

WEST AFRICAN PRIMATE CONSERVATION ACTION

2015 Annual Report



Photos by Alexander Sliwa

WEST AFRICAN PRIMATE CONSERVATION ACTION

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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Update from the WAPCA-Ghana Country Coordinator



Happy New Year to you all. 2015 has been an exciting year for WAPCA with our projects progressing with success. It has also been a year of raising the profile of WAPCA: I had the pleasure of visiting a number of collections to talk about the work we do here in Ghana, we have been active on Facebook with our own page which at times has reached over 2,000 'likes' and we saw the launch of Mangabey Awareness Day on August 1st. 2016 will see the unveiling of our new website, which will allow visitors to receive up to date information on our activities as well as the opportunity to support us in different ways. Local awareness has also been a priority this year and has seen WAPCA invited to talk at a number of Rotary Clubs around Accra, hold information tables at events and engage with local press.

WAPCA members, sponsors, partners and friends have continued to generously support us over the past year allowing us to continue the work here in Ghana at both the Endangered Primate Breeding Centre and also in the field working with communities to protect the forests and the primates that inhabit them, for which we are hugely grateful. 2015 also saw a number of Ghana based companies supporting us with material donations, not only does this help us financially but also creates awareness of our presence in country. I would particularly like to extend our thanks to Guy Gater and Elizabeth Loudon who have provided WAPCA with a new large mangabey enclosure and extended the size of the existing Roloway enclosure.

WAPCA welcomed a number of visitors this year: Alex Sliwa from Cologne Zoo, Werner Schröder from The Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union, Dr Rob Horwich from Community Conservation Inc and Ute Nerring from Heidelberg Zoo. Sadly WAPCA has also had to say some goodbyes. At the end of the year our WAPCA Ghana Chairman Togbi Kporku III passed away. Togbi was an inspirational Chairman, passionate about wildlife and a great supporter of WAPCA – he will be sorely missed. We too lost Salome – the oldest mangabey in captivity, believed to be nearly 40 years old. She was a favourite amongst keepers and visitors alike.

In 2015, WAPCA's *in situ* conservation efforts continued to focus on some of the poorest, most marginalized communities in Ghana. Through WAPCA's Trans-border Community-managed Rainforest Project, WAPCA is successfully working towards reducing illegal activities in the rainforest through the training and implementation of community patrols; improve the health of the rainforest through the reforestation of areas degraded by illegal lumbering and mining; create sustainable community-managed agro-forestry plantations to reduce harvesting of forest products and clear-cutting of virgin forests for large scale export commodities (cocoa, palm oil, rubber) and lay the foundation for a Trans-border Community-managed Forest Reserve between the Kwabre Rainforest in Ghana and the Tanoé Community Forests in Cote d'Ivoire.

WAPCA's *ex situ* conservation efforts have focused on the Endangered Primate Breeding Centre where endangered primates rescued from the bushmeat and pet trade play a vital role in providing the only source for new genetic stock for the white-naped mangabey and Roloway monkey European Endangered species Programme (EEP). We have been working hard to construct the semi-free enclosure and hope to break ground very soon.



WAPCA Team: L-R David Osei, Andrea Dempsey, Kwadwo Mensah, Chaachele Ponu

Finally, I'd like to thank all the WAPCA staff for their hard work in 2015, their dedication to WAPCA is unfaltering and very much appreciated.

Best Wishes for 2016, *Andrea Dempsey*

PROJECT OVERVIEW

MISSION:

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

VISION

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

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

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

PROJECT SUMMARY

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



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

WAPCA MEMBERS

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



West African endangered primate illustrations by artist Stephen D. Nash

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

FOCAL SPECIES AND CONSERVATION STATUS

- Miss Waldron's Red Colobus (*Procolobus badius waldroni*) Status: *Critically Endangered*
- Roloway Monkey (*Cercopithecus diana Roloway*) Status: *Endangered*
- White-naped Mangabey, (*Cercocebus atys lunulatus*) Status: *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 *Endangered* Roloway monkey (*Cercopithecus diana roloway*) and the *Endangered* white-naped mangabey (*Cercocebus atys 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 *Endangered* Western chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes verus*), the *Vulnerable* Geoffroy's black-and-white colobus (*Colobus vellerosus*), the *Near Threatened* olive colobus (*Procolobus verus*), the lesser spot-nose monkey (*Cercopithecus petaurista petaurista*), the Lowe's monkey (*Cercopithecus mona lowei*). WAPCA's main mission is the protection of these last remaining rainforests and the long term survival of

