

# WEST AFRICAN PRIMATE CONSERVATION ACTION



## 2018 Annual Report

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Cover Photos: Shelia Smith



### Update from the WAPCA-Ghana Country Coordinator

2018 has been an exciting year for WAPCA with significant advancements in all our conservation areas, in-situ and ex-situ. Thank you to all our Members and Donors who have made this possible, and our Board of Directors and followers for all their support. I would like to welcome new member Tierpark Berlin, who joined us this year.

I am delighted to announce that this year, after many years of planning, our Forested Enclosure was completed and our group of eight white-naped mangabeys were given access for the first time to their new 0.4ha natural habitat. It was truly wonderful to see the animals explore this new space, climbing high in the canopy as well as foraging on the forest floor.

At the Endangered Primate Breeding Centre we saw the refurbishment of the original enclosures built ten years ago however due to the energetic nature of the monkeys and the harsh African sun had deteriorated. The refurbishment not only saw completely new mesh, new slides and furniture but also increased the height by four foot. Thank you to all those that donated through the Go Fund Me Campaign which we ran, the Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation Primate Action Fund and Woburn Safari Park in the UK who raised money through a primate themed weekend at the Park.

Our in-situ work has continued to develop and we have now engaged with two private sector companies with our project communities to implement sustainable livelihoods and develop green value chains in organic cocoa and organic coconut oil. This is a significant step towards our goal of holistic and long-term conservation whereby the needs of the communities are recognised as well as those of the flora and fauna. Our collaboration with French NGO Man & Nature has been instrumental in progressing these activities as well as securing further funding.

Education and research has been an area that WAPCA has wanted to develop for some time and so was very excited this year to appoint Nuria Badiella as our new Education & Research Coordinator, thanks to support from Barcelona Zoo. Nuria wasted no time in her new position and secured a grant from WAZA Nature to implement her "My City, My Forest" community education project. Nuria will be coordinating the WAPCA Research Group, which this year saw students from Chester University comprehensively survey Cape Three Point Reserve and were thrilled to capture white-naped mangabeys on their camera traps, confirming their presence in the reserve.

It is important to WAPCA to share our work and learn from others, therefore WAPCA this year presented its work at the Community, Conservation and Livelihoods Conference run by the Community Conservation Resource Network. WAPCA has also taken a leading role along with colleagues at Bristol Zoo in the development of an IUCN *Cercocebus/Mandrillus* Action Plan, collaborating with primatologists and conservationists across the globe to concentrate our conservation actions for maximum effect.

Read on for more information on all activities in 2018, we hope this report interests you and we continue to enjoy your support throughout 2019.

Best Wishes for 2019

*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; Noe's Man & Nature, 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

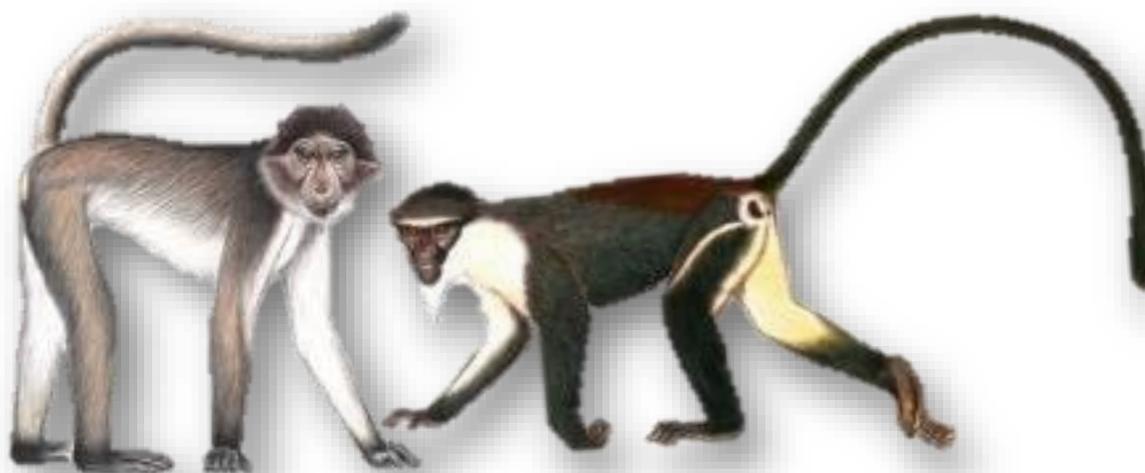
duiker (*Cephalophus zebra*), royal antelope (*Neotragus pygmaeus*), Liberian mongoose (*Liberiictis kuhni*), Dephwa mouse (*Dephomys eburnea*), white-throated shrew (*Crocidura wimmeri*) and the Togo mouse (*Leimacomys buettneri*).

