



CROSS RIVER NATIONAL PARK-OBAN DIVISION QUARTERLY REPORT: JULY-SEPTEMBER 2018



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Summary

This report summarizes data from twelve ranger patrols of the Oban Division of Cross River National Park conducted from July to September 2018 and supervised by Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). The patrols covered a total distance of 645.4 kilometers over 84 patrol-days (662 person-days). Seven people including five hunters were arrested. Some of these were people from neighbouring Akwa Ibom State but resident in communities around Oban. Forty-five wire snares and five hunting camps were destroyed. Other signs of hunting observed were 254 expended cartridges and 2 gunshots heard. Primates sighted this quarter include chimpanzee (sighted once), red-eared monkey (sighted 3 times), Mona monkey (sighted 19 times), golden-bellied monkey (sighted 2 times), and putty-nosed monkey (sighted 16 times). Three chimpanzee nest sites were encountered. Signs of forest elephant and buffalo were also recorded. Refresher training was provided for rangers to improve their capacity to use Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) for data collection.

Introduction

The Cross River National Park (CRNP), created in 1991 from existing forest reserves, is 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. Oban 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 *Piliocolobus preussi*, drill *Mandrillus leucophaeus* and Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee *Pan troglodytes ellioti*. The two main threats to Oban are hunting to supply the bushmeat trade, and deforestation from agriculture. Neglected for many years hunting is widespread and farm encroachment is increasing. In late 2014, WCS launched a law enforcement monitoring project in Oban based on CyberTracker (<https://www.cybertracker.org/>). Initial funding for this project came from Save Our Species fund for threatened primates and North Carolina Zoo. In 2016 Spatial Monitoring And Reporting Tool (SMART), a law enforcement monitoring and protected area management tool (<http://smartconservationtools.org/>) replaced CyberTracker and has continued to improve

effectiveness of protection efforts in Oban. Funding to sustain the project has been provided by the United States Department of Agriculture and Forest Service. The main objective of the project has remained: strengthening of existing law enforcement efforts by improving the frequency, coverage, duration and efficacy of anti-poaching patrols, as well as monitoring ranger performance. Results from the project have supported the adaptive management of the Park to combat the many threats to wildlife. This report covers law enforcement activities supported by WCS in Oban during the period from July to September 2018.

Methods

Every day, two teams comprising six CRNP rangers each, patrolled different areas of the park in order to maximize the area covered, but these camped together at night for better supervision by WCS staff. The teams searched areas where hunting activities were suspected or known to be relatively high based on information from informants and results of previous patrols. Valleys and areas around known access trails were targeted. Signs of human activity and large mammals were recorded using SMART. All detected wire snares and hunting camps were destroyed. Data were analyzed using SMART software.

Results

Patrol Effort

Twelve anti-poaching patrols were completed this quarter. The patrols covered a total distance of 645.4 kilometers over 84 patrol-days (662 person-days) (Table 1; Figure 1).

Figure 1. Patrol tracklogs and effort in km walked per grid cell for the period July 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018. Darker red color indicates areas of more intense patrol coverage.