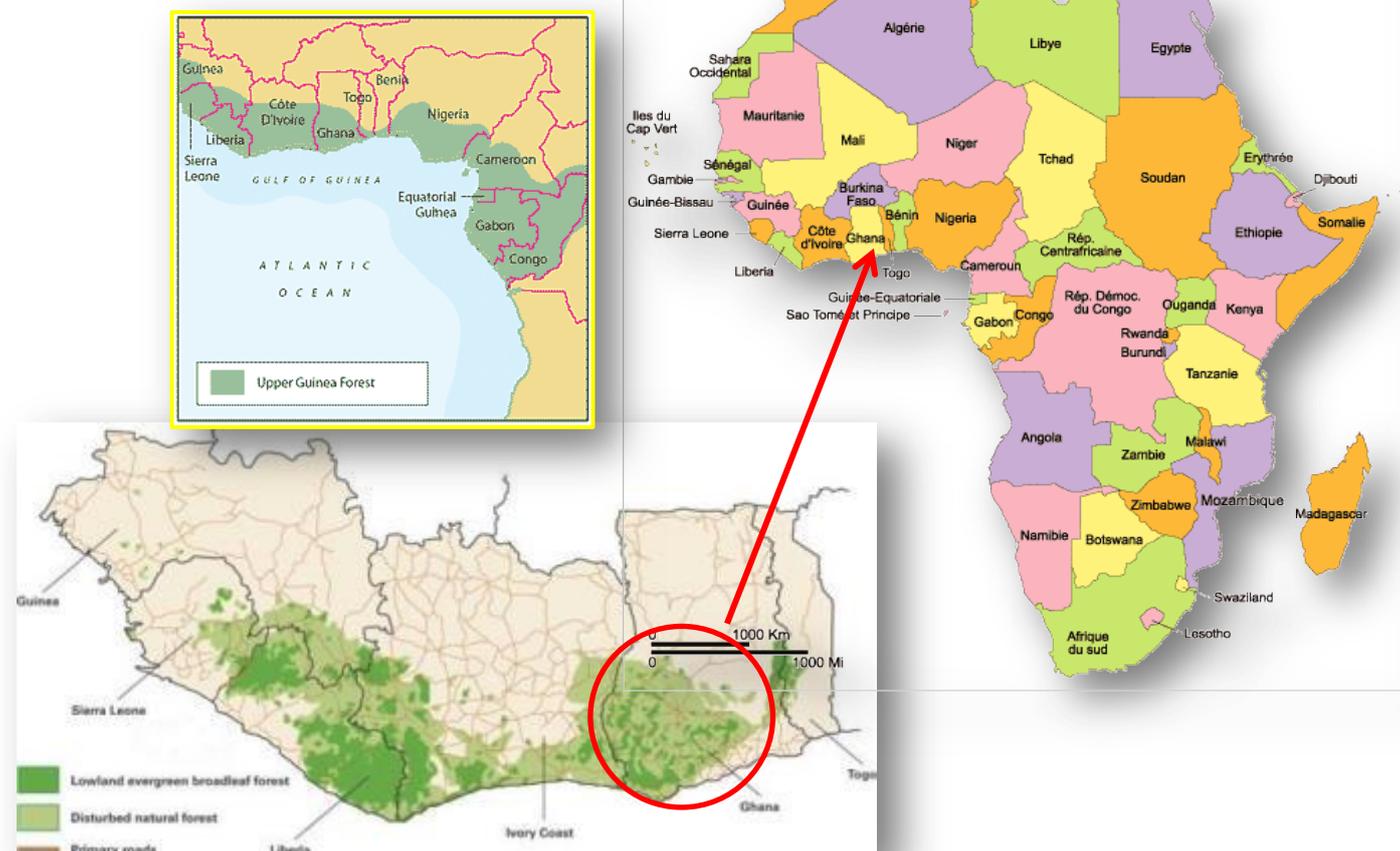
West Africa's endangered primates through the maintenance of an Endangered Primate Breeding Centre and the development of sustainable rainforest management projects.

GEOGRAPHIC AREA AND HABITAT

Upper Guinean Rainforest, West Africa

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

Upper Guinean Rainforest



CRITICAL ISSUES AND THREATS

Deforestation is the greatest threat to both the environment and wildlife dependent upon the rainforests of West Africa. According to a recent CEPF Ecosystem Report, the Upper Guinean Forests which stretches from Sierra Leone to the Ghana-Togo border, has been reduced to a mere 15% of its original forest cover. Logging, agriculture, illegal mining, and human encroachment have left fragmented remnants of rainforest. The unique fauna and flora found within these areas of rainforest have long been under the stress of deforestation and overhunting and with diminishing forest cover in which to retreat, wildlife within these sparse forests are finding no place left to hide.