## What are our focal species?

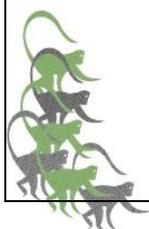
- Miss Waldron's Red Colobus (*Procolobus badius waldroni*)  
Status: *Critically Endangered*
- Roloway Monkey (*Cercopithecus Roloway*)  
Status: *Critically Endangered*
- White-naped Mangabey, (*Cercocebus lunulatus*)  
Status: *Endangered*
- White thighed black and white Colobus (*Colobus vellerosus*)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



Within the eastern region of the Upper Guinean rainforest (extending from central Côte d'Ivoire to Ghana) resides a distinct community of primates, endemic to the area, including the *Critically Endangered* (possibly extinct) Miss Waldron's red colobus (*Procolobus badius waldroni*) the *Critically Endangered* Roloway monkey (*Cercopithecus roloway*) and the *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 Critically Endangered primate illustrations by artist Stephen D. Nash**

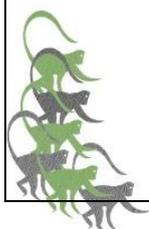


## What are the threats?

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, 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:

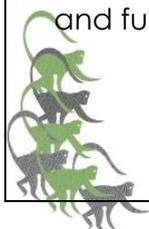
- **Zoo Heidelberg**
- **Zoo de Mulhouse**
- **Parc Zoològic de Barcelona**
- **Dublin Zoo**
- **Zoo Landau**
- **Allwetterzoo Münster**
- **Zoologische Gesellschaft für Arten-und Populationsschutz (ZGAP)**
- **Zoo La Palmyre**
- **La Vallée des Singes, Romagne**
- **Zoological Society of London**
-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



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](mailto:Sandra.Reichler@Heidelberg.de)**

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



# 2018 ACTIVITIES REPORT

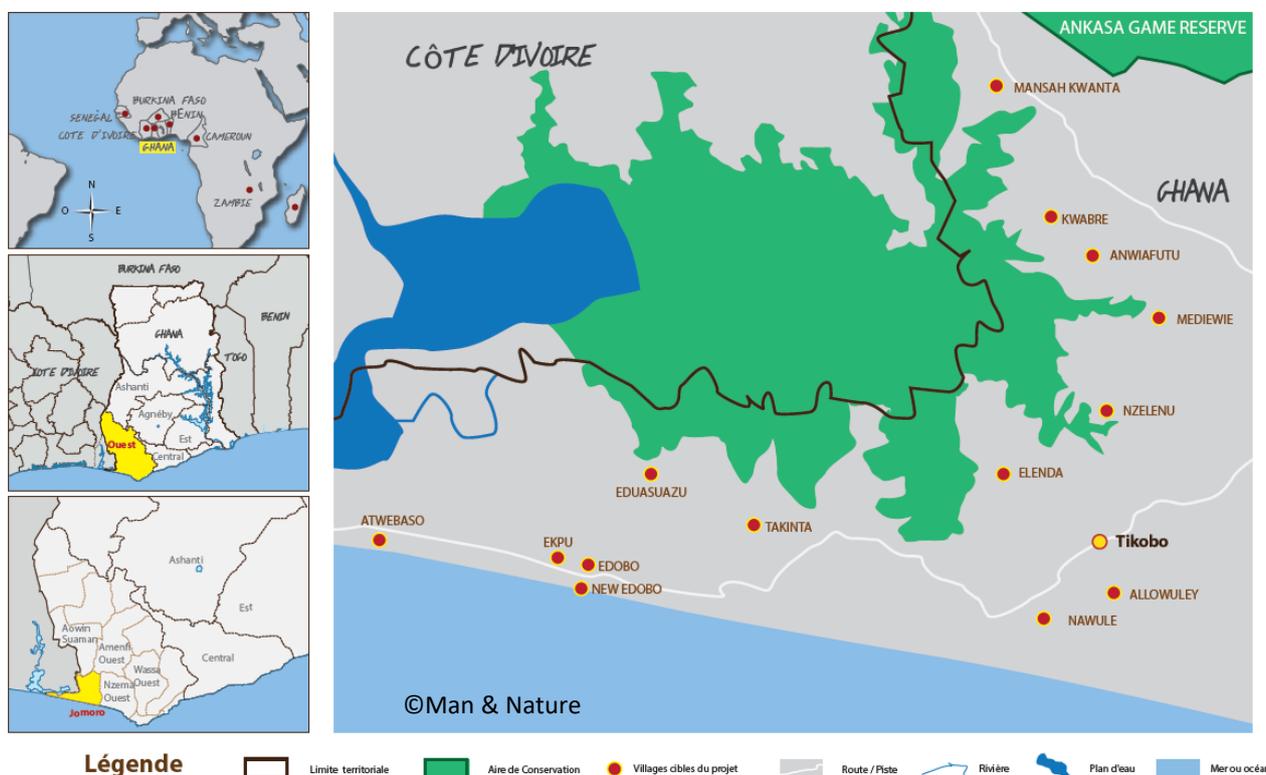
## WAPCA IN ACTION CREATING VIABLE LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

### TRANS-BORDER COMMUNITY-MANAGED RAINFOREST PROJECT

by Field Coordinator David Osei

#### Protecting the Last Remaining 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) which legally allows the communities to manage their natural resources and protect the Kwabre from destruction.



