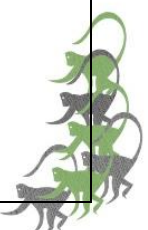


*Wild mangabey and baby captured on a camera trap in Cape Three Point Forest Reserve*

# West African Primate Conservation Action

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

[www.wapca.org](http://www.wapca.org)



## Message from the WAPCA-Programme Manager

This year has been its usually busy year!

We have enjoyed the arrival of four new mangabey babies at the Endangered Primate Breeding Centre in Accra and the creation of a new breeding mangabey group at the Forested Enclosure.



WAPCA is incredibly grateful to the Limelight Foundation and Hertfordshire Zoo who together with Wildlife Division funded a refrigerated food container for Accra Zoo where our EPBC is situated. The new food container ensures that we can provide our monkeys with good quality food, and that we do not have any waste due to food spoilage.

Out in the field the communities continue to carry out vital conservation efforts. We are particularly pleased to announce that ground was broken in 2022 for a second organic coconut oil processing centre in the Ankasa-Tano Landscape. This provides a sustainable livelihood for local people, reducing the need to enter the forest, and by partnering with private sector they receive a fair wage and a premium for organic practices. At our first centre we have almost completed the charcoal kiln. The kiln converts the coconut waster (husks) into charcoal. This charcoal can then be sold and an additional revenue stream as well as an alternative to firewood.

Conservation education activities has seen the addition of a third school to our Friends For Wildlife programme reaching now our schools in the Ankasa-Tano Landscape. We also of course celebrated Mangabey Awareness Day on the 1<sup>st</sup> August.

Highlight of the year came when we completed surveys in each of our project areas; and were delighted to capture video footage of mangabeys in Cape Three Point Forest Reserve, including breeding females.

We welcomed two zoo-keepers from Yorkshire Wildlife Park this year, and in exchange facilitated a capacity building opportunity to an Accra Senior Keeper to visit the Park in the UK thanks to Wildlife Foundation. Equally our two vets, Dr Gyebi and Dr Asuman also travelled to the UK to work with our colleagues at Wildlife Vets International, Twycross Zoo, International Zoo Vet Group, Royal Veterinary College, Woburn Safari Park and Hertfordshire Zoo – they also squeezed in a trip to Wembley to see England play a friendly against Malta.

WAPCA Ghana Advisory Board voted a new Chair and Vice Chair in Prof. Edward Wiafe and Chaachele Faalong, respectively. We look forward to working together. We thank David Tettey and Vivian Nuhu, the outgoing Chairs and all Board Members who stepped down in 2022 for all their dedicated time and expertise over the years.

Thank you to all our partners, friends, funders and members that have made this all possible. Thank you to all the volunteers and interns that have given their time and experience for free, and to the WAPCA team who work tirelessly for the flora and fauna of Ghana.

Wishing you all the best for 2024,

*Andrea Dempsey*



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## 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 four disciplines:

- **Discover** - new populations through comprehensive survey work;
- **Protect** - through community driven and sustainable action;
- **Reinforce** - with two captive breeding sites managed by the European Association of Zoos & Aquaria (EAZA) breeding programme;
- **Connecting** - nature with adults and children alike, so that they are inspired to care for the planet they share, not own.

## 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), 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 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 (*Dephomyys eburnea*), white-throated shrew (*Crocidura wimmeri*) and the Togo mouse (*Leimacomys buettneri*).

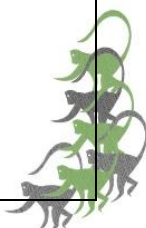
## What are our focal species?

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



*West African primate illustrations by  
artist Stephen D. Nash*

Within the eastern region of the Upper Guinean rainforest that extends from Côte d'Ivoire to Ghana, there resides a distinct community of primates endemic to the area, including the Critically Endangered (and possibly extinct) Miss Waldron's red colobus, the roloway monkey and the white-thighed black and white colobus – both Critically Endangered, and the Endangered white-naped mangabey 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 (pictured below) appear to be following the same path towards extinction. Additional endemic primates include the *Critically Endangered* Western chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes verus*), the *Near Threatened* olive colobus (*Procolobus verus*), the lesser spot-nose monkey (*Cercopithecus petaurista petaurista*), the Lowe's monkey (*Cercopithecus mona lowei*).



# What are the threats?

The prime threats come from loss of habitat and poaching or hunting of the animals.

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% over 15 years. As you would imagine, illegal logging is the most devastating, being wholly unmanaged with no discretion for tree species, age, or size. One third of illegal logging is carried out by licensed companies who either take more than their quota or in protected areas. The remaining two thirds is down to illegal chainsaw operators, operating any way they can access by road. According Global Forest Watch, Ghana lost more than half a million hectares between 2001 and 2014 - around 9% of its total forest cover.

Extensive bush meat hunting for both local consumption and export to other countries is similarly devastating. Estimates of the bush meat trade run as high as \$400 million per year in Ghana and \$500 million in Côte d'Ivoire, causing a massive decline in the wildlife populations of West Africa. Wildlife populations in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire are disappearing at such an alarming rate that many of the remaining rainforest habitats have become nearly devoid of mammal species, causing conservationist to now label these forests as "empty forests".

The unique fauna and flora found within these areas of rainforest have long been under the stress of deforestation and overhunting and with diminishing forest cover in which to retreat, wildlife within these sparse forests are increasingly finding they've 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 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

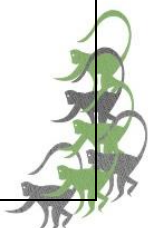
Our members, who we are incredible grateful to are:

- **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**
- **Zoo Bojnice**
- **Twycross Zoo**
- **Zoo Duisburg**
- **Rotterdam Zoo**
- **Gaia Zoo**
- **Fundacion Bioparc**
- **Ouwehands Rhenen**
- **Zoo Kosice**
- **Zoo de Cerza**
- **Tierpark Berlin**



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**



# 2023 ACTIVITIES REPORT

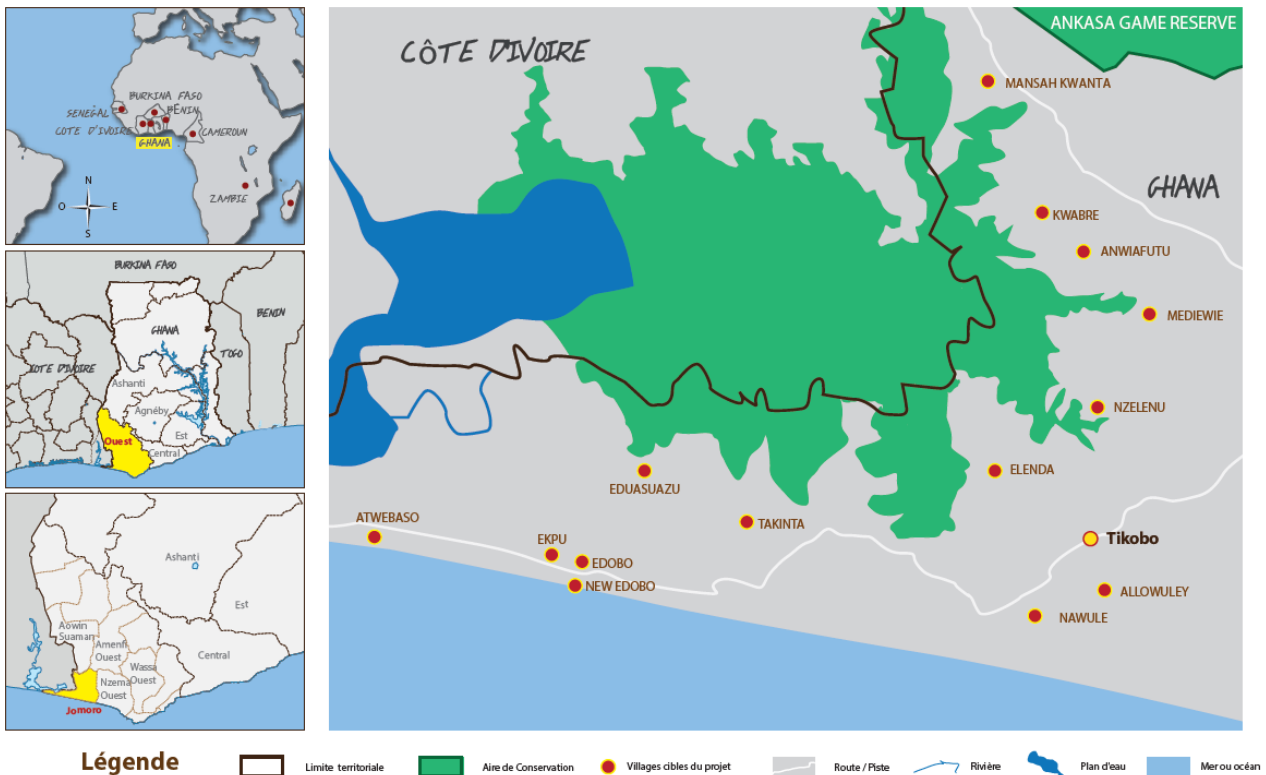
## WAPCA IN ACTION CREATING VIABLE LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

### TRANS-BORDER COMMUNITY-MANAGED RAINFOREST PROJECT

by *Insitu Project Coordinator – Karen Akuaku*

#### Protecting the Last Remaining Primate Habitats in Ghana

The Kwabre Rainforest is a 2,500-hectare corridor of community-owned virgin rainforest which lies along the Tanoé River, directly opposite 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*), the Critically Endangered white-thighed 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, works 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. Thanks to them and funding from the French Development Bank (AFD), Sofi Tucker Foundation, Ciel Azur and Nahe Cosmetics we have had another successful year.