Extensive bush meat hunting for both local



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

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

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



2015 ACTIVITIES REPORT

WAPCA IN ACTION CREATING VIABLE LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

TRANS-BORDER COMMUNITY-MANAGED RAINFOREST PROJECT

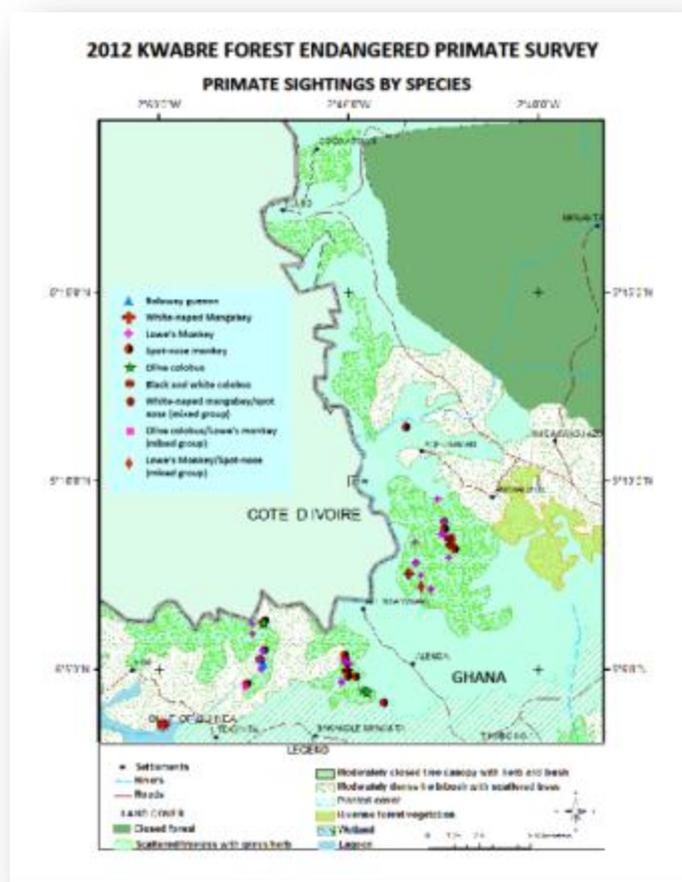
by Field Coordinator David Osei



Roloway Monkey
(*Cercopithecus diana roloway*)

Protecting the Last Remaining Roloway Monkey Habitat in Ghana

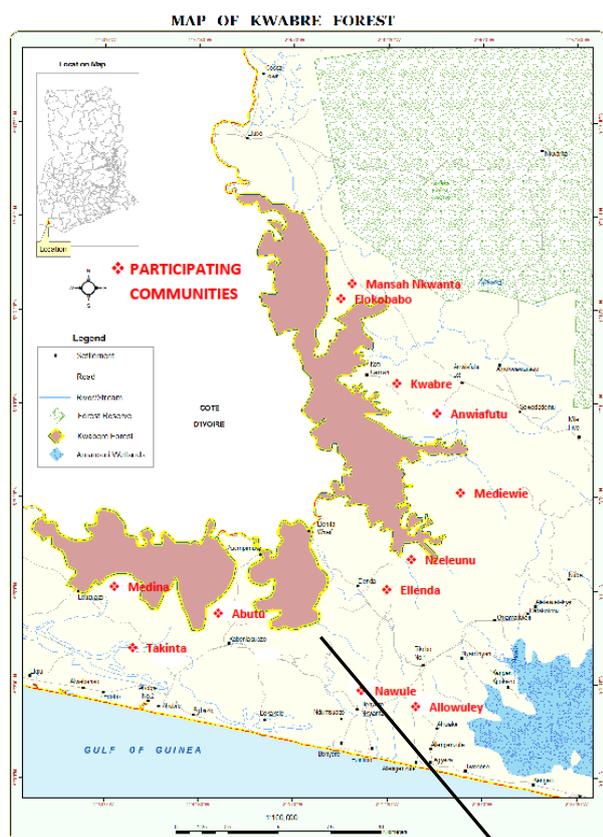
The Roloway monkey (*Cercopithecus diana roloway*) one of the *World's 25 Most Endangered Primates* is on the knives edge of extinction! Roloway monkeys have been systematically exterminated from all former habitats across their entire range with the exception of two community-owned rainforest in eastern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