WAPCA, in partnership with the 14 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 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*

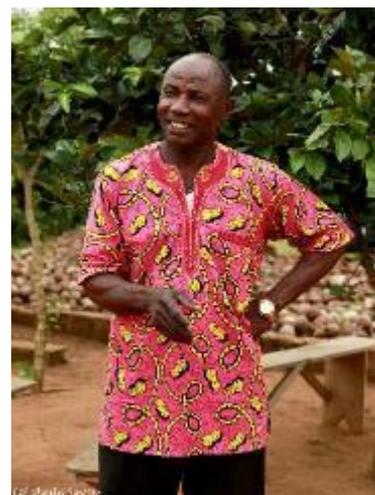
- 1) Protect and enhance 2,500 hectares of community-owned virgin rainforest through the transformation of the Kwabre Rainforest into a federated Community Resource Management Area (CREMA)
- 2) Reduce illegal activities in the rainforest through the training and implementation of community patrols,
- 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



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 now 18 communities. The large number of communities in the CREMA made the running of the CREMA a bit difficult. It was also difficult for the executives to attend meetings due to the high cost of transport fares and proximity to the meeting

community. It was therefore agreed at a CREMA Executive Committee (CEC) meeting that the CREMA be split into two sub CECs creating a North Sub CEC and a South Sub CEC. It was believed that the creation of the Sub CECs would encourage members and executives to attend meetings regularly and thereby making the CREMA work more effectively. In the last quarter of the year 2018, elections were held for all the executives in the CREMA which included the CEC, Sub CEC and the various CRMCs. The newly elected executives were sworn into office. It is good to note that the



*CREMA Chairman*

incumbent chairman maintained his position due to his hard work and contribution to make the CREMA stand out amongst various CREMAs in the District.

The voting is conducted with transparency and due diligence, adjudicated by the WAPCA and the Wildlife Division.



***Voting for the sub-CEC members***

## **2. Community Rainforest Protection Teams**

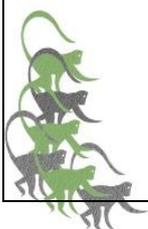
The Community Rainforest Protection Teams have been instrumental in clamping down on the illegal activities in the Ankasa Tano forest. In the year under review, the monitoring team conducted over 120 patrols. During the patrols a total of seven chainsaw machines have been confiscated and over six hundred boards were also confiscated. Four canoes were also confiscated. The confiscated chainsaws and boards were handed over to the CREMA chairman. Most of the boards confiscated came from across the Tano River into Ivory Coast. The illegal activities in the Ankasa Tano forest have reduced immensely. The patrols have been very effective. There are however few challenges, in some communities the illegal offenders who are related to the chiefs threaten the patrol team members thereby making them afraid to report them or to confiscate lumbers and chainsaws from them.



One training and capacity building exercise was organized for the CMTs in November 2018, thanks to funding from Tulsa Zoo and Idea Wild. This exercise was to train the CMTs on the use of the Cyber Tracker software. Cybertracker is a freely downloadable award winning software for indigenous communities to track wildlife. Mobile phones with the Cyber Tracker software downloaded were given to the CMTs to help take accurate data and to monitor and evaluate the work being done by the CMTs.



***CMT in uniform***



### 3. Reforestation &

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

In 2018, a total of about 30,000 seedlings were raised in 8 nurseries in 8 communities. The seedlings are to be used for creating buffer zones for the forest, agroforestry, community plantations and also replanting degraded areas in the core zone of the forest. In 2018, a total of 500 seedlings were given to interested farmers for agroforestry purposes. There were delays in planting in the core zone of the forest and planting in the buffer zone due to unusual high levels of water in the forest and at the boundary. However once the water level had reduced 2000 seedling were planted in the buffer zone by the end of the year 2018. Buffer zone tree planting will continue in the first week of January 2019 in areas where the water levels have gone down.



*Working in the buffer zone*

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

Three Transborder meetings were held in the 2018. These meetings were to establish a steering committee and to draft an MOU for the Transborder project between Ghana and the Ivory Coast. All the stake holders were present at the meetings, which included Government representatives from Ghana and the Ivory Coast, representatives from the community organisations - the CREMA and the FETIRE from the Ivory Coast, facilitating NGOs (WAPCA and RASAP CI) and a representative from Man and Nature the funding agency. By the close of the year 2018, the steering committee had been duly constituted and the first draft of the MOU completed and presented to the Facilitators and Donors.



*Transboundary Meeting  
in Cote d'Ivoire*

Three Transborder patrols were conducted by the end of the year 2018. The patrols led to the confiscation of about 300 boards and five chainsaws. Most of the lumber confiscated came from across the Tano River in Ivory Coast. The Patrols involved representatives from Wildlife Division of Ghana, a representative from the Forestry department of Ivory Coast, Community monitoring team members from both CREMA and FETIRE and also a representative from WAPCA. The CREMA team also helped to conduct conservation education and elections in Astymenu and Alangonou all in the Ivory Coast.

## 6. Develop sustainable livelihoods and promote green value chains in organic cocoa and organic coconut oil in partnership with Man & Nature

Since 2017 WAPCA has been working in partnership with French NGO Man & Nature, who are 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. As no chemicals are used in the growing of coconut trees we were able to train and certify the farmers within the year. Contracts were signed between SFC and the farmer groups and by the end of 2018 saw the farmers supply organic coconuts to the SFC processing centre at a premium rate.

In addition to the organic certification we are also working to obtain a Fair For Life certification which would mean the communities would receive a Development Fund to support community projects such boreholes, toilet blocks and so on. In order to manage this fund the establishment of a Coconut Development Committee has been initiated and a steering committee has been put in place to draft a constitution for the Committee.

It has also been agreed that SFC will pay extra for every coconut received which will contribute to a Conservation Fund which will support activities such as patrolling and reforestation activities which WAPCA currently fund.

In 2019 it is planned that the CREMA will have its own processing centres so far in this venture land at Ellenda has been secured for the construction of the first processor unit.