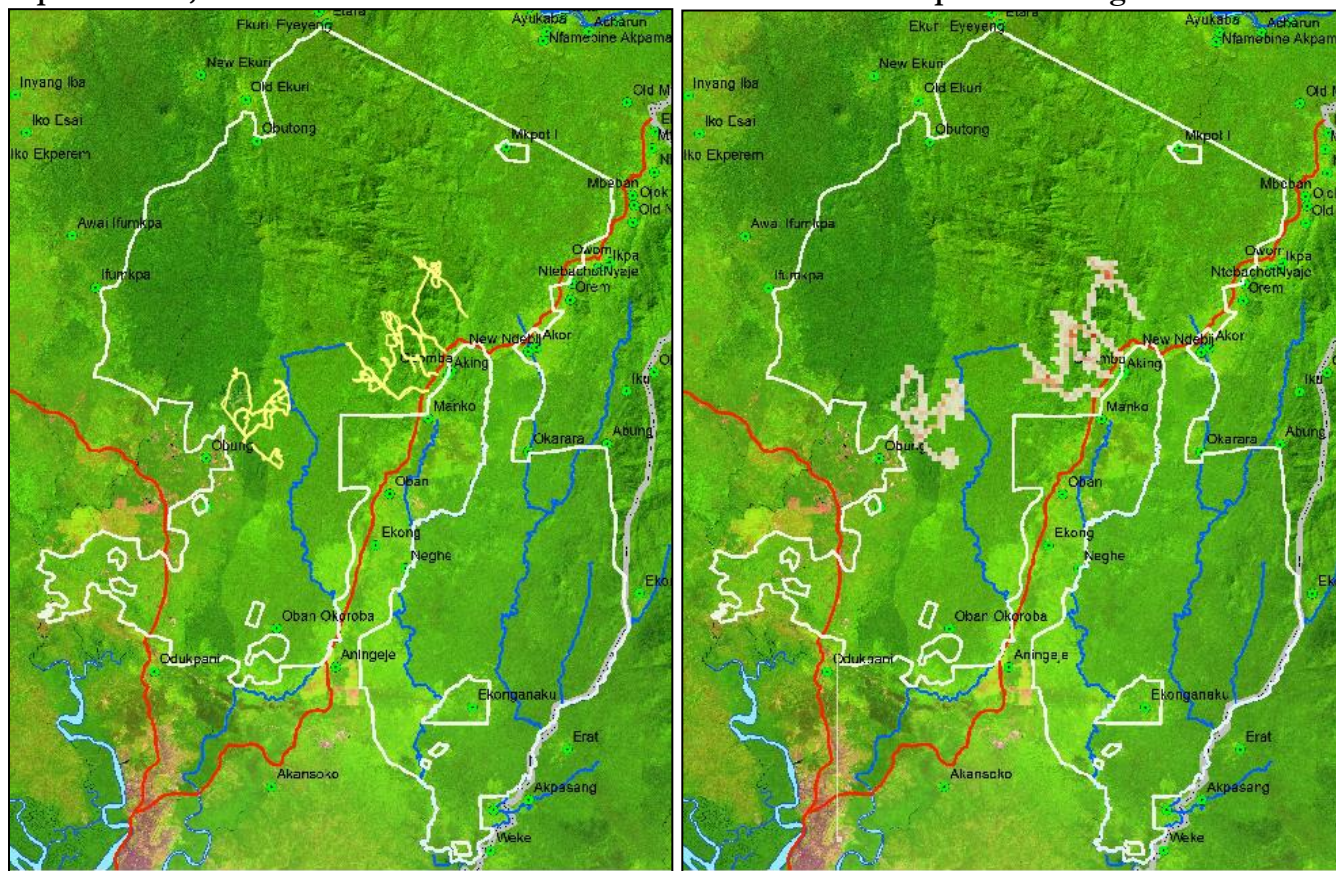


Table 1. Summary of patrol effort for the period July 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018.

Patrol ID	Number of Patrols	Number of Days	Distance (km)	Person - Days
CRNP-OB_000106	1	8	67.2	64
CRNP-OB_000107	1	8	54.3	72
CRNP-OB_000108	1	8	50.4	48
CRNP-OB_000109	1	6	67.8	42
CRNP-OB_000110	1	6	56.4	49
CRNP-OB_000111	1	8	43.4	64
CRNP-OB_000112	1	6	43.6	48
CRNP-OB_000113	1	6	41.8	54
CRNP-OB_000114	1	4	46.4	27
CRNP-OB_000115	1	4	41.0	32
CRNP-OB_000116	1	9	59.8	63
CRNP-OB_000117	1	11	73.5	99
Total	12	84	645.4	662

