



**CROSS RIVER NATIONAL PARK-OBAN DIVISION
QUARTERLY REPORT:
JULY – SEPTEMBER 2017**



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Summary

Twelve anti-poaching patrols were completed in the Oban Division of Cross River National Park (CRNP) from July to September 2017. The patrols lasted for a total number of 78 days and covered a total distance of 650 kilometers. This quarter, 3 hunting camps and 219 wire snares were destroyed, and 117 expended cartridges were removed. No hunters were encountered. Primates recorded include chimpanzee, drill, red-capped mangabey, Mona monkey and putty-nosed monkey. Preuss's red colobus monkey was not recorded this quarter. Refresher training was provided for CRNP rangers on the use of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) during these patrols.

Introduction

The Cross River National Park (CRNP) represents the most extensive area of tropical rain forest remaining in Nigeria today. Cross River National Park consists of two separate divisions: Oban and Okwangwo. The Oban Division covers an area of roughly 3,000 km² and is contiguous with Korup National Park in Cameroon. The Division is recognized internationally as a biodiversity hotspot with high levels of species richness and endemism and is a particularly significant site for rare and threatened primate species including Preuss's red colobus, drill and the Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee. This report covers law enforcement activities facilitated by WCS in Oban during the period from July to September, 2017

Methods

Two teams of 6 rangers each completed a total of 4 patrols each month. To enhance supervision by the WCS Oban project manager both teams camped together but patrolled different areas each day. Results of previous patrols were used to plan new patrols. Data were recorded using with SMART. All hunting camps and wire snares encountered were completely destroyed and removed. Each month refresher training was provided for rangers alongside patrols.

Results

Patrol effort

This quarter, CRNP rangers completed a total of 12 patrols over 78 patrol days from July to September, 2017 and covered a total distance of 650 kilometers (Figure 1; table 1).

Figure 1. Patrol tracklogs and km walked per grid cell for the period July 12, 2017 to September 27, 2017. Darker red color indicates areas of more intense patrol coverage.