*Women at the processing centre*

**Organic Cocoa Green Value Chain:** A feasibility study for establishing organic cocoa farms was completed during 2018, as part of the study interested farmers were registered. Private sector company Yayra Glover, the same company which conducted the feasibility study, was selected to continue with the organic cocoa green value chain. Cocoa farms in our project area have historically used chemicals to improve their yield, due to this common practice certification takes three years to obtain. Over the three years constant monitoring and auditing both internally and externally is carried out by trained staff. To ensure compliance of the three years an extension officer is trained and placed permanently in the project area, at the end of 2018 this officer was in place. Once certified the farmers will receive a premium for their organic cocoa and it is hoped that in 2019 we can agree with Yayra Glover not only to pay a conversion premium to the farmers until they become organic but also contribute to the Conservation Fund.



# 2018 ACTIVITIES REPORT

## WAPCA IN ACTION CREATING VIABLE LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

### EX-SITU CONSERVATION

#### 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 14 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.

#### NEW ENCLOSURE – NEW GROUP



At the beginning of the year we saw the completion of a new enclosure at the far end of the Centre and which soon had its new tenants – female Chaachele and unrelated male Kweku who were born at the Centre and female Ziggy who came to us from ZSL London Zoo. In order to form this group the WAPCA staff and Accra Zoo Keepers had to learn different techniques to move animals however were particularly proud of their achievements with Kweku who they successfully box trained. The group were introduced to one another slowly and with close observation from the animal team, but they showed no objection to one another and were soon found grooming and eating together.

*Chaachele & Ziggy in their new home*

#### WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS



Sadly this year we said goodbye to long term resident at the Centre – Sweetpea, the female Roloway monkey. Sweetpea came to the Centre around 2006, when she was confiscated from a hunter. She was paired with Slim and then Fergus but sadly never breed. Sweetpea enjoyed the attention of the keepers and will certainly be missed by them.

We also unexpectedly lost a baby mangabey at only a few months of age. Born to Accra and Ape, both highly experienced parents, it was a shock to all and even though only in our care for a short while the team were very saddened by the loss.

*Sweetpea*

The Centre saw three new arrivals in 2018, firstly we received an approximately three year old mangabey male who was confiscated from a community in the Western Region and bought to the Centre. He was soon named Kwame and although nervous of his surroundings to begin with soon settled into his enclosure next to Ape's group. Although it is incredibly heart breaking to receive confiscated animals, knowing that they have been taken from their natural habitat and most likely had family members killed for, Kwame provides a new bloodline to the captive population and his participation in the captive breeding programme when old enough will have a huge impact in the longevity of the species.



*Ivy & Mama*

The two newly formed breeding groups spared no time and in mid-2018 Ivy from Landau in 2017 gave birth to a female. Despite being first time parents, they have had no problems in the rearing of the offspring. The end of 2018 saw the second new group equally deliver, with a baby girl to Chaachele. Chaachele and Kweku are both first time parents but coming from large breeding families themselves were well able to care for the arrival. Ziggy looked on in interest, and we hope she soon will be next.

### **LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!**



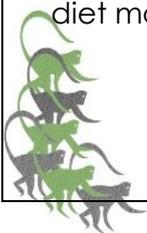
*George filming the confiscation*

WAPCA this year was visited by film maker George Pretty. George is currently studying at the British TV & Film School with a particular interest in wildlife documentary. George came to Ghana to make a film about the Atewa Reserve but was happy to spend some time with us at the Centre collecting footage for a short WAPCA film. During George's time with us he was able to capture the threats that face the primates here in Ghana and joined the Rapid Response Team as they confiscated a patas monkey being sold at the side of the road. George also visited our Forested Enclosure in Kumasi and went with our field team to survey the Atewa Reserve which is currently under threat from bauxite mining.

### **WELFARE IMPROVEMENTS**

With the ever increasing population of monkeys at the Centre it is important to monitor their food intake and quality therefore over a period of time we evaluated the diets, quantity and quality. The assessment showed that on occasion there was not enough food and/or variety for the primates. WAPCA and the Zoo Manager agreed that WAPCA would support food supply as part of their budget and that the food storage arrangement needed to change as the current container not only was too hot, spoiling the food but not rodent proof – compounding the already existing shortage!

A few adjustments to a pre-existing concrete building was made and a new food storage was created, with a small increase of supply the primates began receiving a varied and proportioned diet morning and night.



## **MAKE OVER FOR THE CENTRE**

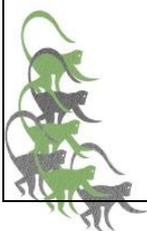
Due to harsh African sun and the energetic nature of the monkeys the original EPBC enclosures needed attention, so it was decided to launch a fundraising campaign to refurbish the enclosures and increase the height by four foot. WAPCA set up a Go Fund Me Campaign and soon generous donors began making pledges towards the target. All those that donated were given the chance to name Ivy's new baby. Everybody was allocated a number, each number was written on a monkey nut and put into a bucket. The bucket was handed to Ape who picked the winning monkey nut! The lucky winner was Leslie McIlroy. Leslie asked the WAPCA staff to suggest a name each, from the list given she chose Mama named after a beloved mangabey who passed away in 2009, but contributed greatly to the captive population having five healthy boys.

The fundraising was given a gigantic helping hand by Woburn Safari Park, who held a fundraising weekend for us, local company BM Construction and the Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation Primate Action Fund. Full list of supporters are at the end of the Report.

Thank you to everyone that contributed, the enclosures look fantastic and the mangabeys are enjoying sitting much higher looking out across the Achimota Forest.