## Our Project Goals:



**Community Patrol Members**

1) Protect and enhance the 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

WAPCA continued its collaboration with Noe to provide technical support to the CREMA. There was a continuous discussion with the CREMA on the need to fully accept the CREMA ideology. The CREMA was invited to a conference under the theme 'Managing the Commons'' where using

landscape approach could help resolve some issues that arises from governing common resources.

The CREMA held its Annual General Meeting during the reporting year. During the AGM, the CEC gave an overview of CREMA efforts (activities) so far, financial account, monitoring, illegal activities, green value chain and stakeholder collaboration. Some highlights from the AGM - Current crema income stands at 16,345.65 cedis only.

Also, the CREMA CEC and its members met to discuss community needs and how best the CREMA can support the communities. For instance, School Canteen for Nawule Catholic school. Ellenda requested for shed for 'weighing' of infants. Edobo requested a water facility. The CREMA was able to buy a polytank for

Edobo community to serve as water facility for the community. The CREMA also supported the construction of the school canteen at Nawule.

## 2. Community Rainforest Protection Teams

The Community Rainforest Protection Team have worked tirelessly throughout the year, conducting a total of 351 local patrols and 20 joint patrols in the Ankasa-Tano Community Rainforest. The patrol team continued with the use of the Event Book for collecting biodiversity data and monitoring illegal activities.



*Patrollers on their way to patrol at Kwabre*

During the year, 16 chainsaws and a total of 1,110 lumbers were seized. The patrollers made 101 arrests for illegal lumbering. Other illegal activities recorded during patrols included poaching activities, fuelwood collection and charcoal production. Three endangered primates namely, white-naped mangabey, roloway and black and white-thighed colobus were encountered by the patrollers during local patrols.

## 3. Reforestation &

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

Monitoring of tree nurseries was carried out during the year, and this revealed that there were pockets of nursery that are not properly managed within the project landscape. It was therefore essential to create three healthy nursery sites for proper maintenance. A total of 1,375 seedlings of Framo, Emire and Prekese, Bako and Mahogany were given out to 14 farmers (1Female/13Males) in all.



*A nursery worker at Ellenda Nursey site*

## 5. Transborder Collaboration with Côte d'Ivoire

Ghana hosted the 2023 transboundary meeting at Elubo to discuss transboundary management progress, challenges, and way forward. Despite the number of allegations levelled against the Ghanaian team, these suggestions were made to help the progress of transboundary management.

- The CREMA with the help of WD and the security agencies to create a base at Ellenda Wharf and Edu which the chain saw operators usually ply.
- Establish contact with the right authorities.
- In terms of security, jurisdiction is important, and the Half Assini police unit can be helpful to the Ghanaian team.
- Wildlife Department (WD) at Ankasa Conservation Area expressed readiness to support the CREMA and transboundary patrols. WD conduct extended patrols for at least 6 days continuous (tent camping).



*Participants at the Transboundary meeting*

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

**Organic Coconut Oil Green Value Chain:** WAPCA continued to work in partnership with Noe to reinforce support for the Ankasa-Tano CREMA in the development of the coconut green value chain within the Ankasa-Tano landscape. The two partners awarded BREC, a construction company to construct a new processing center at Edobo

The Coconut Development Cooperative (CDC) held two executive meetings during the reporting period. The meetings discussed the coconut price hike and the way forward and what to be done with the funds from fair 4 life. The CDC agreed to use the money to purchase three tricycles and drill two borehole for Edobo community and Ellenda Center. The CDC has successfully received its Cooperative Certification from the Jomoro Municipal Assembly.





**CDC chairman (middle) and two tricycles bought by the CDC to support coconut farmers transport coconut to the processing center**



#### **Charcoal Kiln**

During the year, the construction of charcoal unit continued, with about 70% of the construction work completed. The project team tried the first testing trial. The project team have agreed to bring in kiln design experts to test the efficacy of the kiln and train potential coconut charcoal producers. The remaining 30% of the construction will be completed after the expert testing in the next reporting year.

#### **Organic Cocoa Green Value Chain:**

A total of 553 farmers were involved in the project in all the 13 communities, which involves 440 males and 113 females. The training sessions covered topics including sanitary harvesting, appropriate application of bio inputs, ground management, cocoa buying arrangements, farm maintenance,

record keeping, black pod management, village susu and loan monitoring and soil nutrient management. The internal audit was done successfully in preparation for external audit, however the control union had many bookings and therefore postponed our booking to early 2024, as such preparation of farmers and farms is ongoing. Preparations towards the buying of cocoa beans are still ongoing.

The registered cocoa farmers received a total of 155 cartons of Agropy organic insecticide and 109 cartons of phytogreen organic fertilizer.

YGL's efforts to secure a warehouse at the Takoradi port as a step towards organic cocoa was not achieved due to delays from Ghana's COCOBOD. YGL's expectation to begin purchasing of organic cocoa from registered farmers in 2023 was not actualized.



## 7. Environmental Awareness Raising

WAPCA successfully held twenty (20) radio programs in collaboration with representatives from Ghana Wildlife Division, field officers, nursery workers and CREMA Executives. During the radio program, topics discussed included the role of CREMA in protecting biodiversity, forest, and community development. Key events such as Mangabey Awareness Day, World Wildlife Day, close season for hunting were also discussed. The essence of biodiversity conservation to the environment, combating illegal logging and bushmeat trade were also discussed.

Listeners were given the chance to also contribute to the discussion, with an average of 10 different calls to the program. Old and young people alike called in to ask questions, make contributions and suggestions which testifies the success of the radio program. The radio program has been a tool for reaching out to approximately 10,000 people within the project area and beyond which has helped to educate people on environmental issues, CREMA organisation and its activities in ensuring the sustainable management of the Ankasa-Tano Forest. Based in the phone-in-session, it could be deduced that, people lacked information on forest and wildlife laws, restoration activity of the CREMA and WD (Green Ghana Day) and conservation.



***WAPCA project lead with patrol team and Wildlife Division officer during radio program.***



## 8. Petroleum Hub Advocacy

WAPCA continued to work in strengthening its advocacy with other relevant concerned stakeholders on the effects of the Petroleum Hub.

During the year, it became crucial for WAPCA to officially inform the Ankasa-Tano CREMA and ensure transparency on WAPCA's Phub advocacy plans that would involve members of the CREMA or at least occur within the CREMA landscape.

WAPCA staff met with CREMA CEC to clarify WAPCA's stand and that of the CREMA. Its quite unfortunate that the CREMA and WAPCA do not have the same stands. WAPCA took the opportunity during the meeting to address any challenges that may arise from WAPCA's advocacy because WAPCA and the CREMA do not share the same position on the Phub.

WAPCA informed the CREMA on upcoming projects on community advocacy which are not projects advocating against the Phub but to provide the CREMA the needed information and build their capacity for local community advocacy on environmental issues within Ghana. These included a radio program on enhancing community rights and legal training on environmental frameworks. The CREMA welcomed these two project activities and any other that would educate them on their rights. However, the CREMA rejected an invitation from WAPCA to embark on an exchange visit but welcomed any education through showcasing documentaries of negative impacts of similar development projects and how community people addressed those challenges.



*Participants at Legal training.*



## 9. Knowledge Sharing

During the year, Ankasa-Tanoe CREMA received visitors from Atewa and Ayensu CREMAs under AROCHA Ghana. There was an exchange between these CREMAs where the Atewa and Ayensu CREMA learned about the progress of the Ankasa-Tanoe CREMA, the success, challenges, and the motivation to keep up with the CREMA till date. Lesson learnt from the visit include, AROCHA to dwell more on volunteerism with their CREMAs, the two CREMAs to structure their CEC as Ankasa-Tano has done, AROCHA to send a participant to witness Ankasa-Tano AGM and learn from it since the two CREMA have not held any AGM since its inception 4years ago. Arocha to consider GVC in their conservation activities and partner with YGL in their landscape going forward.