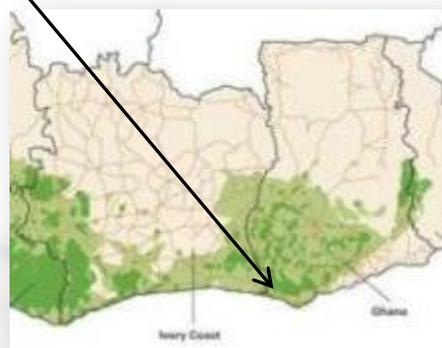
The Kwabre Rainforest surveys also identified significant populations of other endangered primates including white-naped mangabeys (*Cercocebus atys lunulatus*), Geoffrey's black & white colobus (*Colobus vellerosus*) and olive colobus (*Procolobus verus*) as well the more common Lowe's monkeys (*Cercopithecus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

2015 ACTIVITIES REPORT

WAPCA's Trans-border Community-managed Rainforest Project has four main aims;

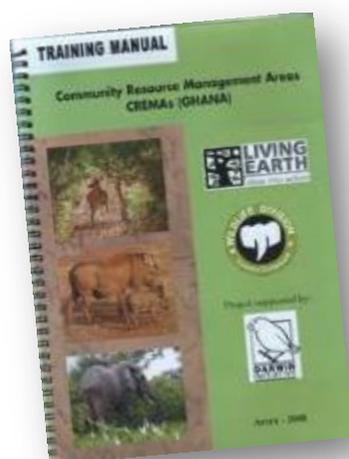


- 1) Protect and enhance 2,500 hectares of community-owned virgin rainforest through the transformation of the Kwabre Rainforest into a federated Community Resource Management Area (CREMA)
- 2) Reduce illegal activities in the rainforest through the training and implementation of community patrols,
-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



Kwabre Rainforest

2015 ACTIVITIES REPORT



1. Creation of the Kwabre Community Resource Management Area

Because rural communities depend on the health of the rainforest for their livelihood and because environmental monitoring and conservation must ultimately be implemented at the local level, it is crucial that local people have the understanding, skills, and economic incentives to manage their resources in ways that sustain natural ecosystem processes.

The Wildlife Division of the Ghana Forestry Commission is currently utilizing CREMA's as the primary institutional mechanism for implementing collaborative sustainable natural resource management outside protected areas in Ghana. The CREMA is regulated through the development of a constitution, bylaws and natural resource management plan which are created by the CREMA committees composed of elected community members. The CREMA constitution, bylaws and natural resource management plan are formulated in consultation with the Wildlife Division and the District Assembly of the area and once they are approved the communities will receive a *Certificate of Devolution* which will give them the authority to sustainably manage their land and to apprehend illegal miners, bushmeat hunters and chainsaw operators.

WAPCA has been working with the twelve communities that surround the Kwabre Forest to create a federated Conservation Resource Management Area (CREMA). All members of the twelve communities were asked to vote and 32 individuals were elected to sit on the Community Resource Management Committee (CRMC) as representatives of their community. The CREMA drafted its own constitution and bylaws which have now been submitted to the District Assembly for their approval. The CREMA has been operating successfully, holding regular meetings to discuss issues, participating at training workshops and effectively distributing fines and seized materials back to the communities.



CREMA Members submitting their constitution and bylaws to the District Assembly

WAPCA would like to highlight the exceptional role the CREMA Chairman - Tufuhene. K. Bonyah - has played, he has engaged fully and has provided guidance and full support.

2015 ACTIVITIES REPORT

2. Community Rainforest Protection Teams



The Community Rainforest Patrol Team

One of the greatest challenges for the rural communities surrounding the Kwabre Rainforest in terms of sustainably managing their natural resources is the rampant illegal logging, mining and bushmeat hunting being perpetrated by people outside the community which is destroying habitat, polluting water bodies and depleting the wildlife in their rainforest.

In 2014 WAPCA worked Wildlife Division of the Ghana Forestry Commission and the twelve communities surrounding the Kwabre Rainforest to help reduce the illegal activity by forming and training Community Rainforest Protection Teams.

This year the Community Rainforest Protection Teams have patrolled the Kwabre Rainforest two to three times a week to help combat illegal activities. The patrols alert the Rapid Response Team of illegal miners, bushmeat hunters and chainsaw operators. The team is made up of WAPCA staff, Wildlife Division and Community members.

All fines paid, equipment taken and lumber seized are redistributed to the community under the CREMA executive committee's guidance.

Thanks to the BIAZA Mammal Working Group Conservation Award the patrols are now using GPS hand helds to collect more accurate and quantifiable data.