Average distance and length of patrols per month

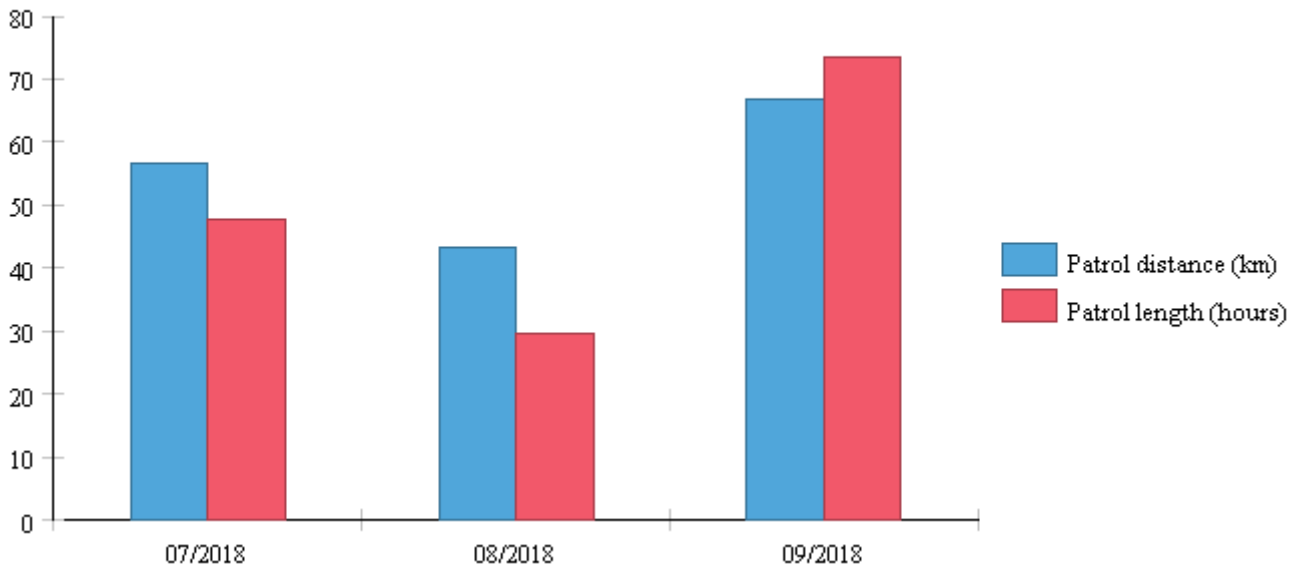


Figure 2. Average distance covered and time taken per patrol per month for the period July 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018.

