high levels of chemicals, it will take three years before the farms can be certified as organic however Yayra Glover has made it known that during the conversion period, the cocoa will be bought as "organic in conversion" which will be bought at a rate higher than the conventional cocoa.



Cocoa Farm

Meetings with the British High Commission have also been had, who are keen to support with us, developing UK-Ghana trade opportunities.

2019 ACTIVITIES REPORT

WAPCA IN ACTION CREATING VIABLE LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

EX-SITU CONSERVATION

By Exsitu Project Coordinator Foster Poasangma

New Coordinator! Introducing Foster.....

I had this passion of making a generational impact on society in various field of endeavours. During my employment with WAPCA, I feel this is the opportunity to embrace and accomplish my goal. WAPCA is impacting both human and non-humans positively and being part of this conservation team, I think my goal will be achieved. Also, WAPCA has a very inspiring and experienced team which I think will contribute a lot to professional growth. These are just a few reasons why I chose to work with WAPCA



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 17 mangabeys, in five 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.

BIRTHS!

The tidings of 2019 brought along an additional two cute baby mangabeys, Austin and Tommaso to mothers Accra and Ziggy respectively. Austin was welcomed in January and Tommaso in April. This came as great news to the entire management of WAPCA enjoying the breeding population increase.



Tommaso

NEW BLOOD LINE

Mid 2019, we received a baby male mangabey, handed over to WAPCA by a farmer, who found it on the ground in our project area within the western region of Ghana. It was sad seeing him so little most likely made an orphan from his biological parents. However, scientifically, his presence will have a significantly impact to the genetic variability of the populations held in zoos globally, when he becomes of age and breeds bringing a new blood line into the captive population. Yellow, named after the farmer, was quarantined for about two months after which he was successfully integrated into a resident group headed by Alpha male called Ape. Even though the acceptance rate from the group was low, he is now peacefully enjoying the company of Ape's family.



Yellow

WELFARE ALWAYS A PRIORITY

Beginning the year, a behavioural study was undertaken by a student from the University of Ghana on Annan's family to help us understand and mitigate the cause of abnormal behaviour of one female mangabey called Ivy within that group. The results of the study stipulated stress from Accra, a female in an opposite enclosure, as one of the causes of this abnormal behaviour. The study suggested we construct a visibility barrier between Ivy and Accra to help minimize the stress. This was done by using dry bamboo as a temporal structure while fresh bamboo seedlings planted which will grow and replace the dry ones over time.



Visual barrier

VOLUNTEERS

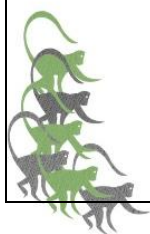
Within the year 2019, we were grateful to have received volunteers, both local and foreign nationals from Akwaaba Ghana and International Student Exchange Programme a student group from University of Ghana. It was a great opportunity working with these individuals as some came with a wide range of experiences from diverse fields which they did applied especially in the area of enrichment of the primates. We are most grateful for all their valuable contributions and we would like to say our doors are open to any individual willing to either volunteer or take an internship with us.

REFURBISHMENT CEREMONY

In 2018 we saw the EBPC undergo a full refurbishment, with enclosures being renovated in some cases increased in height. To mark this make over in 2019 we had a ceremony to engage with press, local companies, government and supporters. The ceremony was well attended and a speech was given by the Executive Director of Wildlife Division. The special event received good coverage in the local press and hopefully we will receive more visitors and support through this exposure



National papers reporting the refurbishment



2. Forested Enclosure

The Wildlife Division of the Ghana Forestry Commission maintains the Kumasi Zoo, located 5 hours North of Accra. In 2018 within the wall of Kumasi Zoo WAPCA built a 0.4ha Forested Enclosure. Housed in this enclosure is Nuba's breeding group. The group are part of a study to understand how captive primates adapt to a more natural environment, results from which can inform us on any reintroduction programme we might consider for the species.

At the very end of 2018, we welcomed two new arrivals at the Forested Enclosure – Jenson, born to Afua Marie and Kofi born to Sonja. It was great to see Sonja rear Kofi as her last offspring Nana had to be assisted reared, with Sonja rejecting the infant during the day.