An illegal chainsaw operator is arrested



Confiscated chainsaws are handed over to the CREMA Chairman



Confiscated gun, bullets and machete from an illegal hunter.

2015 ACTIVITIES REPORT

3. Reforestation



Tree saplings

indigenous tree seedlings with a focus on trees utilized by endangered primates.

WAPCA with the Wildlife Division conducted four training workshops in tree nursery husbandry and has now created eight tree nurseries which have successfully produced over 20,000 tree saplings. These tree saplings have been divided in use. A percentage has been planted in community areas for later harvest, reducing the need for community members to enter the forest and a percentage has been planted back into the core areas of the rainforest as part of a reforestation process.

Individual farmers have also shown interest in the tree planting and have requested some seedlings to be planted in their farms. The CREMA have decided to raise more seedlings and sell them to interested farmers and individuals to raise funds for CREMA activities. With the addition of three new communities, there will be the need to raise more seedlings to re plant the degraded patches within those forests. The plant species planted in the core zone of the forest and in the community plantations included: *Kaya* spp, *Terminalia ivorensis*, *Terminalia superba*, *Pakia bicolor*, *Tieghemella heckelii*, *Heritiera utilis*, *Entandophragma angolense*

The Kwabre Forest contains a diversity of niche-specific plants that have evolved to adapt to the flooded conditions of this peat-swamp rainforest habitat. It is crucial that seedlings used in reforestation efforts are sustainably harvested from the rainforest itself to ensure their adaptability and maintain the appropriate biodiversity of this unique ecosystem. Patches of deforestation in the core zone of virgin rainforest caused by illegal lumbering will be enriched with



Tree saplings loaded in the pick-up, ready for planting



Tree saplings are planted in the core zone of the forest.



Tree saplings are planted in community areas for sustainable harvest

2015 ACTIVITIES REPORT

4. Agro-forestry for Value Chain Development

For natural resources to be better conserved and well managed there is the need to improve the living conditions of local people who live with the resources through alternative income generating activities and should be based on long time finance machines. Most rural communities living with natural resources are very poor and therefore depend heavily on their natural resource both flora and fauna for their livelihood.

WAPCA through Solidaridad, an organization well experienced in cocoa and oil palm production is helping the project communities to maximize their income from their agricultural produce thereby reducing poverty. 80% of the community members in the project areas are farmers, about 60% of them cultivate cocoa and 20% cultivate oil palm.



Solidaridad Training

Training programs were organized for the farmers to train them on better farm practices and finding a better market for their farm products. Five different training sessions were conducted to train both farmers cultivating cocoa and oil palm.

Sessions taught them how to effectively prepare the land for cultivating, getting the right seeds or seedlings for planting, and the application of chemicals such as fertilizers, pesticides and weedicides. Safety measures, how to find the right market for their produce and environmental friendly management were also covered.

The sessions allowed farmers to discuss issues that they face in particular purchasing clerks using adjusted scales, resulting in farmers not receiving the correct price according to the government approved weight. Despite protests from farmers and efforts to resolve this no change has occurred and as they cannot risk not having their produce brought they have no choice but to sell at the lower price.

There were follow up field practical's to demonstrate to the farmers on how the various farming activities such as, fertilizer application, spraying, pruning harvesting and fermentation of cocoa beans are carried out. Safety measures and application of first aid were also demonstrated to the farmers to understand why there is the need to observe those practices.

After the training materials and posters were distributed to the farmers to enable them go and teach the other farmers in their various communities.

WAPCA has developed a five year plan with communities, to continue to help improve their agricultural practices and to develop a fair and better market for their produce. The plan also incorporates the women in the community and youth members.



Community members participating in the alternative livelihood programme.

2015 ACTIVITIES REPORT

5. Transborder Collaboration with Côte d'Ivoire

2015 has seen excellent progression in the joining of the Kwabre Forest in Ghana with the Tanoé Forest in Côte d'Ivoire. The non-profit organization, Research and Actions for the Conservation of Primates in Côte d'Ivoire (RASAP-CI) is currently helping the communities surrounding the Tanoé Forest to sustainably manage their rainforest. However, people from outside the rural communities are illegally trafficking lumber, bushmeat and other forest products across Tanoé River which forms the border between Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire.

The apprehension and prosecution of illegal offenders is difficult once the perpetrators have crossed the border as the traditional authorities in the communities have no jurisdiction over the trafficking of illegal products that have been obtained from outside their respective lands.