*Participants from Ankasa-Tano CREMA and Atewa and Ayensu CREMAs*

## 10. Community Testimonial on WAPCA's Project

“Since the inception of the CREMA in 2012 and the mandate of protecting wildlife species in the forest, the CREMA have received financial support through building of the of the processing center and subsequently the charcoal unit and the second center. More females are currently employed, and it has minimized the unemployment rate. I have spoken with YGL, looking forward to them honouring their promise of buying organic cocoa. Through the purchasing of coconuts, the CREMA have received about 10,000.00 Ghana cedis from SFC. This has helped the CREMA purchase a land which will be used to construct an office space and conference center. We have received trainings from the project. So far so good”. (**pers. comm. Tufuhen Leo Bonya, CREMA chairman**).

“I am a cassava farmer and cassava can take a year to mature and harvest. Working as a processor currently helps me get paid right after work which I can buy food and cater for my children. Since I started joining the processing group, I have been educated on the importance of organic farming, I now know organic farming helps to stop diseases that affect crops. I have also learnt about hand washing and not to contaminate the oil being produced as the name suggest 'Virgin Oil'. The center's activities have help me and my family a lot, my father even sells his coconuts to the processing center. It helps him as a coconut farmer. He receives a bonus for selling to the center as he is part of the CDC group” (**pers. comm. Sophia, Processor**).

“I am a member of the CDC, (Ellenda Chairman). We have had several meetings and trainings as CDC group on bookkeeping, budgeting, and leadership. Through Noe-WAPCA's effort, farmers received passbook to record to know how much coconut I have supplied to the processing center. I gain receipt upon purchase payment. The center pays bonus to farmers as a group, and it shared among farmers who sent coconut to the center. There has been changes since I started selling to the processing center. Initially rainy season is bumper harvest where Nigerian buyers purchase at the price, they want but now the center purchases coconut at a fixed price. Every coconut is bought except the ones that doesn't contain water. I have received education on organic farming and not to litter on our farmers''. (**pers. comm. Mr. Anthony Ocran, coconut farmer**).

“Converting from inorganic cocoa farming to organic farming has been beneficial to me since I joined two years ago. My harvest in 2022 was only 4.5 bags and 6-7bags in 2023 which means that as the year goes by harvest will increase gradually. The cost of production is low compared to inorganic farming where you need to hire people to weed daily in the farm, hire spraying machine and buy fertilizer. YGL provides free fertilizers and I do the weeding in bits myself. The cocoa tree doesn't die anymore unlike that of the inorganic cocoa tree. Now the soil in my farm has improved greatly- insects such as caterpillar, termites and others have returned to the soil, you can see their work every morning in the farm, food stuff such as cocoyam have started resprouting in farm.'. (**pers. comm. Simon, Organic Cocoa Farmer**)



(c) Sheila Smith

**CREMA Chairman- Tufuhen Leo Bonya**



## **2023 ACTIVITIES REPORT**

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

#### **CAPE THREE POINT FOREST RESERVE**

**By Project Lead – Charles Afosah**

The Cape Three Point Forest Reserve is one of the last coastal forests in West Africa. Recognized as a Global Significant Biodiversity Area (GSBA), Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) and an Important Bird Area (IBA) it is also one of the last refuges for three highly threatened primates; the roloway monkey, *Cercopithecus roloway* – Critically Endangered, the white-thighed colobus, *Colobus vellerosus* – Critically Endangered and the white-naped mangabey, *Cercocebus lunulatus* - Endangered. The captured on-camera traps in the 2023 WAPCA survey show the continued presence of primates in the landscape by the WAPCA Research Group.



**Camera trap image**

With the confirmation of these species in the forest, it was imperative to engage with the local communities and government to increase the protection. The forest, classified as a Reserve, has the lowest level of government protection resulting in devastating levels of illegal logging, mining, clearing for agriculture and hunting with guns and dogs.

Partnering with Hen Mpoano, a local NGO already working in the region and who had recently completed a Management Plan for the area and connecting wetlands, WAPCA began project activities on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2020, appointing Charles Afosah as Project Lead.

The following preliminary project objectives were set:

1. Reenergize the dormant Community Management Resource Area (CREMA).
2. Training, Capacity building and Support of Community Forest Monitoring Team (CFMT).
3. Identify nursery sites within communities, select community members to be trained in nursery husbandry and seedling care. Saplings grown will be used in the forest, buffer zone delineation and community harvest.



4. Engage with all members of the communities to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity through film screenings and other conservation education activities.

For project success and sustainability, it is vital to be holistic in design; improving the socioeconomic status of the area (reducing the need to enter the forest to supplement poor income) and ensuring that the communities benefit from protecting the environment. To that end it is planned to expand the project objectives to include:

1. Development of sustainable livelihoods and the promotion of Green Value Chains, fostering partnerships with the private sector to ensure fair prices and Conservation Agreements. Farmers will also be trained in Good Agricultural Practices, to ensure good yield within the existing farm, reducing the need to increase farm size and encroach into the forest.
2. Develop an ecotourism working group to develop opportunities around the Reserve and increase revenue.

In 2023 following achievements were made:

### **1. Reenergize the dormant Community Resource Management Area (CREMA)**

Following on from last years Free, Prior, Inform Consent (FPIC) workshops the CREMA communities concluded on this important program. WAPCA together with FPIC Consultants had a one-day validation and training workshop for 13 community representatives including Community Executive Committee (CEC) and Community Resource Management Committee (CRMC) of the CREMA to know the responsibilities and mandate of the Community Resources Management Committee in the management of the natural resource to ensure sustainability of these precious nature available to them.

Capacity was built on using available or little resources within the areas to protect Cape Three Points Forest Reserve from destruction and this will motivate partnering organizations within the landscape to commit more resources in the communities and the protection of the Cape Three Points Forest Reserve. At the workshop, the CREMA Executive commended WAPCA for the support in the livelihoods of bee-keeper, ecotourism engagement and donation of tricycles to the CREMA to ease the movement of their operation within the Landscape.



***CREMA receives the registration details for the tricycle***



## 2. Implementation of Awareness Campaign Programmes

Radio being a powerful tool in communication and reaching a larger audience WAPCA renewed its radio broadcasting contract with Ogya FM to continue discussions with experts and practitioners from natural resource management and its protection such as Wildlife Division Services, Forest Division Services, Hen Mpoano, Friends for Wildlife, Community Monitoring Team, CEC and CRMC executives. The interactive programs on biodiversity conservation awareness creation which reach a larger audience in the municipality and beyond have made it possible to draw listeners' attention to the endangered primates, WAPCA activities like community development, CREMA Sports for Conservation, Friends For Wildlife programs, livelihood programs on beekeeping and ecotourism and other environmental issues which pose a threat to nature.



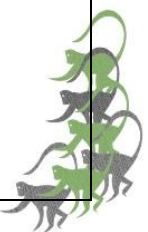
**Radio programme on Ogya FM**

During the reporting year, Cape Three Points CREMA received a team to raise key conservation awareness on the importance of Cape Three Points Forest Reserve and illegal activities that continue to pose as a threat to the landscape. The team comprised WAPCA, Hen Mpoano, Forestry Commission, and the State Attorney. In total, eighteen (18) communities and seven CREMA schools were visited. The visit to the schools allowed them to come to terms with the fact that their landscape houses vital natural resources of not only national importance but global as well.





*Raising awareness in forest fringe communities and schools*



### 3. Restoring the degraded area of the Cape Three Point Forest Reserve

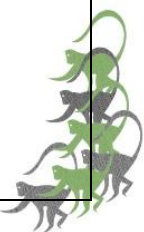
More than 3000 tree seedlings were picked from Forestry Commission Ghana and planted in the buffer zones and distributed to the schools and individual farmers within the landscape.



*Planting seedlings school grounds*



*Collecting seedlings*



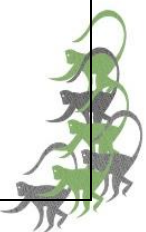
#### 4. Community Rainforest Monitoring Patrols

Community Monitoring Team with support from CEC and CRMC Executive, Forestry Division Services made a total of three arrests and confiscation of 311 lumber and bushmeat within the project area. With the support from WAPCA the Community Monitoring Team, CEC, CRMC executive and communities continue to play pivotal roles to collaborate with Forestry Division Service to fight illegal activities in the Cape Three Points Forest Reserve.