*Before, Middle & End*



## 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 and the release of a group of eight white-naped mangabeys.

The year began with the newly arrived group from Accra settling into their new enclosure and the keepers spending time with them and reinforcing the whistle recall training, which was started in Accra.



While new friends were being made the last elements of the enclosure construction was being completed, namely the installation of the solar panel system. The system worked on two separate lines of power, therefore if one panel stopped working the fence would still be electrified equally earthed wires were also installed so that it did not require the monkey to have its feet on floor to receive a shock.

Once completed training was conducted with the staff on how to check the electric fence, monitor the solar panel system and maintain the perimeter of the enclosure. We also constructed two observation towers for researchers and staff.



*Solar panel, testing the fence & the observation tower*

After all the final checks were made and all were happy the big moment came and we were able to open the slides and allow the group to access their new home. We had taken a lot of advice from the Species Coordinator to ensure that we did not scare the group and risk them not wanting to ever go out so the process was a very calm and slow one however after a short while it was the oldest female Sonja that made the first tentative steps out, followed by her newest offspring Nana, who was fully integrated after being semi-hand reared in 2017.

As Sonja and Nana began to forage, the rest of the group joined them, apart from the adult male Nuba who watched from the safety of the satellite enclosure which was a surprise to all of us!

It wasn't too long into the new adventure that the group realised that the fence was electrified and nearly all got a shock from it. At first this had them retreating back to the satellite enclosure however curiosity got the better of them and they soon went back out, but never went near the fence again. A little later the male Nuba decided it was his turn, after taking a few huge strides around the parameter he was done and went back in.



*First day out in the new enclosure*

After approximately four months the whole group was habituated to the new enclosure, exploring the canopy across the entire space even Nuba was venturing out far, favouring one of the high trees from where he could watch his group from.

**Four  
months  
on**



The whole WAPCA team put an exceptional amount of work and effort in to making this new enclosure possible and it was a momentous day when we were able to allow the group of monkeys into this exciting new habitat. We are incredibly grateful to all those that contributed financially to this enclosure, to all the construction team who worked tirelessly in the blazing sun and to the staff at Kumasi Zoo who continue to work hard to ensure this enclosure is maintained and functioning properly.

## 2018 ACTIVITIES REPORT

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

#### **NEW!! WAPCA RESEACH & EDUCATION NEW!!**

**by Research & Education Coordinator Núria Badiella**

As a biologist, I always had passion for animals in general. When I was young I wanted to become a Veterinary doctor, but later on I thought nobody likes doctors, so I decided to obtain a Biology Degree. As a young adult I was an instructor for a scouts group where many informal education activities took place with children of different ages and usually in a natural environment. After joining a course on Primatology at Barcelona Zoo, I discovered the "Conservation of White-naped mangabey Project" – led by Barcelona Zoo, where I decided to collaborate for my degree final year work. I spent five months in Ghana observing the white-naped mangabeys at WAPCA's Endangered Primate Breeding Centre collecting baseline data for the reintroduction project. Primates are exceptional creatures that have many common behaviours with humans, and this similarity raised a behavioural interest for me to understand their social structure and behaviours. I pursued an M.Phil. in Wildlife and Range Management, where I conducted a behavioural study of Lowe's monkeys in Boabeng-Fiema Monkey Sanctuary in Ghana. I joined WAPCA in 2015 as an intern, to learn more about primate research and conservation. My passion for primates and my experience with children made a perfect combo for me to focus my career as a conservation educator; so far I am glad of the role I play, thankful to Barcelona Zoo for their support funding this opportunity, and excited for many more things to come in the near future!

Historically, WAPCA has carried out great work in the *insitu* and *exsitu* projects educating many Ghanaians on the importance of the forest, its primates, and biodiversity in general. In the Western Region of Ghana, the habitat of WAPCA focal species, many activities have taken place throughout the years. The creation of CREMA's has been all part of an educational process for the communities, where farmers and community members undergo different training sessions in order for them to manage their natural resources. For a greater and diverse outreach in the communities, films have been screened wherein movies about conservation have played and discussed. Finally, in schools WAPCA has given presentations about primate conservation, threats to biodiversity and implemented wildlife drama competitions to engage and inspire.

The EPBC also plays a big role in educating. The visits at the Centre together with the celebration of Mangabey Awareness Day at Accra Zoo help visitors understand the critical situation wildlife is in, mainly due to deforestation of their habitats, and the role they can play in the conservation of the planet.

This year WAPCA has taken education and research to the next level, creating a new role within its structure, the Research and Education Coordinator. WAPCA is developing a research strategy which will look at increasing knowledge on the focal species range and determine conservation actions while increasing local researcher participation through the WAPCA Research Group. The coordinator will also focus on developing an educational strategy to increase WAPCA's reach, e.g., through community outreach in Accra as well as the Western Region, or developing educational opportunities for visitors at the EPBC. We strongly believe that raising more awareness of the problems affecting biodiversity is a crucial way forward in protecting our wildlife. Therefore, we will continue focus on inspiring, engaging and empowering more and more citizens of Ghana, so that we can all work together for a sustainable country where both animals and humans fit in.

## EDUCATION

### 1. Mangabey Awareness Day, 1<sup>st</sup> August

White-naped mangabeys, in Ghana, are facing a critical situation in their natural habitat due to forest degradation, hunting for bush meat or illegal pet trade. Mangabey Awareness Day intends to raise awareness worldwide of the situation mangabeys are facing. Many zoos across Europe celebrate M.A.D and WAPCA, as it is our focal species, also do.