2015 saw the first meeting between both countries to form a plan to work together in preventing such illegal activity and exportation routes. The meeting introduced each country's methods and activities, discussions were held on the positives of this collaboration and how issues may be mitigated. It is proposed that a second meeting will be held in Cote d'Ivoire followed by a workshop. A trans-border forest, which will see amongst other efforts joint patrolling, will have a huge impact on illegal activities.



The 1st Trans-border meeting attended by members of Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire communities, Wildlife Division, Dr Rob Horwich from CCI and Sam – the WAPCA dog!

In Other Field News.....

Community Games

This year saw the first Community Games! A football match was held between community members and WAPCA versus Wildlife Division. We are pleased to announce that WAPCA and the community won this year – 4-1!! Thank you to Ink-IT Ghana for the donation of a trophy.



The winning team!

2015 ACTIVITIES REPORT

Camera Traps



Photo from a camera trap

The primates are very wary of humans due to over hunting so it is very difficult for the teams to take photographs of them also their speed in the canopy proves problematic. 2015 saw the installation of camera traps, thanks to the BIAZA Mammal Working Group Conservation Award.



The first photos have captured a spot-nosed guenon, this confirms that the photos are clear enough to identify species, cameras responsive enough to capture the quick animals and are placed in primate populated areas.

West African Forum

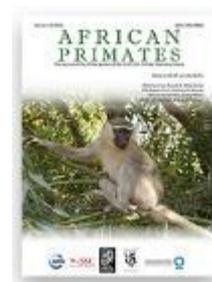
WAPCA participated in a forum organized by The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso for local conservation initiatives in West Africa to formulate advocacy messages to be adopted by policy makers and Funding Agencies etc. at both national and regional level. Three key major issues were identified: a) biodiversity degradation, b) alternative income generating activities which have failed due to the absence of long term finance mechanisms c) enforcement of newly formulated and existing by laws. The forum concluded in the production of six final messages:

1. The improvement of the local management and governance of protected areas through the effective involvement of all stakeholders and the equitable sharing of benefits requires the establishment of consultation frameworks for a synergy of actions and conflict prevention.
2. The improvement of the living conditions of riparian communities is essential and requires both the maintenance an enhancement of ecological goods and services and the development of IGAs compatible with conservation.
3. The establishment of a suitable legal framework for the effective transfer of powers and resources to decentralized authorities – and to the communities – to improve the management of natural resources.
4. The enhancement of diversity and of the well-being of communities requires the implementation of long –term financing mechanism for the benefit of policies and programs related to the environment and the adaptation to climate change
5. The awareness and application of national laws and international agreements by all the stakeholders help to fight effectively against poaching, illegal trafficking of wildlife and plant species, and corruption. It is essential to adopt and popularize the enforcement by laws.
6. The development of cross-border synergies contributes to improve national natural resource management mechanism.

Publications

We were very pleased to see our article published in African Primates: “First Sightings of the Roloway (*Cercopithecus diana roloway*) in Ghana in Ten Years and the Status of Other Endangered Primates in Southernwest Ghana.

A PDF version is free to download here: <http://www.primates-rg.org/african-primates-volume-10/>



2015 ACTIVITIES REPORT

WHITE-NAPED MANGABEY CONSERVATION PROJECT

By Professor Mercedes Mayo, Barcelona University



Kwadwo and Professor Mayo marking out the semi free enclosure

The White-naped Mangabey Conservation Project was developed to assist WAPCA with the *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of the species through scientific research. Students from Barcelona University who have been generously financially supported by Barcelona Zoo have continued to study the behaviour of the white-naped mangabeys at the Endangered Primate Breeding Centre through 2015.

Work this year included monitoring of mangabey groups through focal and scan sampling. This allowed me to: assess the status of the subjects and detect the presence of abnormal behaviour, assess the status of the groups, assess if Nuba's group is ready to go to the semi-free and ad libitum observations to complete the behavioural repertoire of the white-naped mangabey in captivity.

Using this data I was able to advice on improvements that could be made on the enclosures, management of the animals and develop the semi-free enclosure plans.

The semi- free enclosure is 3000 m² area adjacent to the existing Endangered Primate Breeding Centre in Achimota Forest. The forest enclosure will allow the selected individuals to exhibit natural behaviours in a natural environment. The enclosure will be surrounded by a solar powered electric fence and an observation tower will be constructed to facilitate behavioural observations as well as an educational resource for the urban school children that visit Accra Zoological Gardens on a daily basis.