*Illegal lumbering*

Strengthening the protection of Cape Three Point Forest Reserve WAPCA together with Hen Mpoano, State Attorney, Forestry Division Services, Wildlife Division Service, Ghana Police Service, media and other key stakeholders with expertise meet on different occasions to discuss the establishment of the Takoradi Forest District Court to prosecute illegal forest related offenders especially in the Cape Three Points Forest Reserve and others within the landscape. The State Attorney Generals shared experiences with conservationist activists' presence on the processes to go through to get the case held and to get better attention to go in their favour.



## 5. Development of sustainable livelihoods

In strengthening the Community Resource Management Area communities in the Cape Three Point Project area, WAPCA together with Bees Abroad has completed Phase I and Phase II alternative livelihood programmes in beekeeping. Second Phase II communities are Gyedu, Boikrom, Ntaakrom, Akyinim and Nyamebekyere. These six communities have received the requisite skills and training in beekeeping and honey production management. The two days of theoretical and practical training offered them the opportunity to make their beehives using local materials like raffia palm and baboons that can be found in their communities at a lesser cost. This brings the total number of communities trained and provided with all the needed tools and materials for beekeeping and honey production into fourteen communities within the landscape.



*Bee hives insitu*



## **6. Developing an ecotourism working group to develop opportunities around the Reserve and increase revenue.**

The Ecotourism working group met with Free, Prior, inform and Consent (FPIC) consultant to discuss the importance of Ecotourism and challenges within the landscape. Some of the benefits include research and educational purposes, employment opportunities, income generation to boost local economy, securing the C3P forest reserve from forest crime and improvement of biodiversity and livelihood of the people within the landscape. Challenges include redevelopment of potential virgin destination, road accessibility, local information center for inquiring and vehicle to transport working group and tourists, and skills development and capacity building for working group to meet the best standard practices when it comes to ecotourism.

During the stakeholder's engagement which included the Ecotourism Working Group. The WAPCA field team and the consultant made the working group aware that WAPCA and its partners are making all effort to work on developing the ecotourism and the final report on community assessment done by Challenges Ghana has been submitted to WAPCA on ecotourism and other livelihood programs within the project area.



*Cape Three Point Community*





# 2023 ACTIVITIES REPORT

## WAPCA IN ACTION CREATING VIABLE LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

### EX-SITU CONSERVATION

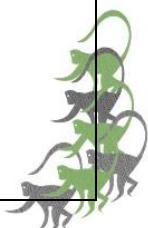
*By Exsitu Project Coordinator – Foster Poasangma*

#### 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. 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.

#### 1. Welcomes

2023 was equally another great year in WAPCA's calendar as we welcomed four new births at EPBC. Interestingly, two of these births came from first-time mothers, Mama and Mercedes. Fortunately, all four females nursed their offspring despite our fear of baby rejection from first-time mums. These new additions are very crucial to the breeding program and is an indication of proper management of the reserve population at the centre.



## 2. Transfers

Within the same year under review, we received a breeding recommendation from the EEP Coordinator to transfer Klaus, a young adult male from his natal group at EPBC to establish a breeding group of 1.2.1 group in the Forested Enclosure in Kumasi Zoo. Before the movement, the young adult male was being taken through a series of cooperative box training. This was to give the animal a less stressful experience during the transfer process.



*Arrival of Klaus at FE*

## 3. Centre Improvements

After, several years of countless efforts in improving the storage and preservation of animal food at the Zoo, 2023 brought this to fruition. Through the collaboration of WAPCA and Accra Zoo, a new forty-foot container with a pre-installed refrigerator was procured and installed at the Zoo.

This storage facility was jointly funded by WAPCA thanks to a generous donation from Limelight Foundation and Hertfordshire Zoo and Wildlife Division through Accra Zoo.

This new storage facility will save both WAPCA and Accra approximately 7000 euros in financial loss from food spoilage due to the poor conditions of the old storage facility. More importantly, the new facility will keep the animal food in good condition and hence limit the risk of bacterial infection.



*New Refrigerator at Accra Zoo*

## 4. Capacity Building

One of WAPCA's strategies for achieving its mission and vision is to prioritize capacity building for its staff through exchange programs, workshops, and conferences. To that end in 2023 I represented WAPCA in a regional workshop on ex-situ conservation which took place in Cotonou, Benin. This was a 2-day workshop organized by PABio-IUCN to bring together institutions within West Africa practicing ex-situ conservation with government agencies, and media representatives to evaluate and redefine a framework to improve species conservation in ex-situ programmes.

At the workshop, I delivered a presentation on our experiences, challenges, and recommendations in ex-situ conservation of primates. Interestingly, I was the only representative who presented on primates and exclusive ex-situ conservation as others shared experiences on semi-ex-situ conservation, where the species are conserved within protected parks.



*IUCN-PABio Workshop*

In the same year, as part of capacity-building strategies, the Wildlife Foundation supported an exchange program instituted by WAPCA, that saw the visit of Esther, a senior keeper from Accra Zoo to Yorkshire Wildlife Park to attend the Association of British and Irish Wildlife Animal Keeper annual symposium and to undertake a 5-day work placement at Yorkshire Wildlife Park. Two senior keepers, Greg and Jasmine from Yorkshire Wildlife Park came back with Esther as part of the exchange visit. While in Ghana, they worked with the keepers in Accra and Kumasi Zoos where they shared their experiences with them and learned how zoo keeping activities are being carried out here.





***Jasmine, getting browse for primates.***

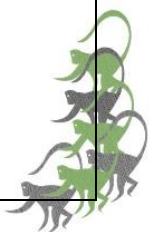


***Esther, with team at Yorkshire Wildlife Park***

Through this exchange program, two veterinarians, Dr Samuel Asumah and Dr. Gilbert, both resident zoo veterinarians in Kumasi and Accra Zoo respectively were sponsored to travel to the UK for a two-week practical training. Thanks to the Wildlife Vets International and a private donor the aim of the training was to enhance their practical skills, acquire knowledge through experience sharing by their counterparts in the UK to enable them to carry out their duties effectively and efficiently in Ghana. The training brought together the veterinary teams from Twycross Zoo, Royal Veterinary College, Hertfordshire Zoo, Woburn Safari Park and the International Zoo Veterinary Group (IZVG). The vets were also able to attend the London Vet Show and the European Turtle Alliance Conference.



***Dr. Gyebi and D Asumah at The Royal Veterinary College and Twycross Zoo***



## 5. Repair/Maintenance

To ensure the proper functioning of the Centre, we routinely undertake repairs and/or maintenance activities on the enclosures. These repair activities are necessary as they ensure the proper functioning of the enclosures, provide a stimulating environment for the primates as well as ensure safety for both the animals and the keepers. Onetime, a hard-working young man usually assists with the repairs at the centre.

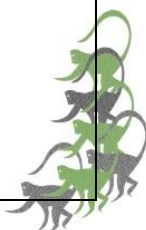
He has done amazing repair work for instance he routinely changes the branches for our animals, and this provides a robust climbing system for animals which plays a significant role in enriching their lives.

## 6. Enrichment

At the Centre, we explore and implement a variety of enrichment activities as this significantly improves the welfare of the primates. In the year under review, with the support of my assistant David, National Service Persons, and volunteers, we worked on building and implementing a variety of enrichment items/devices for the primates. Apart from the daily enrichment items, we have explored different feeding strategies that in a way have served as enrichment as it brings natural behaviours such as foraging. For instance, we use curtains, fill them with substrates, and hide chopped food in the curtains. This is then sealed with cellulose tape and dropped in the enclosure during feeding time. The animals will have to spend some time figuring out how to get the food out of the box. This provides feeding incentives for the animals.



*Enrichment time with Kweku and Son.*



## 7. Volunteers

As part of WAPCA's volunteer program, we have received two international volunteers, Rebekah Schlemmer from USA and Georges Adda from Denmark in April and September respectively.

Even though both did not have experience in zoo keeping, they did have a passion for animals. During their time with WAPCA, they assisted in various activities ranging from daily keeper routine, enrichment preparation, and implementation to enclosure maintenance.

Rebekah did donated items such as tools for building enrichment, ropes, seeds and nuts, peanut butter, and honey. These were very helpful in our enrichment program. The services of the volunteers have been great. At the end of their service, they expressed gratitude for allowing them to learn about primate keeping which is a boost in their career goals.



***Georges assisting to build enrichment.***



Early in the year, we received Lilymae, a primate keeper with over 10 years of experience at Monkey Haven, a primate rescue centre on the Isle of Wight. Her contributions in terms of knowledge sharing, primate keeping, and team building were invaluable. Personally, she reinforces my desire for the conservation of primates. Notwithstanding, she equally learned a lot from the team in Accra as the work environment is different. During her stay, she donated a couple of items which included a fire hose, bolts & nuts, ropes, and other food items bought here in Ghana. We are deeply grateful for her positive impacts on WAPCA's work.