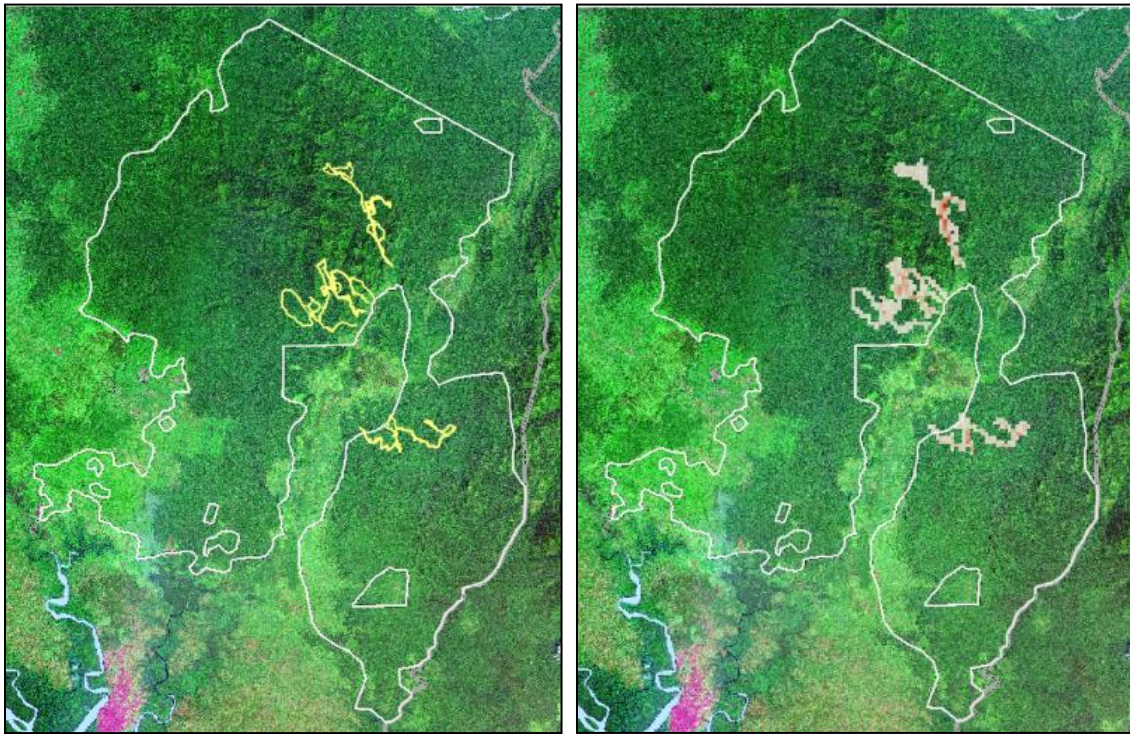


Table 1. Summary of patrol effort for the period July 12, 2017 to September 27, 2017.

Patrol ID	Number of patrols	Number of days	Distance (km)	Person-days
CRNP-OB_000059	1	8	80.8	56
CRNP-OB_000060	1	7	61.5	42
CRNP-OB_000061	1	8	87.9	40
CRNP-OB_000062	1	7	55.9	49
CRNP-OB_000063	1	2	15.2	12
CRNP-OB_000064	1	8	67.9	50
CRNP-OB_000065	1	3	26.0	21
CRNP-OB_000066	1	8	61.9	48
CRNP-OB_000067	1	8	80.2	48
CRNP-OB_000068	1	5	45.6	28
CRNP-OB_000069	1	9	20.5	54
CRNP-OB_000070	1	5	47.0	29
Total	12	78	650.4	477

Average distance and length of patrols per month

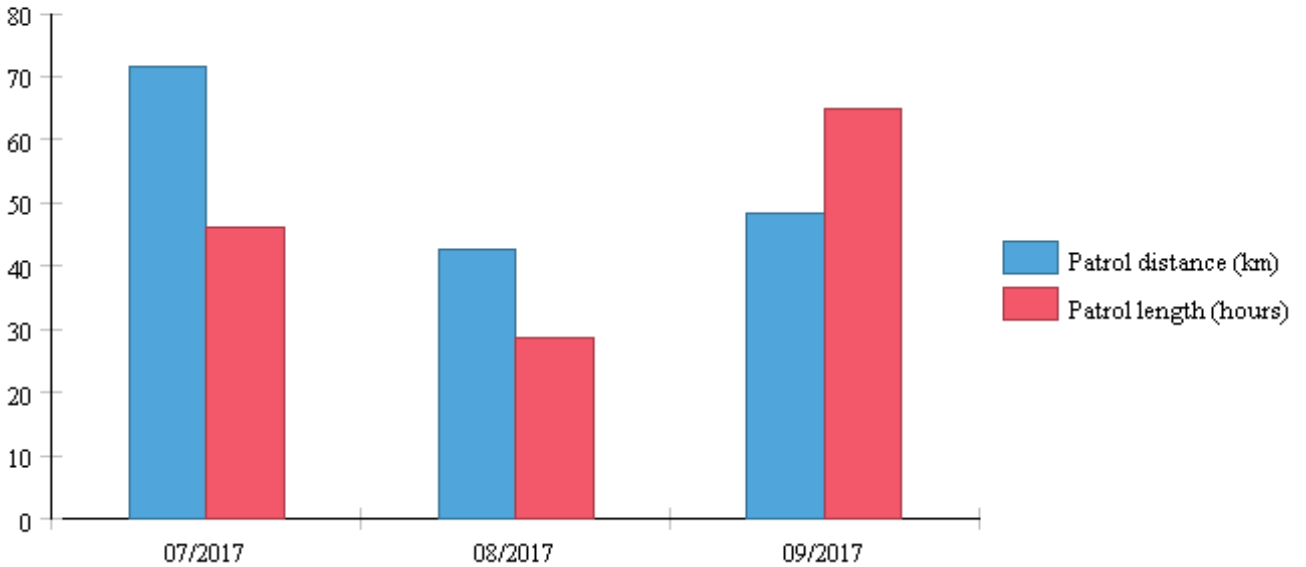


Figure 2. Average distance covered and time taken per patrol per month for the period July 12, 2017 to September 27, 2017.