The WMCP has been assisting in the planning of the semi-free. I collected plants samples for identification with special attention to those that could serve as food for mangabeys and assist in the taping of the area in which the semi-free enclosure will be located and check the zone in order to avoid cutting trees that may be useful for the mangabeys. Once the construction is completed and the animals have been transferred I shall replicate the data collected in the zoo and compare for behavioural differences.



Universitat
de Barcelona

2015 ACTIVITIES REPORT

ENDANGERED PRIMATE BREEDING CENTRE By Kwadwo Mensah – Primate Centre Officer

I would like to thank the management and staff of the Accra Zoo, together with the volunteers especially Ms. Núria Badiella Giménez who has been of immense help to me improving enrichment and husbandry conditions for the fourteen white-naped mangabeys and two Roloways at the EPBC. I would also like to show my profound gratitude to Ms. Elizabeth Loudon and Guy Gater who have been outstanding in their effort to make the EPBC and the entire zoo a place worthy of its status, by providing two new enclosures for the primates as well as other animals.



Kwadwo and Nuria with an enrichment device

The Ghana Forestry Commission with its Wildlife Division maintains the Accra Zoo in the capital city of Accra, located in the only forest belt left in the urban city known as the Achimota Forest, soon to be the Achimota Ecopark. In 2005, WAPCA constructed an Endangered Primate Breeding Centre on the Accra Zoo grounds; this facility is managed by the current Country Coordinator, in collaboration with the Wildlife Division and the manager of the Accra Zoo, Dr. Richard Suu-Ire who also doubles as the Wildlife Division's veterinarian.

Dr. Suu-Ire, Dr. Zekiah, Mr. Alfred Turkson and the entire Accra Zoo staff have been actively involved in the confiscation and rescue of orphaned monkeys, especially the Endangered white-naped mangabeys and the Critically Endangered Roloway monkeys. Other primates such as the red patas and green vervet monkey have not been left out in the operation, even though these are not considered critically endangered.

The orphaned Roloway and white-naped mangabey monkeys living at the EPBC have been incorporated in to the European Endangered Species Program (EEP), in order to ensure a healthy continuous population for this Endangered primate species.



The Endangered Primate Breeding Centre

There are currently fourteen white-naped mangabeys (six females and eight males) which translates into four adult females namely (Sonia, Accra, Fatima and Oyebiefe), two sub-adult females (Chaachele and Afua Marie), five adult males (Ape, Ekow, Nuba, Mensah and Annan), one young sub-adult male (Kwaku), and two juvenile males (Yaw and Togbi) respectively at the EPBC. This is the world's largest collection of white-napped mangabeys under human care housed in one location. Also housed currently at the EPBC is one male (Fergus) and one female (Sweet Pea) Roloway monkeys.

2015 ACTIVITIES REPORT

New Baby Mangabey – Sonia’s 4th baby!

On the 21st of March 2015 a male mangabey was born to Accra and Ape, but unfortunately the baby died a few moments after birth. This development was disturbing, but did not stop us routinely observing the genital swellings of the rest of the group which paid off on the 21st October when a male mangabey was born to Sonia and Nuba, one of our most successful troops. The new-born was named Togbi in honour of our late Chairmen. Currently, Accra is expecting a baby again.



Sonia, baby Togbi and sister Afu-Marie

New development and regrouping our breeding stock

In order to ensure a healthy continuous population for these critically endangered primate species and WAPCA’s commitment to improving the living conditions of the primates at the EPBC, new enclosures have been constructed with the help of a benevolent couple Ms. Elizabeth Louden and Guy Gater at the EPBC. The new enclosure will help in the occasional need to regroup these primates as a result of evolving social trends observed at the centre. It will also allow for an extension to the existing Roloway enclosure.



Construction begins!

New behavioural training and enrichment programmes launched.



Water bottle enrichment

Two new programmes have been launched at the Centre. WAPCA have implemented a comprehensive enrichment programme which sees the primates receive enrichment twice a day. We have had to be creative due to limited resources but have now a two week programme with a wide variety of ideas.

The second programme has introduced behavioural training to the keepers and the animals. The training is to assist in veterinary care and husbandry requirements, minimising stress to the animals and increasing the safety of the keepers. Three programmes are currently running: recall for the semi-free destined group, hand injection for health check and move, box training for enclosure move.

2015 ACTIVITIES REPORT

Students and Volunteers



This year saw Alix Shilton volunteer at the Centre as part of an eight-month programme run by the Institute for Development Studies, University of Cape Coast in partnership with Trent University in Canada. Under this programme there are two components. The first focuses on formal lectures fieldwork in Ghana while the second involves a twelve-week practical placement. Alix spent time at the Centre helping with enclosure refurbishment and the construction of new enclosure furniture such as fire house hammocks. Alix also spent time working with our field team, planting tree saplings into the core zone of the forest.