Since 2016, we have celebrating the occasion and this year, the event was held in two communities of the Western Region of Ghana within the habitat range of the white-naped mangabey.

It was a two day event filled with activities for adults, youth and children. On 31<sup>st</sup> July we called everyone to join us for an awareness march from Tikobo 1 to Nawule. The sun was really high up and scorching, but we did not lose strength and enjoyed singing and dancing along the way.

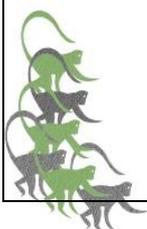


*Members of the CREMA communities through the March for Mangabey Awareness Day.*

The event continued with the first round of football matches. All CREMA communities were called to participate, inviting as well WAPCA Cote d'Ivoire. The tournament continued until 1<sup>st</sup> August where the semifinal and final matches were played. After an intense penalty round, Ellenda community was the winner of the WAPCA CUP this year!



*Ellenda Football Team, winners of the M.A.D. Cup.*



Alongside the football tournament, children enjoyed coloring in a mangabey template and watched an incredible puppet show about the story of Mango, a white-naped mangabey who saw her mother die at hands of a hunter. Mango, was taken by the hunter as a pet for his daughter however the audience soon learn that mangabeys do not make good pets! The story concluded with Mango traveling with WAPCA primatologist David to live with other monkeys at a rescue centre.



*"Mango" the puppet show*



*Clean Up to fill the mangabey*

In Anyiafutu, on the 1<sup>st</sup> August, the kids helped us to "Clean-up to fill the mangabey". The activity was to create awareness on the importance to keep our environment clean. Almost 12 bags of garbage were filled in just our immediate surrounding! The rubbish was then placed into a mesh mangabey, thanks to Accra based artist Jacob Djangmah. The rubbish in the mangabey gave the communities a visual demonstration on just how much plastic pollution there is.

Black Rasta, a famous Ghanaian singer and radio presenter, kindly offered his musical skills and made a great collaboration with us composing a mangabey song. The children sang it over and over again together with bespoke choreography. Tons of exercise for the small ones. The adults were at the end tested with a small Quiz on their knowledge about WAPCA and wildlife. It resulted that they knew more than we expected – we will have to make the questions harder next year!

The program was real success, with over 300 participants all engaged in one or another activity throughout the event. We run out of "I ♥ Mangabeys" t-shirts super quickly, almost 800 were shared with the participants, as well as refreshment and lunch for the football players. Summarizing, a day to remember!

## 2. My City My Forest

This year WAPCA has started a new environmental education programme in Accra, called My City My Forest, funded by WAZA Nature Connects Grant. The main aim is to connect urban families to nature through a variety of environmental related activities, helping them play their part in conservation.

The project is being implemented in four communities of the Greater Accra Region: La, Achimota, Nanhman and Nima. With the help of each targeted community government bodies we have been able to get a total of 313 participants, who are actively engaged in the activities

planned. Out of the 313, 177 are children and 136 are adults from all ages therefore having a diverse reach. Although, it is an environmental focused learning space, an incentive has been added to motivate the neighbours of Accra to join us. The community that records higher participation, engagement and better results will win a Community Development Fund at the end of the project (August 2019).

The first event celebrated through December was a Tree Nursing Workshop in each community, filled with the activities below:

**Introduction of WAPCA and My City My Forest:** Overview of the organization and purpose of the project. After the brief introduction, the participants were arranged into groups of ten, and My City My Forest T – shirts were distributed.

**Survey:** In collaboration with ZooWise Research Project we conducted a baseline survey to know the participants' knowledge related to nature. Questionnaires were only given to participants from thirteen years and above. They had about twenty minutes to state their purpose of participating on the project, places of nature they have been to, what they know about nature and measures they will put in place to conserve nature among others. In some communities it took a bit longer as some participants could not read and write, but in all, we got two hundred and twelve surveys filled.

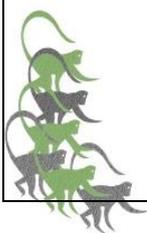


*Group of participants answering the baseline survey.*

**Importance of a tree activity:** Once the survey was finalized an A2 paper sheet was given to each group together with crayons. Each group was asked to draw a tree, brainstorm, and state the importance of it. The findings of each group were presented and generally discussed by the whole group. The entire exercise was participatory, allowing everyone to ask questions and make contributions. By asking questions the participants were enabled to identify other important aspects not considered within their group. As a result, all people present learnt what the importance of trees is.



*Representative of a group presenting their group ideas (left). Representative of each group with their respective drawings (right)*



**Nursing a seed:** The last activity of the event was to nurse our tree seeds. Different kinds of seeds such as orange, guava, tree of life, and Mimusops sp. were given to participants together with specially designed seed boxes filled with black soil. Once shown how to nurse the seed, participants were encouraged to water the seed twice daily and take good care of it to ensure it grows big and strong. How the seeds are cared for differ from community to community. Some communities decided to keep all the nursed seeds together and delegated members to water and care for it daily; while in other communities the nursed seeds are cared for individually. Lastly, participants made a pledge to take good care of their seeds to ensure it grows well.