Total patrol distance and length per month

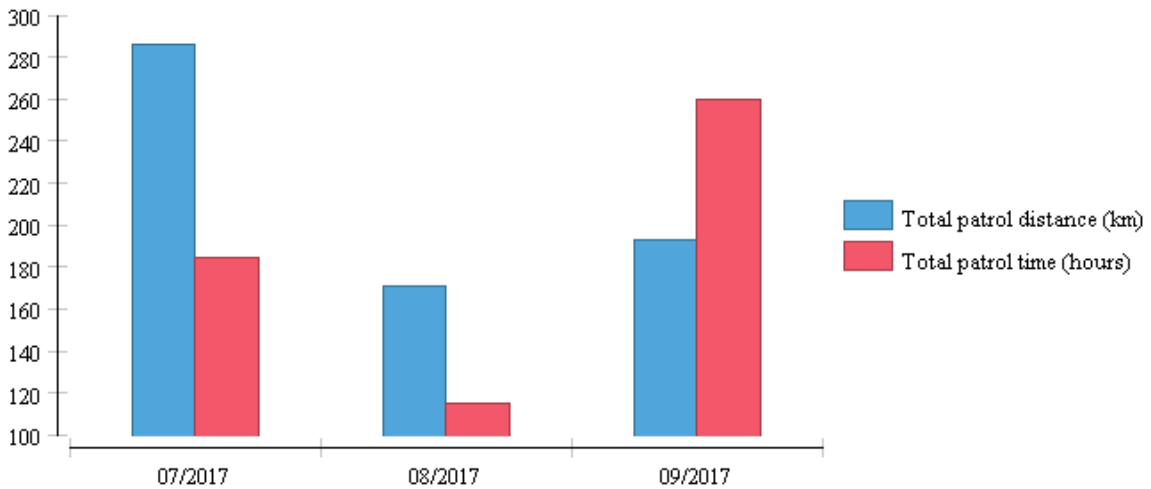


Figure 3. Total patrol distance and time per month for the period July 12, 2017 to September 27, 2017.

Law Enforcement

No hunters were encountered during patrols this period, but three hunting camps and a total of 219 wire snares were destroyed and 117 expended cartridges were removed (Table 3).

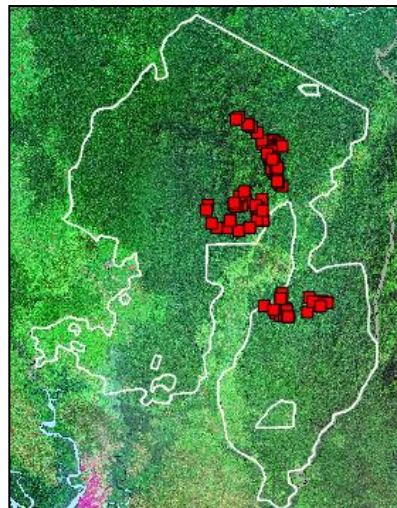
Table 2. Total encounter rates of signs of human activity for the period July 12, 2017 to September 27, 2017.