***Lilymae, filling bamboo with blackberries for enrichment.***



## 2. FORESTED ENCLOSURE – KUMASI ZOO

The Forested Enclosure is a 0.4ha open-top enclosure that currently houses eleven mangabeys in two groups. The enclosure is within the walls of Kumasi Zoo but is not open to the public. The space is to prepare animals that may be suitable for release. WAPCA undertakes a number of research projects at the enclosure to inform any release proposal such as diet adaptation, social networks and budget activities.

### 1. New Home For Klaus



*Klaus in his new enclosure*



This transfer would not have been possible without the support of Comexas Ghana, our local partner who provides logistic support in the movement of the animals within the two zoos. We are ever grateful to Comexas Ghana. To prepare for the new group, the keepers from Yorkshire Wildlife Park – Greg & Jasmine used branches to create structures within the satellite enclosure.

As I mentioned before, following the recommendations from the EEP Coordinator, Klaus was moved from Accra to Kumasi to head a three-female group. After the movement, he was taken through a series of strategic introductions with the females. Fortunately, the introductions went well, and they easily got along which was evident in the frequency of grooming of the male by the females. Klaus has since established a bonded group and they are happily living together.

This group currently time shares with the existing group of the 0.4ha open top enclosure.



*The new enclosure*

## 2. Construction

In 2023, WAPCA constructed a bathroom to serve researchers, student interns, volunteers, night security guards, and the primates' keepers.

**Washroom @ FE**

This project was generously funded by the Wildlife Foundation. The aforementioned project was a relief to individuals who patronize the forest enclosure because the center is far away from the main toilet facilities of the zoo.

This causes inconvenience for individuals at the center who need to access a toilet facility. The facility will go a long way to complement the existing facilities of the zoo. We are grateful to the Wildlife Foundation for their continued support.



## 3. Repair/Maintenance

As maintenance culture is highly esteemed in WAPCA, we conduct regular maintenance at the Forested Enclosure such as pruning of overlapping and potential overlapping branches to avoid unexpected damages on the fence should it break during rainfall and more importantly to ensure the animals do not climb them and jump outside the fence. To ensure the work is professionally executed, we often procure the services of a tree surgeon, who comes with his team and fell the trees carefully to prevent damages to the fence.

It is also important the solar panels are working properly as they power the electric fence which run around the inter perimeter.



**Mangabey in the Forested Enclosure**



## **2023 ACTIVITIES REPORT**

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

#### ***The Conservation Translocation and Population Restoration of White-naped Mangabeys, *Cercocebus lunulatus*, in their Indigenous Range of Ghana, West Africa***

***by Programme Manager, Andrea Dempsey***

The purpose of this project is to understand the potential and put WAPCA in a position, if determined as a clear conservation tool, to translocate groups and/or individuals of *Cercocebus lunulatus* into their indigenous range.

The aim is to restore the population through:

- 1) Reinforcement**, the intentional movement and release of an organism into an existing population of con-specifics with the aim to enhance population viability through increased population size, increased genetic diversity and/or increased representation of specific demographic groups or stages.
- 2) Reintroduction**, the intentional movement and release of an organism inside its indigenous range from which it has disappeared with the aim to re-establish a viable population of the focal species.

WAPCA created a reintroduction working group and following the IUCN Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations, will look to undertake FOUR key activities, which are crucial to inform or proceed onto the next stages.

**1. Habitat Assessment:** A forty day 'recce' survey carried in and around the Kwabre Community Rainforest. Data collected will include primate presence, illegal activity, holding capacity and vegetation study. Data collected will be combined with annual surveys conducted since 2014 to identify suitable release sites (i.e. low human disturbance, presence of other mangabeys, feeding trees and water sources). In addition, systematically survey the historical range, using foot surveys, camera traps and audio recordings to find other potential release sites.

**2. Socioeconomic study:** Interviews in all 18 communities surrounding the Community Forest will be undertaken. We aim to interview 10% of each community population (~ 40 individuals/community), representing the communities demographic to determine community attitudes and values, motivations and expectations, behaviours and behavioural change, and the anticipated costs and benefits of the translocation. Results will also be used to design appropriate community outreach, awareness, and training programmes.



**3. Species Adaption:** Data collection of a 7.2 group of mangabeys held in the 0.4ha Forested Enclosure as discussed below in detail.

**4. Disease and Parasite Management:** Working in partnership with Wildlife Vets International to ensure that should WAPCA find the introduction of mangabeys be the most effective conservation tool, it is done so with rigorous safety measure in place for both captive and wild populations.

**5. Monitoring.** To provide techniques to best measure the performance of released mangabeys against objectives, to assess impacts, and provide the basis for adjusting objectives or adapting management regimes or activating an exit strategy.



In 2021 we were successful in a funding bid to IUCN Central & West African Programme (IUCN-PACO) to support our feasibility study into the conservation translocation project, together with our partnership with Wildlife Vets International WAPCA has been able to make significant steps in understanding the potential of such a translocation and if deemed appropriate in a position to do so with due diligence.

In 2023, we undertook two habitat surveys, Ankasa-Tano Community Rainforest and Cape Three Point Forest. Based on these results and of previous surveys we can indicate which would be the most appropriate release site should we go ahead. More information in the following research report.

WAPCA has begun investigating genetic analysis of the wild population and held meetings with Barcelona Zoo and Rotterdam Zoo to understand the process. WAPCA will work with mangabey holders to build a high-quality genome reference from European population and Founders in Europe and Ghana through blood samples. At the same time, we are researching methods undertaken before to collect wild samples. If we can collect wild samples ethically, we can then determine the genetic variability and if releasing captive bred animals would have conservation value from a genetic perspective. From the results of our 2022 our socio-economic survey, we have begun implementing recommendations to improve the knowledge of the local communities that are not actively engaged in the project work or on the outskirts. Our first mitigation output saw large information signs be placed around the project area, and at the entrance of each community. It is hope this will result in an increased awareness for all members of the communities.



**Community Signpost**

## 2023 ACTIVITIES REPORT

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

#### WAPCA RESEARCH & EDUCATION

*by Research & Education Coordinator Núria Badiella*

WAPCA Education projects this year looked at getting more established within the primary schools that are participating and improving their engagement. It is the third year of Friends For Wildlife and it expanded to a third school in the Ankasa-Tanoé landscape, as every year we also celebrated Mangabey Awareness Day with a joint program between both CREMAs, and started the CREMA Sports for Conservation in Cape Three Points – Princess Town CREMA. We are also planning to start a Nature Conservation Club in the near future, as the Ankasa-Tanoé CREMA want the young generations to increase their knowledge on wildlife and their connection to nature.

Research projects this year were all a collaboration between Ghanaian universities and international ones. We are also looking at several publications of our results from this year and past ones, to increase the publication numbers of the WAPCA Research Group. We conducted two primate surveys with amazing research teams, and the socio-economic survey report was also completed with great insights for the continuation of the project. This was all achieved with the support of many stakeholders with whom we hope to continue working towards WAPCA's mission.

## 1. EDUCATION

### FRIENDS FOR WILDLIFE

In July 2021, WAPCA and Nsemaba School in Ghana and Five Sisters Zoo and Dedrige School in Scotland launched the Friends for Wildlife (FFW) project. Inspired by the PenPal idea, the students exchange letters on wildlife topics and present results of their wildlife activities with the other school to exchange knowledge on the wildlife species in both countries and reflect on how to better conserve them.