***"I promise to love and care for my tree so it can grow up tall and strong."***



***Boxes to nurse the seeds (left) students from Nima that joined us for the event (right).***

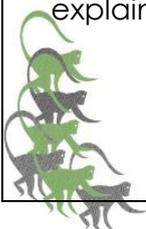
### **Closure of the event with snacks and refreshment.**

In all, 306 seeds have been nursed in four communities within Accra and will be planted at the last stage of the project. The first event of the project has been a success, community members were actively engaged and happy the project was implemented in their community. Some influential community leaders such as Assembly Men (community representative in the Local Government level) and Queen Mothers (representative of community females in the Traditional System) among others also joined us. Most of them applauded WAPCA for implementing such a project and encouraged their community members to participate to promote tree planting; because they strongly believe "when the last tree die, the last man dies".

Next year we will continue with new activities for the different families to get closer to nature. We are left with a home recycling workshop, a visit to the Accra Zoo and the Endangered Primate Breeding Centre, a beach clean-up, and the final tree planting!

### **3. New signage at the Endangered Primate Breeding Centre**

The Endangered Primate Breeding Centre plays a big role in WAPCA's education efforts as it houses two focal species of WAPCA. The visitors to Accra zoo equally visit the EPBC and are explained the difficulties faced by the animals' wild counterparts.



Interpretation at zoos is believed to be an effective method to connect visitors to nature, complimenting the visual, audio and olfactory experience of a zoo visit. "We learn... 10% of what we read 20% of what we hear 30% of what we see 50% of what we see and hear 70% of what we discuss 80% of what we experience 95% of what we teach others." - William Glasser.

For the organization this year we created new signboards that will help visitors better understand the work WAPCA is doing, and the threats to biodiversity in Ghana.



*Three new signboards at Accra Zoo and WAPCA's Endangered Primate Breeding Centre.*

*(L-R) Welcome signboard, Endangered Primate Breeding Centre, and Threats to Biodiversity in Ghana.*

## RESEARCH

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

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

### 1. White-naped mangabey in the Forested Enclosure in Kumasi

This year we received a student from Barcelona University, Blanca Nuñez. She travelled all the way to Ghana to collect data as part of our long term study of a group of white-naped



*Blanca Nuñez observing the mangabey troop in their first time release to the*

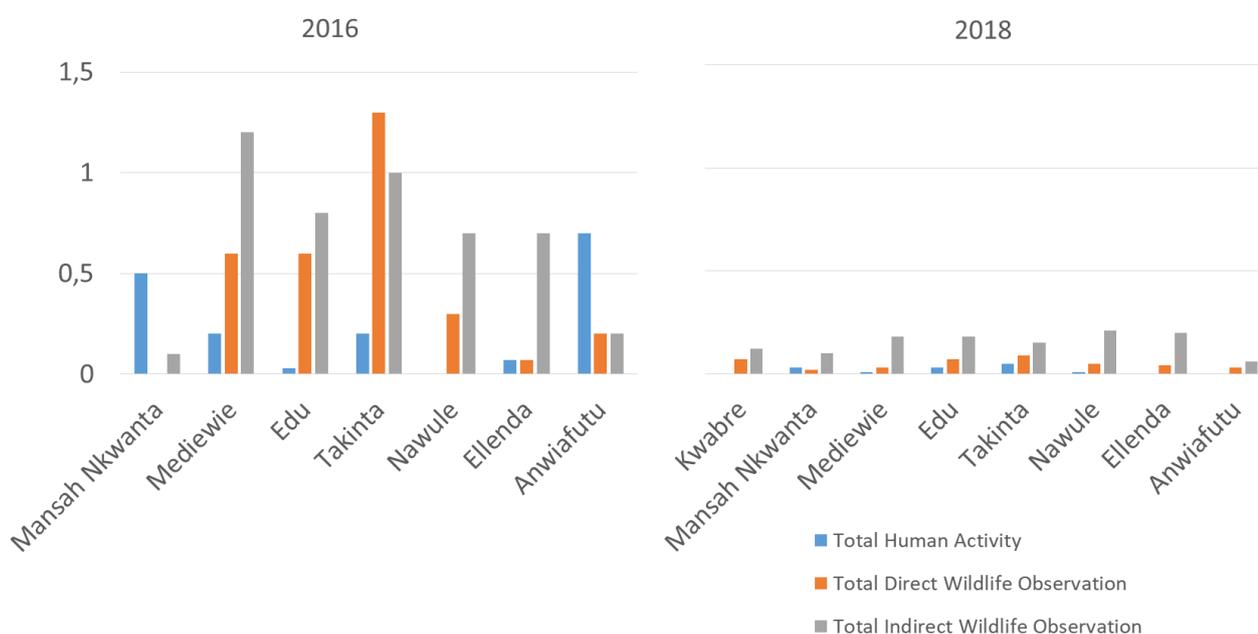
mangabeys that have been released into the recently built forested enclosure at Kumasi Zoo. The study aims to evaluate the adaptation of the group to their new environment by collecting behavioural data and dietary data for a period of three months. With this study we will be able to know their use of space, i.e. stratum and areas in the forested enclosure; their food preferences of local vegetation versus zoo diet; and social dynamics. Finally, we will also be able to know the effectiveness of the recall whistle training for each individual of the troop. When the whistle is blown Blanca recorded the order in which the subjects will come back to the satellite enclosure where their dinner is ready for them.

