



SALONGA NEWSLETTER

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Strategic direction, planning and monitoring

Development of the monitoring strategy for the Salonga National Park.

During this quarter, the process of developing the park surveillance strategy began with the support of the ICCN Technical and Scientific Department. A draft o was sent to park management to collect the first amendments that will be discussed at a workshop.

Scientific research and bio-monitoring

Activities are presented by organizations or stakeholders

UGPNS (Management Unit of the Salonga National Park)

- Organization of trainings for rangers in data collection by GPS, compass. Activity started in Mundja.
- Beginning of documentation of the use by large mammals of important bais in the river Luile. Three missions of prospection of the bais were carried out in the bais of Bolifo, Bekalikali and Somo.
- 10 camera traps have been positioned since late May especially in Somo.
- On 11 June 2017, a specimen of the butterfly species *Papilio zalmoxis*, also known as "The Giant Blue Swallowtail", was observed in Somo II Elephant bai on the Luile River in Salonga. This butterfly is the second largest on the African continent. It normally lives above the forest canopy and only descends on the ground for a few minutes during the hot days to look for minerals in the earth generally in elephants bais.



ZSM (Zoological Society of Milwaukee)

- Census of the remaining 25% of the Mondjoku sector started in February ended in May. Analysis and mapping are underway. It should be noted that 20 local poachers were apprehended during this census.
- Bio-monitoring of 1000 sq. km of the Etate area was carried out, maps and entry points of the transects recorded in GPS.
- Identification and training of key personnel for the establishment of a local ICCN biomonitoring team was carried out.



MPI/LMU (Max Planck Institute)

- The inventory of the southern block of the SNP by MPI / LMU continued, bringing the number of transects traveled to 172, ie 43% of the total southern block.
- The "Butterflies" team posed 135 traps for estimating species diversity and 388 samples of butterflies were collected.
- Data from 144 camera traps installed on the transects were recovered.

WCS (Wildlife Conservation Society)

- Images from trap cameras in Bekalikali Bai were retrieved showing frequency of elephants with cubs on land, river hogs and bonobo nests. 6 cameras were installed outside the bai.
- The Salonga Biological Data Collection Protocol has been updated.
- Monitoring of carbon stock in the primary forest plots at the Lokofa block was carried out and the inventory data of 9 hectares of Nguma primary forest recorded.



Consolidation of the Salonga National Park (PNS)

Workshops and meetings

The Interim Site Manager and the Deputy Site Manager attended the 7th meeting of the Protected Areas Network (RESAP) held in Lubumbashi from 29 May to 3 June. The meeting focused on basic management tools (strategy for monitoring a protected area and development of a management and development plan).

Management and Integrity of the Salonga National Park (SNP)

Surveillance of the SNP



Continuation of the surveillance of the park through organization of regular patrols. The patrols are carried out with the support of units of the FARDC (Armed Forces of the DRC) from the Bonobos special operation in Monkoto. Observations of threats to the park recorded by the patrols are as follows:

- Hunting: 189 observations
- Collection of non-timber forest products: 2 observations
- Fisheries: 36 observations

Arrests of poachers

20 poachers were encountered during the period and among them 12 were arrested and heard on minutes, the others were simply sensitized and released. Large quantities of seized bushmeat were burned.

Among the poachers arrested, two were tried by the Military Court of Boende, which for the occasion was transferred to Monkoto. The trial of Mokola aka P  p   and Ilanga aka Osama took place from 21 to 22 June 2017. They were each sentenced to 13 years of prison and to the payment of 150,000 Congolese francs for legal costs and 1,500,000 Congolese francs as damages to the ICCN. The two poachers were sentenced for the illegal possession of assault weapons and the introduction of a firearm into the Salonga National Park. They will then be transferred to Ndolo Military Prison in Kinshasa.



The hearing in Monkoto was an opportunity to sensitize other poachers and the general public as well about the seriousness of the offence of poaching.

Delivery of materials

Materials acquired under the COFED program have been delivered. This equipment includes: 15 computers and 9 printers, 31 motorcycles, 13 outboard motors, 8 VSAT antennas, 8 solar kits.

Buildings

- Start of construction of the first chalet in Monkoto.
- Manufacturing of Hydraform stabilized earth blocks
- Rehabilitation of the Monkoto HQ buildings, rehabilitation of the fence and guesthouse.
- Installation of a sign at the Monkoto Airfield

Governance, participation and benefit-sharing

Participatory mapping

A workshop to validate participatory maps of the 6 villages of the Bolongo communities (157.473 ha) was organized. The six files with the vector layers were submitted to the Community Forestry Division of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development for validation. The participatory mapping process was also initiated for the communities inside the corridor between the two park blocks.

Workshop of the official launching of the Rural Agricultural and Conservation Program of the Salonga Complex

From 28 to 29 June, the launching workshop of the Rural Agricultural and Conservation Program of the Salonga Complex (PARCCS). The project aims to improve sustainable agricultural activities on the outskirts of the Salonga National Park. The overall objective is to contribute to the protection of the environmental capital of the Salonga complex while increasing economic benefits for the local populations. Oxfam and ISCO are associated with WWF in the implementation of the project.

Training of pilot farmers

10 pilot farmers benefited from training on operating accounts with the aim of improving the management of their farms and evaluating the profitability of their activities. During this session, seeds of Mucuna plant were distributed (Mucuna is a cover crop allowing rapid soil replenishment with short fallow periods).



Literacy

The literacy program has been launched since June. A particular feature of this year's program is the creation by women learners of cash gardens and the development of income-generating activities (manufacture and marketing of improved local soap).

Appearance of a bonobo in the middle of the city



On 20 May 2017 in Oshwe a family of bonobos composed of three individuals (two parents and a young) appeared in the middle of the city. According to the population, this was not the first time that such appearance occurred at that same place.

Having aroused curiosity, the bonobos were attacked by dogs.

The bonobos defended themselves and chased the group of dogs. In the confusion, the young bonobo found himself isolated in a field of sugar cane. Happy to find plenty to eat, he was then

surprised by a group of people who killed it with machetes. As a result of the incident, the people who killed the bonobo were arrested by the police and subsequently released after payment of a fine. The other two bonobos had managed to escape and returned into the wild.



Visit of a WWF US team



A mission from WWF US visited the SNP from May 6 to 13, 2017. In Monkoto, the mission visited activities funded by the CAFEC program, including two pilot farms, two literacy centers in Iyanga and Bongale 3, the hospital and the park. This allowed to see working conditions of the rangers and to hold meetings with community organizations.

In Oshwe, the WWF-US mission met with the women's associations of Oshwe and visited their sites reforestation, agroforestry and fish farming sites. These visits provided an opportunity to collect information, photos and images of achievements of the CAFEC project and the Salonga program, which will be featured in a special article on Salonga in the February 2018 issue of the WWF-US magazine and will be used for information videos.

Celebration of World Environment Day

Like everywhere else in the world, the Salonga National Park Management Unit (UGPNS) celebrated World Environment Day on June 5 with the theme "Connecting People to Nature".

This celebration was an opportunity to raise public awareness on the protection of the environment, through various actions such as planting trees, collecting plastic bags at the Monkoto market, plays, football matches, etc.



For more information

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