

LAC-TELE COMMUNITY RESERVE NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2017



Storm brewing over the swamplands of Lac-Tele Community Reserve. ©Ben Evans/WCS

KEY EVENTS

- Conservation cacao nurseries were installed in 10 villages in the south of Lac Tele. Planters were trained in nursery & plantation management and up-to-date plant hygiene techniques. Building the capacity of planters to grow sustainable cacao helps them to reduce hunting effort, providing an alternative source of income.
- The Ministry of Forestry Economy and Sustainable Development carried out a mission to discuss with communities the possibility of extending the reserve to cover two important areas: the Batanga and Bailly swamps, both of which have very large gorilla populations.

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

Governance: Members of community conservation and governance groups, including traditional land chiefs, and village platforms from the periphery of the reserve, took part in a vision and budget workshop held in Epena HQ. Managing an organization isn't easy, especially with limited funds, so our Community team helped them to elaborate project ideas and develop sound budgets; for example, the Land Chiefs proposed a reforestation project for recently burnt areas of forest.



raffia racks, for example, has helped to solve problems about the quantity of fish that can be smoked at a time.

Image: Rolf Mossaba helps demonstrate new smoking techniques to fishers in the LTCR

LAC-TELE COMMUNITY RESERVE
FISHERIES TEAM WORKED WITH 800
MEN AND WOMEN ACROSS THE
RESERVE IN 2017



Sustainable fisheries: Our fisheries team continued to check up on the use of fisheries smoking units – over 30 people have started using them following trainings given in October. The flavor, in particular, is proving popular! The team have also helped to adapt the smokers to local conditions – the use of

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Ranger Christelle wades through a marsh, highlighting the challenges of patrolling the reserve during the wet season.





©Ben Evans/WCS

Reflections on the Likouala-aux-Herbes - the main access route to the park during the wet season when some roads become unusable.



©Ben Evans/WCS

Elections of community fishing committees in the Lac-Tele Community Reserve.



©Ben Evans/WCS

Cacao nurseries, during a training on sustainable cacao farming project in Lac-Tele Community Reserve.

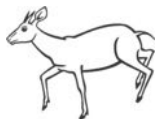
ANTI-POACHING UNIT

Illegally killed elephants:

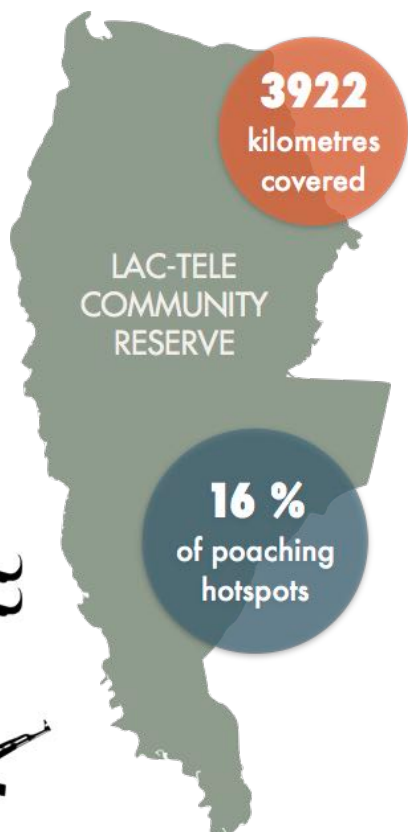


Seizures:

208 kg



illegal bushmeat including elephant meat



Despite the best efforts of the reserve, a pangolin trafficker arrested in late 2017 was released in November, based on an apparently fabricated medical certificate. His arrest is being sought again. Evidence also links him to ivory trafficking in the area.

New Garmin Delorme units arrived in the reserve. These units will allow our teams to be in 24/7 contact with the operations center, meaning their movements can be coordinated, and emergencies responded to rapidly. These units will also allow other teams from the reserve to better arrange logistics and remain safe in the field.



Ranger Christelle examines a baby sitatunga and ten seized dwarf crocodiles.

LOGISTICS & INFRASTRUCTURE

Construction at Bouanela and Mboua was completed, with just the painting left to go! These bases, in the southern and northern most parts of the reserve, will allow our anti-poaching and community teams to regularly reach the most remote parts of the reserve, as well as making the reserve more contactable by men and women in these areas.

The reserve received a shipment of solar batteries from the UNDP, which will enable our main and satellite bases to keep working whenever the sun's shining – which is almost every day in Lac Tele!

LAC TÉLÉ IN THE MEDIA:

New post on fisheries projects in the reserve: [A Swimming Success in Lac-Tele](#)