Storms caused trouble at the Enclosure this year and numerous visits have to made to repair the fence line and the solar panel equipment. This caused to no risk to the monkeys held in the enclosure as they are closely monitored and not given access during high storms.



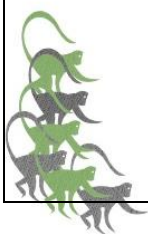
Fixing the fence



Jenson



Forested Enclosure, from the research tower



2019 ACTIVITIES REPORT

WAPCA IN ACTION CREATING VIABLE LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

WAPCA RESEACH & EDUCATION

by Research & Education Coordinator Núria Badiella

Conservation education is nowadays one of the global priorities as climate change is a threat to the whole world population, therefore raising awareness on how to maintain an equilibrium within our development and ecosystems is key for our and other species survival. WAPCA has put a lot of effort on the education this year and we have received a fantastic response from our participants within the CREMA communities in the Western Region, in the communities of Accra as well as Accra and Kumasi Zoo.

This year we celebrated the second edition of Mangabey Awareness Day in the Western Region, children and adults were expecting us on 1st August! My City My Forest project in Accra also kept us really busy as we had community workshops every other weekend, but still left some room to do a few educational talks at the Accra and Kumasi Zoos.

A team from Chester University also joined us this year to assess the impact of human activities into biodiversity in Ankasa, one of the Ghana empty, or almost empty, forests as a result of illegal activities ongoing. In Accra Zoo the student from the University of Ghana also finalized the research on the female showcasing abnormal behaviors with some good findings that will help us increase her welfare. We hope to increase our collaboration with the Ghanaian universities promoting primate and biodiversity conservation within the country.

Education

1. Mangabey Awareness Day 2019

After the successful event celebrated in 2018 together with the Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) communities, in 2019 WAPCA decided to continue celebrating this educational event with the communities we work with while being at the same time an acknowledgement for the wonderful work, they do to protect the primates' habitat.

White-naped mangabeys face serious threats in Ghana due to the rapidly decreasing habitat as a consequence of the increasing population and country development, therefore WAPCA finds primordial to raise awareness on this species found in Ghana and on the importance of a sustainable development where biodiversity and development can coexist.

This year, Mangabey Awareness Day followed a similar structure as the 2018 event, where a variety of activities for both adults and children took place during 31st July and 1st August. The Ellenda community received the WAPCA team on the event preparation days singing the Mangabey song "I have a best friend, his name is mangabey...".



Children with mangabey masks

The two-day event started with the March to save the mangabey, where all communities were invited to walk from Tikobo 1 up to Ellenda, being the second one the community who won the 2018 MAD Football Cup and was our host for this year's event. An amazing Brass-band accompanied the walk and made us dance while spreading our message "Save the mangabeys".



Marching Band



Community March

Afterwards all community teams played kick off matches to be classified to the semifinals on the next day. Our winner this year, and host of next year's event was Takinta!

And the community of Takinta well deserved the prize as they were also the winners of the Wildlife Quiz!



Winning football team

The first day of the event WAPCA Conservation Ambassador, Emmanuel Nvojo, did an introduction to the event explaining the reason for this celebration. Together with the Wildlife Division Community Liaison Officer, Jaward, who briefed us about the importance of Ghana's wildlife closed hunting season, which starts on 1st August and ends on 1st December each year. Which serves later on as a guide for the Wildlife Quiz. Mobile phones had to be temporarily confiscated as some of the quiz players did not know some of the answers and internet have them all!



Wildlife Quiz

Children at the same time learned how to sing and dance the Mangabey song, with help of their teachers who helped them understand its meaning. They also got very busy painting and creating their white-naped mangabey mask, to become a huge mangabey troop.

Another activity the kids remembered from last year was the Clean-up to fill the mangabey. When we got to Anyiuafutu on 1st August some of them were waiting for us with plastic bottles on their hands, as they knew we were going to do a community clean up to fill our copper mangabey! With WAPCA's megaphone we did a tour to the village to call all children to join us to clean the community. We were about 60 children forming two teams of 30. Each team got waste bin bags and gloves to collect as much garbage found in the community as possible. Team 2 was our winner and they were able to fill up to 36 copper mangabeys! Their prize were children's books donated by members of the Ghana International Expat community and will be of benefit to the whole community as they will be in the school library for easy access to all children.