Activity	Number of incidents	Encounter rate per km
Hunting & NTFP collection camp	5	0.008
Traps, Weapons & Equipment	115	0.177
Gunshot heard	8	0.012

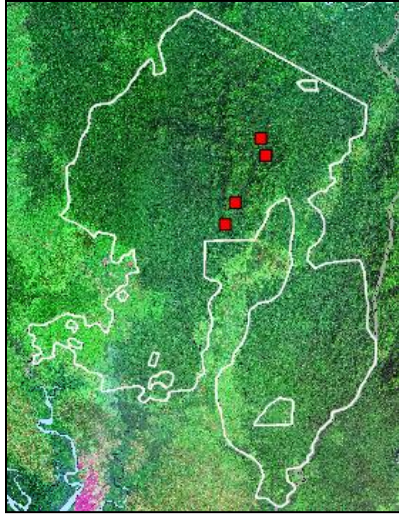
Figure 4. Distribution of all signs of human activity recorded during the period July 12, 2017 to September 27, 2017.



a) Wire snares



b) Empty cartridges



c) Sheds and camps



d) Gunshots heard

Table 3. Hunting signs recorded for the period July 12, 2017 to September 27, 2017.

Sign	Number of observations	Encounter rate per km
Gunshots heard	8	0.012
Set wire snares	218	0.335
Unset wire snares	1	0.002
Empty cartridges	117	0.180
Hunting camps	3	0.005

Wildlife Observations

Primates

Primates recorded include chimpanzee drill, Mona monkey and putty-nosed monkey. Mona monkey and putty-nosed monkey were sighted 10 and 6 times respectively (Table 5). Number of individuals counted ranged from 1 to 20. Drills were also observed directly (vocalizations). One chimpanzee nest site containing 8 nests was recorded (Table 4). Other Wildlife recorded include red river hog, bay duiker, and brush-tailed porcupine (Appendix II).

Figure 5. Chimpanzee, red colobus and crowned monkey evidence recorded for the period July 12, 2017 to September 27, 2017. Nest sites/vocalizations shown as circles, sightings shown as crosses.



Table 4. Nest sites recorded for the period July 12, 2017 to September 27, 2017.

Species	Nest site type	Age	Dung present	Number of nests
Chimpanzee	Tree	Fresh	false	8

Table 5. Sightings of primates for the period July 12, 2017 to September 27, 2017.

Species	Scientific name	Number of incidents	Encounter rate per km
Putty-nosed monkey	<i>Cercopithecus nictitans</i>	6	0.009
Mona monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mona</i>	10	0.015

Recommendations

- Rangers need new uniforms and field boots for patrols. Existing ones are worn out.
- CRNP should pay greater attention to the growing problem of farm encroachment into the Park.

Acknowledgement

Funding for this project was provided by the United States Department of Agriculture and Forest Service. We have also enjoyed donations, continuous support and collaboration from the North Carolina Zoo on this project since inception, particularly from Dr. Richard Bergl who helped introduce CyberTracker and SMART in Nigeria. This project has also enjoyed support and collaboration from the Cross River National Park. WCS is formally registered in Nigeria through an agreement with the Federal Ministry of Budget and National Planning.

Appendix I. Patrol effort statistics July 12, 2017 to September 27, 2017.

Date	Number of patrols	Distance (km)	Number of hours	Number of rangers
2017-07-12	2	19.6	16.5	12
2017-07-13	2	23.4	14.6	12
2017-07-14	2	12.7	11.1	12
2017-07-15	2	26.2	14.8	12
2017-07-16	2	21.2	12.8	12
2017-07-17	2	16.2	15.6	12
2017-07-18	2	26.9	11.4	12
2017-07-19	2	22.5	9.0	12
2017-07-23	2	15.3	9.4	12
2017-07-24	2	18.4	12.5	12
2017-07-25	2	13.1	11.5	12