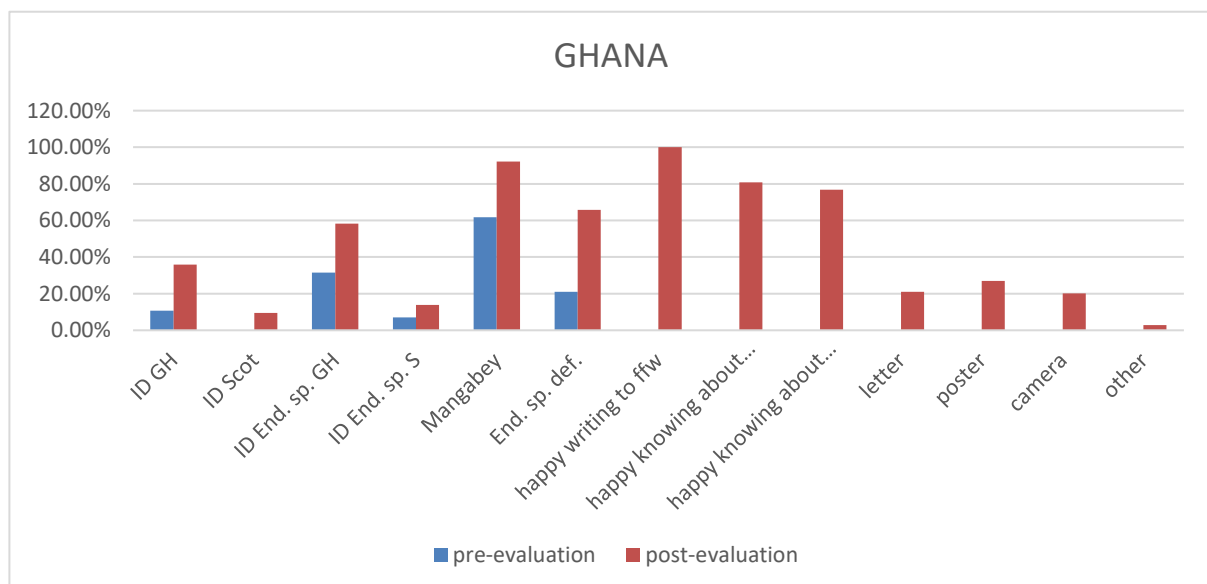
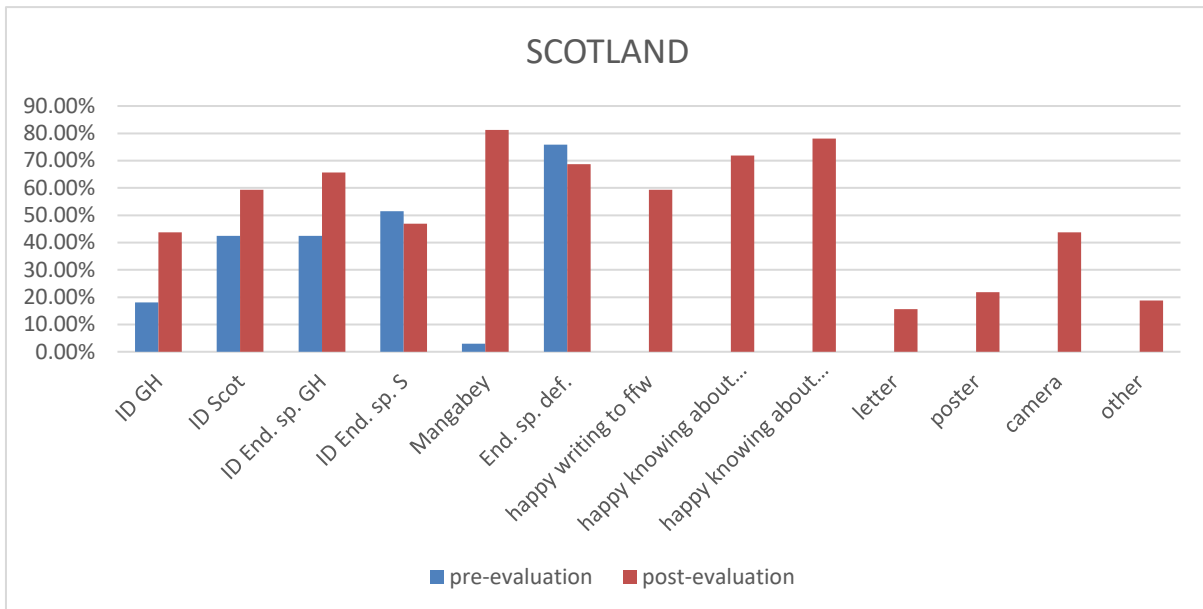
So far, the project has been able to engage three schools, two within the Cape Three Points CREMA and one in the Ankasa-Tano landscape, working in partnership with Five Sisters Zoo and Hertfordshire Zoo, both based in the UK. Each year we implement two activities consisting of endangered animals' poster creation, where pupils need to research endangered local animals' facts and draw them, and a second activity to set camera traps in the forest surrounding the schools for the pupils to collect after two weeks and identify the animals captured.



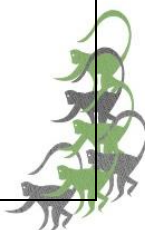
*Endangered species poster created by Nsemaba school pupils.*

The same activities are implemented each year in primary class five or six depending on the school. A pre-evaluation and post-evaluation exercise is also implemented to assess the project impact on the pupils'

knowledge. The first two years this exercise was not really successful. However, this edition of the evaluation showed a positive outcome as a result of enhancing the support to the school during the evaluation activities. In 2022-2023, the evaluation exercise showed an increase of knowledge by the pupils. On the histograms below, we can see that both schools had an increase in knowledge. The Scottish classroom had a higher initial knowledge on all pre-evaluation questions aside of what a mangabey is. Where Ghanaian schools already had an initial understanding.



**Pre and post evaluation results of the third edition of Friends For Wildlife Project in Dedrige and St. Mary's Primary Schools in Scotland (top graph) and Nsemaba and Akwidaa Schools in Ghana (down graph). Questions included: 1&2. Identification of geographical location of both countries, Ghana and Scotland; 3&4. Identification of most endangered species in each country; 5. Drawing of a mangabey; 6. The definition of Endangered Species; and 7 to 9 show the number of pupils that were happy implementing each activity; and 10 to 13 number of pupils that preferred each activity.**



WAPCA believes that the higher understanding of what a mangabey is in Ghana, comes from the previous engagements we had with the school through Mangabey Awareness Day, where we teach pupils the mangabey song. However, we do not have data to back up this statement.

Additionally, WAPCA has been able to also include a forest trip for the local schools to explore the protected areas they live nearby of. The pupils and the teachers were guided into the reserve by the CREMA patrol team members to observe the flora and fauna, tracks and sounds of several animals, especially birds, as well as anthropogenic activities. It was a whole experience for the school to be outdoors and connect to nature.



*Nsemaba school pupils with school teachers and Forest Guards while visiting the Cape Three Points Forest Reserve.*



## **MANGABEY AWARENESS DAY AT CAPE THREE POINTS LANDSCAPE**

Similarly to other years, in 2023 the Cape Three Points CREMA hosted again the celebration of Mangabey Awareness Day (MAD) on 1<sup>st</sup> August with the aim to create awareness of this species among the landscape. The event took place at AKwidaa School who was the host of our fun activities' day. As 2022 it was the start of a joint MAD between the two CREMAs and it resulted positive for their networking and ideas sharing, 2023 also saw a joint celebration between the Cape Three Points CREMA and the CREMA Executive Committee and football team of the Ankasa-Tano CREMA.

Among our distinguished guests we had the chiefs of some nearby communities as well as representatives from different ecotourism lodges, and our partners from Hen Mpoano NGO.



***Charles, Project Lead, addressing guests that joined the celebration of MAD 2023***

MAD23 started with a short speech by WAPCA's Project Lead and Chairman of the Cape Three Points CREMA to highlight the purpose of MAD celebration and the role of the CREMA in protecting primates and their habitats, their achievements and challenges. Which was



followed by an awareness walk through the Akwidaa community to highlight the importance of protecting biodiversity, especially the endangered primates, and to encourage them to join us in the celebration.

The most awaited activity of MAD is usually the MAD Football Cup. This year however, the Allowule community – winners from MAD 2022, took the cup again. Cape Three Points CREMA will need to train hard to take it back the following edition of the competition. Akatakyi took the second place in the competition. And Cape Three Points was the

winner of the Wildlife Quiz. We congratulate all the participants and winners of MAD 2023.

The Nsemaba School kids prepared an extraordinary drama performance to educate the communities present on the consequences of engaging in illegal activities within the CREMA. And additionally, the children also had the opportunity to learn the mangabey song, engage in a clean-up exercise, tag-of-war, and other fun activities. Some adults also engaged in table games such as "oware" – a traditional game in Ghana and card games.



***Akwidaa School students with waste collected during clean up game, participants showing their mangabey face masks, and adult participants engaged in playing cards.***



## CREMA SPORTS FOR CONSERVATION



***Volleyball and handball matches celebrated in Cape Three Points and Akatakyi School for CREMA Sports for Conservation Project.***

This project started in October 2023 with the aim to engage and educate schools within forest-fringe communities surrounding the Cape Three Points Forest Reserve on endangered wildlife and its conservation. It is known that people generally care for things they love, and they love those things known to them. Therefore, our aim is to get young people to know more about the forest where they live close to, the animals that live in it, their interconnectivity and how our actions affect its biodiversity. And to indirectly, achieve greater engagement in the Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) project to protect and manage natural resources sustainably.