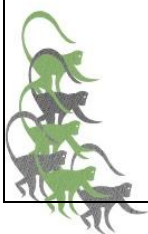


Children learning the mangabey song



L-R: Team 1; Team 2; children picking garbage around the community; Group 1 filling the mangabey; Presentation of the Award certificate to Group 2; and Sharing of the activity prize.

This year MAD saw an increase in participation from the CREMA communities, and WAPCA expects further increase as the event settles within the Jomoro District in the Western Region of Ghana. We are so please of the impact this event has among the participants and we hope to celebrate it for many years to raise awareness on the species and the importance to care for our environment, the primates' habitat.



2. My City My Forest

My City My Forest project started the end of last year with a workshop on "The importance of trees", but continued and had most of its activities this year with which the families participating got closer to nature and had a contribution towards biodiversity conservation.

Early in the year, WAPCA celebrated a Home recycling workshop in partnership with McKingtorch Creatives – an organization that reuses plastics to do artistic creations and useful products like dustbins, sandals, etc. They showed us how to reuse plastic bottles to do pencil cases, hand sanitizer containers, vertical gardens, and art through the use of plastic. It was an amazing workshop where the participants learn to create new things with already used plastic materials.



**Bottle used to
create a vertical
garden**



**Narhman community children showing their new
pencil cases**

The second activity this year was a visit to Accra Zoo and the WAPCA Endangered Primate Breeding Centre. Where we discussed the threats to the primates and biodiversity in general in Ghana, such as illegal hunting, uncontrolled agriculture, pollution, or illegal logging and mining. We also spoke about the importance of zoos and animal welfare in them, creating enrichment for the primates housed at the zoo. Finally, we had the opportunity to see many other species of animals going around the zoo. As part of the program evaluation, this day we also did a mid-program survey, to assess the participants connection to nature.



**Kweku, a white-naped mangabey
playing with the enrichment prepared by
My City My Forest participants**

After the zoo visit, the next activity was a Beach clean-up at the Omanyé beach, where every year La community celebrates its festival. Ghana lacks filters of its gutters, therefore many garbage thrown in them end up in the sea, and most of it is ejected by the same sea ending up on the beach. On this event, all participating communities met together and exchange their views about the activities already done. We engaged them in a competition to fill as much whale-shape bins as possible,

it was a hard work to do as there was so much waste. Nima was the winner as they were able to collect more garbage and faster than the other communities. The fishermen that usually work in that beach were glad of this initiative and about our bins' donation, which they will now use regularly to dispose of their garbage. In total we were able to fill 36 bins!



The top picture shows all communities after the beach clean-up, bottom left the participants hands on cleaning all the waste found on the beach and bottom right some of the garbage collected and the whale-shaped bins for assessing the winner.



Tree planting at La



Trees grown by Nima community while reminding them the importance of trees.

On the first workshop about the importance of trees we nursed 303 seeds, and the participants had to take care of them to later plant them in their community. Most of those trees unfortunately did not survive the year for many reasons, and the ones that survive were from the communities that kept all trees together and assigned a person to take care of them. The Tree planting event consisted in planting 10-20 trees in each community, making

a total of 65 trees planted. After planting the trees, we conducted the evaluation survey and our second drawing of the tree importance as another evaluation method.

Finally, WAPCA assessed the communities' engagement, participation, and results in all the activities done to decide the winner of My City My Forest competition. It was not an easy decision, as there was supposed to be only one winner and all communities did a tremendous effort to take part in all activities. Therefore, the final decision was to divide the prize between all four communities that participated according to their efforts done. The awards ceremony was celebrated at the Legon Botanical Gardens, where some enjoyed of a canopy walk, a canoe ride or a high rope course. The participants had the opportunity to appreciate a day out in nature. The winner was Nima, followed by a draw between Achimota and Nanhman and lastly La. The prize money is to invest in a sustainable project to be implemented by each community.



Participants of MCMF enjoying a canoe ride



L-R: Nima community when they knew they have won the first prize; Nima receiving their award for the efforts done.