Date	Number of patrols	Distance (km)	Number of hours	Number of rangers
2017-07-26	2	32.9	18.9	12
2017-07-27	2	9.7	10.2	12
2017-07-28	2	11.3	9.1	12
2017-07-29	2	16.8	6.8	12
2017-08-06	2	16.7	11.6	13
2017-08-07	1	10.0	7.2	7
2017-08-08	2	14.5	5.9	13
2017-08-17	2	17.8	10.4	13
2017-08-18	2	30.9	17.3	13
2017-08-19	2	18.3	19.1	12
2017-08-20	2	16.2	13.9	12
2017-08-21	2	15.4	10.3	12
2017-08-22	2	9.8	5.4	12
2017-08-23	2	11.9	9.0	12
2017-08-24	2	9.4	4.8	12
2017-09-05	2	18.3	9.5	12
2017-09-06	2	21.5	15.9	12
2017-09-07	2	8.4	11.0	12
2017-09-08	2	13.0	23.2	12
2017-09-09	2	12.7	32.7	12
2017-09-10	2	9.0	31.9	12
2017-09-11	2	8.7	28.6	12
2017-09-12	2	9.1	28.1	12
2017-09-13	1	0.0	6.8	6
2017-09-20	2	19.0	16.2	11
2017-09-21	2	13.1	14.0	11
2017-09-22	2	25.8	17.7	11
2017-09-23	2	18.6	12.5	11
2017-09-24	2	16.2	11.7	10

Appendix II. Encounter rate of wildlife species observed during patrols July 12, 2017 to September 27, 2017. Species not encountered during patrols are not shown.

Species	Scientific name	Number of observations	Encounter rate per km
Red river hog	<i>Potamochoerus porcus</i>	39	0.060
Mona monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mona</i>	27	0.042
Blue duiker	<i>Philantomba monticola</i>	17	0.026
Putty-nosed monkey	<i>Cercopithecus nictitans</i>	13	0.020
Brush-tailed porcupine	<i>Atherurus africanus</i>	7	0.011
Bay duiker	<i>Cephalophus dorsalis</i>	7	0.011
Unidentified monkey	-	4	0.006
Common cusimanse	<i>Crossarchus platycephalus</i>	4	0.006
Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee	<i>Pan troglodytes ellioti</i>	3	0.005
Red-capped mangabey	<i>Cercocebus torquatus</i>	2	0.003
Unidentified medium duiker	-	1	0.002
Drill	<i>Mandrillus leucophaeus</i>	1	0.002
African grey parrot	<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>	1	0.002
African pied hornbill	<i>Tockus fasciatus</i>	1	0.002

Appendix III. Ranger work time for the period July 12, 2017 to September 27, 2017.

Name	Number of patrols	Number of patrol days	Number of patrol hours	Total patrol distance (km)
Abasi-ama Hope Edet	1	9	137.2	20.5
Aondona Michael Aernyi	2	13	86.7	127.2
Augustine Osim Bassey	1	9	137.2	20.5
Augustine Oyamo Mbeh	6	38	232.4	339.6
Charles Sampson Okon	3	19	191.1	97.6
Cletus Okon Ekun	5	31	189.0	276.3
Cornelius Itafaha Onyo	6	38	232.6	352.2
Eba Asinya Etahanjom	6	33	208.3	315.5
Edward Oyong Osor	2	13	86.5	125.8
James Okenyi Owai	2	11	61.0	93.9
John Effiom Edet	4	23	152.3	224.7
Kenedy Missang Oyama	3	20	198.2	114.4
Kingsley Otu Osang	1	1	6.4	9.2
kingsley Ramsel Udoh	4	25	155.1	228.4
Lawrence Akuba Mgbang	3	20	198.2	114.4
Nicodamas Onu Onu	2	15	92.0	136.7
Peter Abanyam	6	40	326.4	298.2
Raphael Ukam Inna	2	10	53.9	77.0
Romanus Orim Egbi	2	10	53.9	77.0
Samuel Tah Tah	2	15	92.2	149.4
Saviour Clement Oyom	4	28	178.6	262.5
Theophilus Clement Ikuyang	2	15	92.2	149.4
Ubi Okpa Otu	2	11	61.0	93.9
William Odu Ekpen	5	30	182.2	273.4