Sports have been widely used as a vector for awareness events. In this same context, WAPCA has been using football for engagement during our Mangabey Awareness Day events, celebrated alternatively every year in both of our project sites, the Cape Three Points – Princess Town CREMA and Ankasa-Tano CREMA, with great results in educating people on the importance of biodiversity conservation through our focal species, the Endangered white-naped mangabey. Having this good experience from our previous events, WAPCA and the schools believed creating a sporting tournament for the schools will be a fantastic way to expand our conservation education efforts within the schools in the Cape Three Points - Princess-Town CREMA.



***Exercise books and bags shared by Project Lead to Nsemaba and Akatakyi schools during the CREMA Sports for Conservation Project.***

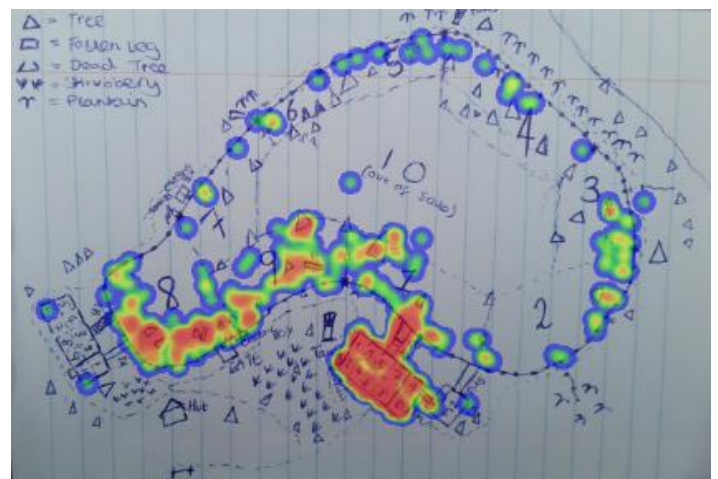


The tournament was organized between six schools, to compete into four sporting disciplines, netball, volleyball, football, and handball. Each month, a school visited another to play on all disciplines and scores were used to classify for the final games. The grand finale will be celebrated in January 2024. Through the games, each participant was given a sports bag and an exercise book with information on primates and sea animals found in Cape Three Points landscape, as well as resources on how to protect these animals. During the final match a quiz will be hosted to evaluate the project impact.

## 2. RESEARCH

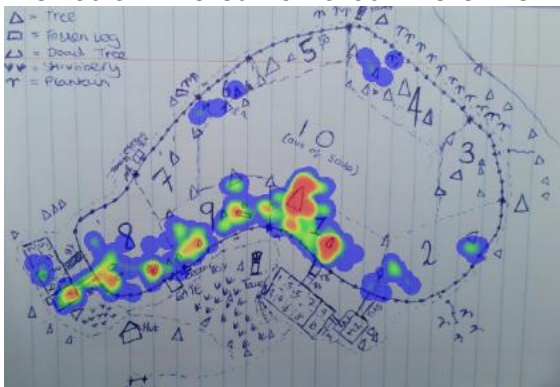
### **FORESTED ENCLOSURE**

Callum Carpenter this year undertook a three-month internship to continue the ongoing behavioral data collection at the forested enclosure; monitor the success of Klaus' introduction to the forested enclosure females and how both groups cope with the accompanying shift in group dynamics and sharing of the forested enclosure space; develop an accurate and up-to-date map of the forested enclosure and second satellite and develop an up-to-date document to help future researchers with the identification of the mangabeys within the forested enclosure.



***Nuba's group use of space reflected on heat map of the Forested Enclosure during Callum's study.***

Nuba's group has been in the Forested Enclosure for over five years now. It is composed of six males and shares the forested area with Klaus group, a 2:3 group. Results from the heat map indicate a clear interest of Nuba's group towards the other group (enclosure on the left corner in the map), as well as an interest towards where the keepers come from to serve food.



***Use of space at the Forested Enclosure by Klaus group, reflected on a heat map, during Callum's study.***

Klaus group was moved to the forested enclosure in July 2023, and shows a preference for the area where they can see the keepers coming in and out with food. Results showed less interest in the satellite enclosure in this group, preferring the forested area. However, after giving the two groups 24hrs access to the forested area every two-days and feed them in the forested area when having access, Nuba's group still have equal interest on both areas, spending approximately half of their time in each.

Callum also found out that having access to the forested area had an impact on the individual behaviors of some mangabeys, reducing stereotypical behaviors, increase in affiliative and body care behaviors.

From this study few recommendations were made to increase their use of all the enclosure. Among them were to highlight the importance of feeding the groups in different locations of the forest area, giving them as much access as possible to the enclosure, and providing enrichment for the group that does not have access to it, to avoid boredom, and therefore increase in agonistic behaviors.

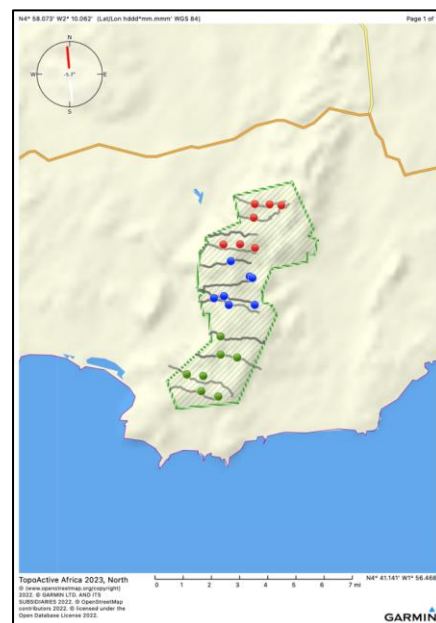
## **PRIMATES SURVEYS - CAPE THREE POINTS**

WAPCA's aim for this project was to reassess primate's presence in Cape Three Points Forest Reserve; line transect surveys and camera trap surveys were carried to record mammal and anthropogenic activity across the reserve.

The Cape Three Points Forest Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) was set up in July 2020, by WAPCA and in partnership with Hen Mpoano to ensure maximum protection of the reserve. The NGO's implemented an awareness campaign programme, established forest nurseries with local communities around the reserve to help restore the forest and trained 22 community members to become the Community Monitoring Team.

This study was the first in Cape Three Points Reserve to assess the direct effects of a CREMA on illegal activities and mammal populations. The presence of primates had not significantly changed in Cape Three Points Forest Reserve since 2018, but there has been changes in where primates are present. The results showed that there was a significant decrease in the encounter rate of anthropogenic activity since the CREMA has been implemented in July 2020. This suggests that the current methods used, such as community-based patrols within the Reserve, are effective in reducing illegal human activities and therefore threats to endangered primates.

12 mammal species were captured across the Reserve. Two white-naped mangabey troops were captured on a camera trap in the central and southern parts of the Reserve; they had only been recorded in the centre of Reserve in 2018. In total, six species of primates were recorded in the study period. There was no significant difference in the mammal or primate encounter rates from the survey carried out in 2018 and 2023; but since 2018, the evidence of human activities had decreased. Despite the southern portion of the Reserve being highly logged it also had the highest primate presence during the study.



***Locations of line transects walked and camera traps deployed in Cape Three Point Reserve.***



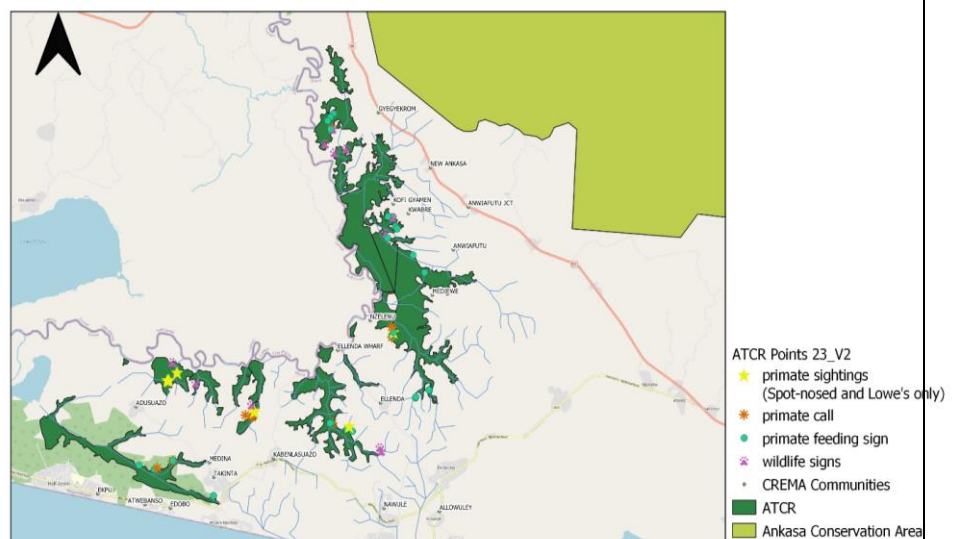


**L-R: White-naped mangabey captured on camera trap, Survey team coming out of the forest on a visit from the Research Coordinator.**

## PRIMATES SURVEYS – ANKASA-TANO

In 2023 a primate survey in community-controlled peat swamp forest along Ghana's Tano River was conducted by West African Primate Conservation Action (WAPCA) and members of local communities. The survey was conducted on 54 days between March and May by a team consisting of four people. A total of nine camps were used to survey from the northern to the southern part of the forest, spending seven days at each community. Due to high levels of water in the forest and to avoid cutting fresh transects, the team used a combination of reconnaissance survey and line transect along existing routes were performed.