3. Zoo

WAPCA also plays an important role in both Accra and Kumasi Zoo, where we educate visitors about the role of zoos in conservation and the particular importance of primate conservation.

This year we received a group of students from Ghana Educational Collaborative, a small NGO that works to empower brilliant students that cannot afford school. They wanted to learn more about biodiversity in Ghana and thought WAPCA's Endangered Primate Breeding Center (EPBC) to be a good project match for their students, so they spent a full day with us. We talked about the different types of non-human primates; apes and monkeys; learning as well the differences between old and new world monkeys. They had the opportunity to see the arrival of Yellow at the zoo as well, a perfect opportunity to talk about the pet trade; and went around the zoo to see all other animal species. After lunch we did an activity to discuss which five Sustainable Development Goals should improve in Ghana in order to protect biodiversity. The five finalist Goals were #1 No poverty #2 Zero hunger #4 Quality education #11 Sustainable cities and communities #16 Peace, justice and strong institutions.



Participants from GEC

The Animal Biology and Conservation Science students from the University of Ghana also came to visit the WAPCA EPBC and Accra Zoo to gain a better understanding on an example of ex-situ conservation project. WAPCA was delighted to discuss the insights of housing a captive population of Endangered white-naped mangabeys (*Cercocebus lunulatus*) with the students. They now understand the importance of well-housed animals and animal welfare in captive environments, the importance of the genetic diversity within the captive population, and how ex-situ conservation strategies are always dependant on the conservation status of the particular species.



Animal Biology and Conservation Science students



On 8th May, WAPCA joined Kumasi Zoological Gardens to celebrate Earth Day. Three schools from the city were invited to learn about elephants, and lions. In groups, the children visited the animals' enclosures where they learnt about the animal's behavior, the threats they face and how to protect them. It was a perfect occasion to show the WAPCA Forested Enclosure to a few personalities that were invited to the event. At the end all the attendees compromised to the pledge for wildlife by signing on the board.

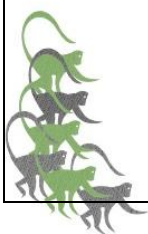
Children signing on the board "We pledge to protect endangered wildlife species"



The endangered primate enclosures at the EPBC have also got its signage renewed so that people can learn about the primates' diet, lifespan, habitat, and their conservation status. An important step to contribute towards the education of visitors.



New Species Signs



WAPCA RESEARCH GROUP

The WAPCA Research Group (WRG) is a collaboration group of local and international universities working cohesively to improve our knowledge of the primate landscape in Ghana, evaluate conservation action and to provide international welfare standards to our captive sites. This year WRG received Emma Morris, from the University of Chester, who conducted "An investigation into human impacts on biodiversity within the Ankasa conservation area, Ghana". The last survey in Ankasa was conducted in 2008 by Sylvain Gatti, and since then there is no more records on the biodiversity within the Ankasa area. This study will help us understand the forest evolution through the 10-year period as well as analyse the human activities happening in the park. The research team was formed by Emma (principal researcher), Guilhem (research assistant), Amankwah (forest guard of Wildlife Division), the camp guard and cook, Kofi.



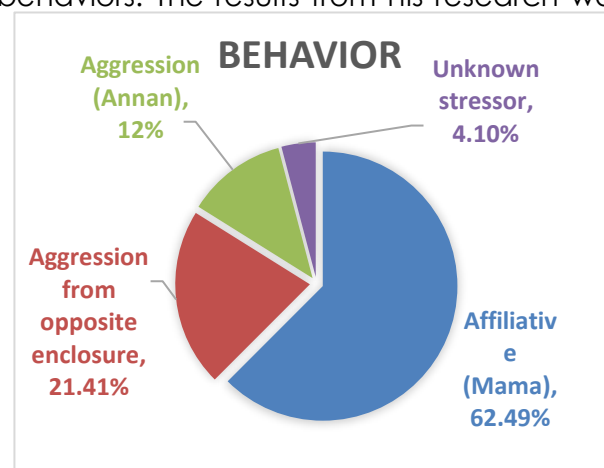
Chester University Field Team

They spent three months in the forest, camping in already existing camp sites. They used camera traps and line transects to survey the biodiversity. Unfortunately, they could only see/hear a few primates in the area, and no white-naped mangabeys or Roloway monkey. But the cameras captured some other species like the endangered pangolin, a red river hog, and a bongo.