## 2. WAPCA SMART Survey

Biennially, WAPCA *insitu* team conducts a five week survey in the Kwabre Community Rainforest, Western Region of Ghana the main project area of our *insitu* activities. The survey is to monitor the population of our focal species and other primates and occurrence of illegal activity in order to evaluate our field work. Through the surveys, wildlife sightings (direct or indirect) and human activity in the forest is recorded. This year, sightings of white-naped mangabeys, Lowe's monkey and lesser spot-nosed were reduced compared to previous years but Roloway monkey and olive colobus increased. Overall, sightings of wildlife have reduced compared to previous surveys but it's not all are bad news, as human activity sightings have also reduced in the forest. We hope that we will see an increase of primate populations as the reduction of illegal activity will allow the primates to recover and re-establish themselves within the forest. The data collected has been analysed using SMART – Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool.



**Selaisse, WAPCA Field Assistant, collecting data**



**Example of the results**

### 3. Researchers from University of Ghana

WAPCA Research Group welcomed two students from University of Ghana this year. They have started their final year research project at Accra Zoo and the EPBC. Isaac Martey, is looking at the “Visitor Experience at the Accra Zoo: Implications for Ex-situ Conservation”. He is conducting interviews with the Accra Zoo visitors to find out the demographics of our visitors, areas that could be improved and its facilitation of conservation. This study will be beneficial for both Accra Zoo and WAPCA to know the areas that need to improve and the effectiveness of its educational side, it also serve as baseline data for future research after improvements are made.

Our second student, Chisom Akam is conducting a behavioural study of one female captive white-naped mangabey, Ivy, who has developed a few abnormal behaviours after several months of being at the EPBC. It is of much concern for all the team as she is one of our newest arrivals. She is clearly showing signs of stress therefore we are trying to find out the triggers of this disturbance to be able to mitigate the stress she is undergoing.



*Research being conducted at Accra Zoo and Endangered Primate Breeding Centre. L- Isaac Martey surveying visitors to know their experience after a visit through Accra Zoo. R- Chisom Akam looking at the behaviour of Ivy's family.*

### 4. Save Atewa

At the end of 2018 a great discovery was made by NGO A Rocha of a new population of white naped mangabeys in Atewa Forest Reserve. Our delight was tinged with concerns as talk of multi-million dollar deals between the Ghanaian government and China to mine Atewa for Bauxite threatened its existence. Since a number of NGOs have meet and strategized to put pressure on the government to release details of the deal and remove Atewa from it. So far, Atewa has yet to be mined and dialogue is open between the consortium of NGOs and the government to look at alternatives. WAPCA has played its part by attending meetings, circulating a petition which has garnered over 15,000 signatories and conducted its own preliminary survey work, in preparation for a more comprehensive survey in 2019/20. WAPCA spent two weeks in the Atewa Reserve concluding the forest is under severe threat not only from illegal mining but also from excessive hunting, excessive illegal logging and illegal farming. During this short period over 50 tree stumps were counted, about 40 snares were destroyed, about 50 farms were counted and over 120 spent cartridges were discovered. Despite the threats, the team confirmed the presence of a number of Endangered primates, including the mangabey and spoke with hunters who claimed to observe the western Chimpanzee.

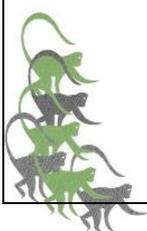
## 5. Cape Three Point Survey work by Chester University

At the beginning of 2018 WAPCA welcomed two students from Chester University, Adam Welsh and Ryan Nolan, both undertaking an MRes at the University in the UK. Funded by Twycross Zoo, Adam and Ryan worked together in the Cape Three Reserve using a multi-disciplined approach to comprehensively understand the primate population in the Reserve. Adam and Ryan carried out line transect foot surveys, placed camera traps and audio recorders as well as collecting vegetation and illegal activity data. The project took three months in total but the hard work paid off as they examined their footage and realised they had captured a number of mangabeys on their traps, providing concrete evidence of the Endangered primate in the Reserve. Analysis of the audio is a much longer process but we are hopeful that we have captured the vocal calls of both the mangabey and the Roloway. This body of work will play a significant role in the conservation of the area, which currently has the lowest level of protection, as we work with other NGOs in the area to implement community based conservation actions and petition the government to upgrade this important but highly threatened forest.



*Adam and Ryan collecting canopy cover data, setting camera traps and audio recorders.*

**Camera trap results**



## IN OTHER WAPCA NEWS.....

### Presentations

WAPCA Country Coordinator gave a presentation at the Communities, Conservation and Livelihoods Conference in Halifax, Canada. WAPCA was pleased to share its experiences with participants and hear about the importance of community driven projects across the globe. WAPCA was particularly pleased to see two other Ghanaian projects whereby communities are leading the way in conservation.



### Wildlife Night



WAPCA team members are often contacted by people living in Ghana looking for advice on a number of wildlife related issues, and not contained to primates but also snakes, exotic birds and even domestic pets. Equally WAPCA is concerned at the level of exotic pet trade in Ghana, particularly in the Capital City of Accra as well as the knee jerk reaction of buying a monkey in attempt to 'help' or killing a snake before identifying it. Therefore this year we ran a Wildlife Night at the Villa Boutique Hotel, who kindly donated the use of their function room. The evening saw informative talks given by WAPCA Country Coordinator on WAPCA's work and the perils of the pet trade, Dr Tetteh in snake identification and handling and Dr Koney, a domestic pet vet who gave useful advice to best care for your four legged friends. The evening was very informative and all those attended enjoyed the event so we look to repeat again in 2019.

### Uniforms

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Dublin and Duisburg 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.



## 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. M<sup>a</sup>Teresa 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

## 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

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      |

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.



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