Surveys started early in the morning and lasted for an average of 4 hours to coincide with the time primates are most active. The team recorded evidence of anthropogenic activities and the related GPS coordinates, and that of wildlife species such as footprints, feeding signs, faeces, fur and calls. When an animal was spotted, the species was identified, number of individuals were recorded, and the GPS coordinates taken. All evidence of anthropogenic were identified during the surveys, the type of activity was recorded alongside GPS coordinates. Vegetation assessments were taken as well along the survey routes where possible. Camera trap stations were also established within the rainforest. Once set up, they were left undisturbed for 14 days. A total of 54 transects were established within the forest. Each transect averaged 3km and the survey covered a total of 162km. Across the survey period a total of 14 species larger than a mongoose were detected including



**Primate evidence in Ankasa-Tano landscape during survey 2023.**

three different primates, the white-naped mangabey, Lowe's monkey and spot-nosed monkey. The non-mammal species with the most detection during the study was the Nile monitor with five unique detections.

Logging for timber was by far the most frequently detected anthropogenic activity with 429 detections encountered. Only 6 traps set for mammals were seen but 35 fish traps were recorded. In addition to the 553 independent signs of anthropogenic activities



*L-R: Survey camp, survey team, and sample of logging activities observed in the Ankasa-tano landscape.*

detected during the survey, the sound of chainsaws was heard by the team almost every night from the camps.

## **CREMA SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDY**

Paul Agyemang, WAPCA survey leader this year undertook a socioeconomic survey in the Ankasa-Tano CREMA. On this survey, WAPCA wanted to look at the current knowledge on the CREMA project within the communities nearby the forest, the knowledge on existing wildlife species and their current status, and perceptions on wildlife, use of natural resources, human wildlife conflicts and traditional beliefs systems related to wildlife.



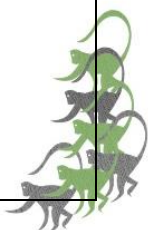
*Paul conducting the socio-economic study*

The Ankasa-Tano CREMA was established in 2012 and consists of 16 major communities. To evaluate the impact of this CREMA, Paul Agyemang Darkwah collected data from people living in 10 communities in and around the Ankasa-Tano Community Rainforest. Paul chose a mixture of communities that were close to the forest, those that were far away, those that were part of the CREMA and those that were not. He collected data from 20 random people in each community who were willing to participate in an interview, these included some people that were actively engaged in CREMA activities. The questions he asked in the interviews allowed Paul to compare perceptions, attitudes,

and knowledge of and towards primates, and their habitat within the communities of the Jomoro District.

Through the interviews conducted in this study Paul found that overall, the CREMA has impacted positively on the communities within the Jomoro District. Participation in conservation actions such as tree planting, agroforestry practices, and ecological monitoring in the CREMA communities is perceived to have generated economically and ecologically benefits. Initiatives such as organic cocoa and coconut farming that have been adopted by CREMA in their communities are seen by the CREMA members interviewed to have improved the socioeconomic life. Those people from non-CREMA communities showed less understanding of the way CREMA works, the activities carried out and the effects they have.

In regard to knowledge of wildlife species and their status, there was again a difference between those interviewed from CREMA communities and those not. Those within CREMA communities scored highest on identifying all primate species apart from the Patas monkey which was identified more by people from non-CREMA communities. All communities interviewed were well aware of the natural resources existing within the CREMA.



## IN OTHER WAPCA NEWS.....

### Conservation On Tap

In 2023, the Programme Manager was invited to long term supporter Tulsa Zoo to attend their Conservation On Tap event, this year the event was raising funds for WAPCA.

Tulsa Zoo every year hosts a premier beer-drinking event which features unlimited samplings from local breweries, distributors, and home brewers. In addition to the beer selection, enjoy live music, food, and animal encounters.

The Programme Manager was able to give a presentation to staff during the day, and then speak with attendees in the evening on the work WAPCA undertakes and the importance of zoo's like Tulsa Zoo.

WAPCA and Andrea, thanks Tulsa Zoo for inviting her to such a great event and the wonderful hospitality provided for her.



### Publications

Alexander, S.D., Waters, S., Aldrich, B.C., Shanee, S., Clarke, T.A., Radford, L., Hansen, M.F., Gnanaolivu, S.D. and **Dempsey, A.**, 2023. The Past, Present, and Future of the Primate Pet Trade. In *Primates in Anthropogenic Landscapes: Exploring Primate Behavioural Flexibility Across Human Contexts* (pp. 247-266). Cham: Springer International Publishing.

Dempsey, A., McKinney, T. 2023. Watching Captive Primates in Zoos and Sanctuaries. In: Waters, S., Hansen, M. F., et al. *Responsible Primate-Watching for Tourists*. IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group Section on Human-Primate Interactions

### Documentary

Our documentary is now available to watch. It is a fantastic film, produced by Framework, and captures our work and passion across all the project work both in the field and at our captive sites.

<https://youtu.be/zT1TS6hTdbo>



## New Project - The Subre Diana Monkey Project!



Credit: Shelia Smith

The Tai Monkey Project was established in 1989 and has been working continually in the forest ever since. The primate fauna at Tai contains nine catarrhines, including chimpanzees, three colobine species, sooty mangabeys and four guenon species, including *Cercopithecus diana*. Over the past 30 years, the project has studied

multiple aspects of this primate community including feeding, ranging, social behavior, communication, locomotion, disease ecology, predation avoidance, reproduction, life history, stress, etc.

The project has published over two hundred papers on the Tai monkey fauna, many of which deal with the behavioural ecology, anatomy and conservation of Diana monkeys. Most of these papers are based on observations made on four habituated Diana monkey groups that range within the primary study grid, located in the western region of Tai National Park near the Liberian border. These study groups are well protected due to the constant presence of the superb field assistants and students. However, long term data shows that the abundance of all monkeys drops off immediately outside the study grid due to poaching.

Working alongside the team of the Tai Monkey Project, WAPCA is launching The Subre Monkey Project to address the issues identified by the Tai Monkey Project team. The goal is to replicate the activities undertaken in the western block to the eastern portion of the park where poaching, illegal mining and logging go essentially unchecked and establish a 2<sup>nd</sup> "satellite" research station. Personnel would habituate a Diana monkey group, gradually increasing their numbers over time. Maintaining a presence in that part of the park would provide protection to the Diana groups, as well as all other cercopithecoid species with overlapping ranges (*Piliocolobus badius*, *Colobus polykomos*, *Procolobus verus*, *Cercocebus atys*, *Cercopithecus campbelli* and *C. petaurista*) with residual effects on the chimps.

WAPCA is currently working on an MOU with our partners at the Tai Monkey Project, and with funding from Artis Zoo can start working on this project. We are seeking further funding and ask holders of primates listed above to consider becoming members of WAPCA and support this new, exciting project.

**ARTIS**

## 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 2021. 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 -Secretary  
 Mrs Sandra Reichler-Treasurer  
 M Tadie Perez – Board member  
 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:

Dr Edward Wiafe – Chairman  
 Mrs Chaachele Faalong – Vice Chair

#### Board Members:

Mrs Carly Edwards                      Mrs Maamle Kpene  
 Dr Meyir Ziekah                        Mr Paul Addah  
 Mrs Andrea Dempsey – Secretary  
 Mrs Vivian Nuhu – Advisor to the Board



## 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.



## LOCAL SUPPORTERS



PREMIER STEEL LTD.



# INTERNATIONAL SUPPORTERS

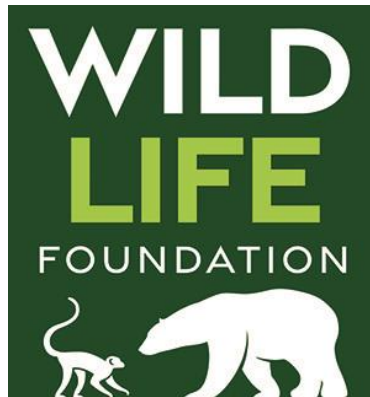


# ARTIS



# LIMELIGHT FOUNDATION

# MAJOR FIELD PROJECT FUNDERS



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