Camera traps catch a bongo and a pangolin

Last year, we welcomed Chisom Akam, a student from Animal Biology and Conservation Science from the University of Ghana, to undertake a behavioral research on a white-naped mangabey female named Ivy, who is showcasing abnormal behaviors. The results from his research were quite interesting as the main stressor of Ivy's abnormal behavior looks to be her daughter, Mama, together with the female from the opposite enclosure. For that reason, it was recommended to build a visual barrier between both primate enclosures, to reduce the pressure on Ivy. Since the barrier is now finalized, WAPCA Research Group is now looking for another Ghanaian student interested in animal behavior to assess whether the signs of stress on the female mangabey have reduced.



Behaviours preceding an abnormal behaviour of the adult female white-naped mangabey

IN OTHER WAPCA NEWS.....

Conferences



The WAPCA team were lucky enough to attend and present at a number of conferences this year. Programme Manager gave a presentation on WAPCA at the Old-World Monkey Workshop hosted by GaiaZOO, while Research & Education Coordinator Nuria Badiella travelled to Sweden to present her My City, My Forest at the EAZA Education Conference. Closer to home David Osei attended the African Primatological Society Congress in Uganda and the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) across the border in Cote d'Ivoire where he was asked to be a discussion panellist.

Nuria and her My City, My Forest poster

WAPCA Europe Board Chairman Visit



Ghana Board with Dr Wuenneemann

WAPCA was delighted to be visited by the European Board Chairman, Dr Klaus Wuenneemann. Dr Wuenneemann during his trip to Ghana joined the Ghana Board for their meeting, as well as travel to Kumasi Zoo to see the Forested Enclosure and out to the Western Region to meet with the CREMA and speak with the community members about the project work. It was a busy week but very fruitful visit.

Old World Monkey Regional Collection Plan & A New Appointment

WAPCA participated in the development of the EAZA Old World Monkey Regional Collection Plan (RCP). The Plan examines all the Old-World Monkeys held in European Zoos and identifies the roles these species play such as in-situ partnerships, reserve population, education or research. Those that do not have a role, and have a stable wild population are marked to be phased out. This ensures that the species held in European Zoos have a clear function and that we can work towards a One Plan Approach whereby in-situ and ex-situ activities are interlinked. During this workshop, the Programme Manager was appointed Vice-Chair of the Old-World Monkey Taxon Advisory Group, which she was delighted to accept.

Cercocebus and Mandrillus Action Plan

WAPCA together with Bristol Zoological Society and the University of West England are spearheading an Action Plan for *Cercocebus* and *Mandrillus*. The plan will draw conservation attention to this least known group of primates referred to collectively as 'Mangadrills' who are threatened with extinction. This year WAPCA and the Wildlife Division hosted a group of Mangadrill experts from across the world to start formatting and drafting this Action Plan. It is hoped that the plan will be published in 2020.



Action Plan meeting in Ghana

Publications

This year has seen three publications which WAPCA has been credited as co-author:

[Mangadrill Conservation Action Plan: A Strategy for the Survival of *Cercocebus* and *Mandrillus*.](#)

In African Primates. Vol 13. Pg66-67

[Roloway Monkey, *Cercopithecus roloway*](#) in Primates in Peril: The World's 25 Most Endangered Primates 2018–2020. Pg 28.

[Camera Traps Confirm the Presence of the White-naped Mangabey](#)

[*Cercocebus lunulatus* in Cape Three Points Forest Reserve, Western Ghana](#) in Primate Conservation Vol 33. Pg 37-41

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 2019. 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. M^aTeresa Abelló Poveda -Vice Chairman 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
 Maria Alfonso Josep – 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:

Chairman: Mr David Nuku Tettey

Board Members:

Mrs Vivian Nuhu	Professor Erasmus Owusu
Dr Richard Suu-Ire	Mr Stephen Tamanja
Dr Selorm Tettey	Dr Edward Wiafe
Dr Meyir Ziekah	Mrs Chaachele Ponu

Secretary: Andrea Dempsey

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.



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FOUNDATION



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