We welcome volunteers, keepers and students at the Centre so please get in touch if this interests you.

IN OTHER WAPCA NEWS

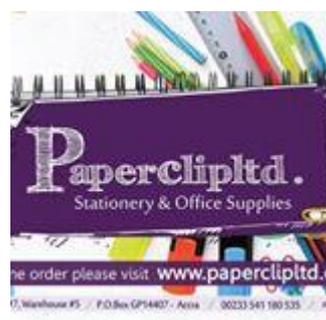
Local support

WAPCA has seen an exceptional amount of generosity from local based companies here in Ghana, which we are hugely grateful for.

Food/enrichment donation came from:



Stationary/furniture for the WAPCA office came from:



Memory cards for our camera traps | Discounted Board Christmas Dinner | Printing & trophy donation



2015 ACTIVITIES REPORT

Uniform Donation



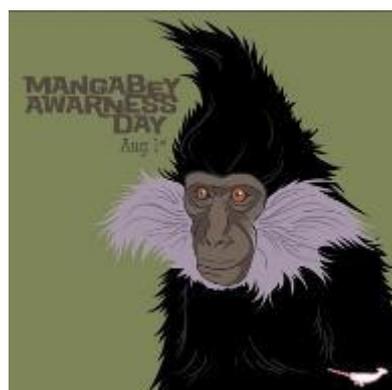
At the EAZA conference this year we made a plea for old uniforms for our keepers and our field team. We'd like to thank Jerusalem Zoo who sent a large box of uniforms. Uniform is always welcome so please keep us in mind should you rebrand.

Awareness

WAPCA has been raising the profile of WAPCA giving presentations both in Ghana and across Europe. WAPCA was invited to have an information table at a new jewelry company Ravissant, who have a monkey in their logo. WAPCA too has given a number of Rotary Clubs around the capital city Accra.



Country Coordinator at the Ravissant Launch



Social media has given WAPCA a great opportunity to inform interested parties about our projects as they happen. WAPCA has its own Facebook page which saw the announcement of the birth of Togbi see 1500 'likes'. WAPCA used this platform to launch Mangabey Awareness Day on the 1st August, which received over 12,000 'likes'! This day we hope will gather momentum each year with more events happening around the world celebrating and raising awareness of this species. WAPCA would like to thank Peppermint Narwhal who kindly designed the logo for the day.



Roar With Laughter



The Zoological Society of London and WAPCA joined forces to stage Roar With Laughter, an evening of comedy to raise money for our conservation work. The event was held at the Hammersmith Apollo in London and will be repeated again in 2016.

New Vehicle – Request for Funds

WAPCA is making an urgent request for funds to replace its field vehicle. This vehicle is nearly ten years old and has endured such difficult terrains it now breaks down on a weekly basis. This vehicle however is crucial to the success and effectiveness of our field work; our field coordinator uses it to visit communities to discuss the project, it works as a taxi service to bring community members together for meetings and training sessions and it is the main means of transport for the Rapid Response Team when alerted to illegal activity. This vehicle is now becoming unreliable and needs replacing. If you have funds un-allocated at the end of last year, please consider making a donation. Thank you.



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.

Additional WAPCA Ghana partners include Research and Actions for the Safeguard of Primates in Côte d'Ivoire (RASAP-CI), Community Conservation Inc, the University of Barcelona and Coastal Resource Center-Ghana. Collaboration with these partners has greatly enhanced the effectiveness of WAPCA Ghana over the past year and we would like to thank them for their support and assistance.

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 2015. 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
 Dr Brice Lefaux-Vice Chairman of the Board
 Dra. M^aTeresa Abelló Poveda -Secretary
 Mrs Sandra Reichler-Treasurer
 Mr Nick Lindsay-Advisor to the Board
 Mr Roland Wirth- Advisor to the Board

WAPCA GHANA BOARD

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

The Late Togbi Kporku III – Chairman of the Board
 Mrs Vivian Nuhu – Director of the Board
 Dr Erasmus Owusu – Director of the Board
 Dr Richard Suu-Ire – Director of the Board
 Mr David Nuku Tettey – Director of the Board
 Mr Stephen Tamanja- Director of the Board
 Mrs Andrea Dempsey - Secretary



THANK YOU WAPCA MEMBERS!

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



INTERNATIONAL SUPPORTERS



MAJOR FIELD PROJECT SPONSORS