Total patrol distance and length per month

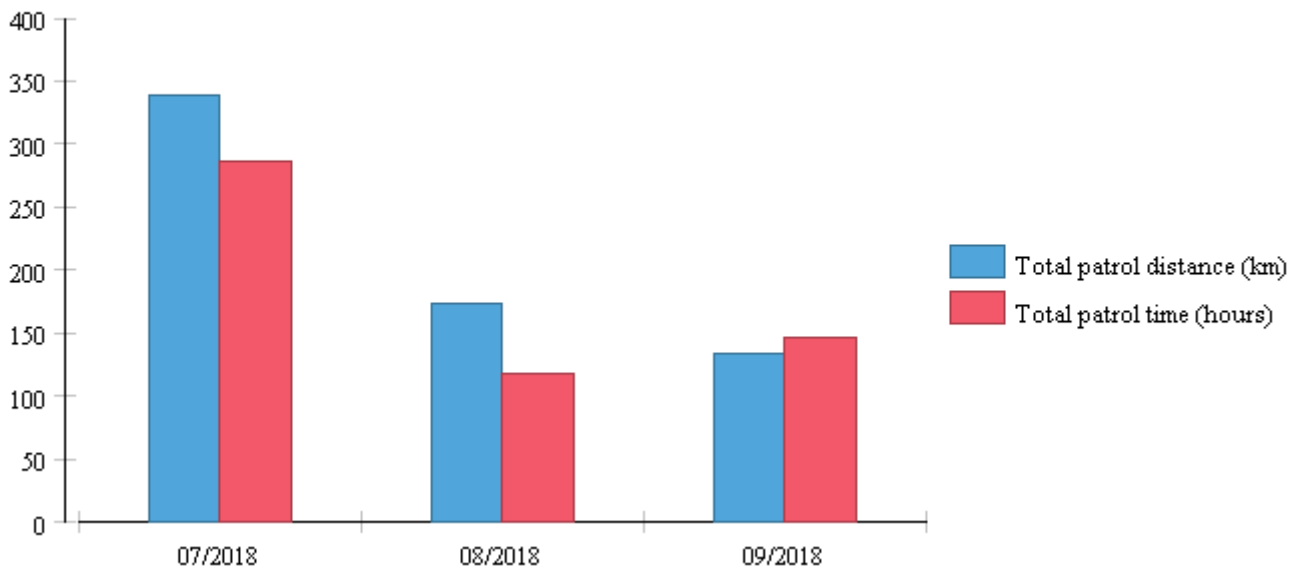


Figure 3. Total patrol distance and time per month for the period July 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018.

Law Enforcement

Patrols this quarter led to the arrest of seven people including five hunters (Tables 2 & 3). Some of arrested persons were from neighbouring Akwa Ibom State but resident in communities around Oban. Forty-five wire snares and five hunting camps were destroyed. Thirteen snare wires found in hunting camps were also destroyed. A total of 254 expended cartridges and one logging site was encountered and two gunshots were heard (Tables 4, 5 & 6). Total encounter rate of hunting sign was lower this quarter (0.5/km walked) compared to the last quarter (1.3/km).

Table 2. Summary of arrests for the period July 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018.

Leader	Waypoint Date	Action Taken	Home Village	Name	Threat
Francis Akor Muyorkem	Jul 25, 2018	Arrested	Obung	Victor Okon and Emmanuel Okon	Trapping
Mathew Ojong Neji	Jul 28, 2018	Arrested	NA	Nsidibe Effiom	Logging
Mathew Ojong Neji	Jul 28, 2018	Arrested	Akwa Ibom State	NA	Logging
Augustine Osim Bassey	Aug 27, 2018	Unsuccessful Pursuit	Obung	NA	Logging
Romanus Orim Egbi	Jul 12, 2018	Arrested	Akwa Ibom State	Etim Udoh Udoh	Hunting
Kingsley Ramsel Udoh	Sep 16, 2018	Arrested	Akwa Ibom State	Edem Andrew and Christian Andrew	Hunting

Table 3. Number of people seen by threat for the period July 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018.

Threat	Number of people seen	Encounter rate per km
Hunting	3	0.005
Logging	3	0.005

Table 4. Total encounter rates of signs of human activity for the period July 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018.

Activity	Number of Incidents	Encounter Rate per km
People seen	5	0.008
Human Sign	13	0.020
Shed or Camp	7	0.011
Traps, Weapons & Equipment	96	0.149
Logging and Tree Cutting	1	0.002
Gunshot heard	2	0.003

Table 5. Total encounter rates of signs of logging for the period July 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018.

Type of logging evidence	Action Taken - Items	Age of Sign	Number of cut pieces	Number of Logs	Number of Planks	Number of Stumps
Stump	Seen Only	Fresh				10

Figure 3. Distribution of all signs of human activity recorded during the period July 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018.



a) Wire snares



b) Empty cartridges



c) Camps



d) Gunshots heard (crosses), logging (squares)

Table 6. Hunting signs recorded for the period July 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018.

Sign	Number of Observations	Encounter Rate per km
Gunshots heard	2	0.003
Set wire snares	45	0.070
Unset wire snares	13	0.020
Empty cartridges	254	0.394
Hunting camps	5	0.008

Wildlife Observations

Primates

Primates sighted during patrols this quarter include chimpanzee (sighted once), red-eared monkey (sighted 3 times), Mona monkey (sighted 19 times), golden-bellied monkey (sighted 2 twice), and putty-nosed monkey (sighted 16 times) (Table 9). Drill and red-capped mangabey were not sighted this quarter, but indirect signs of their presence were encountered (Appendix II). Three chimpanzee nest sites were also encountered – two single nests and a nest site containing two nests (Tables 7 & 8).

Figure 4. Chimpanzee and crowned monkey evidence recorded for the period July 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018. Nest sites/vocalizations shown as circles, sightings shown as crosses.

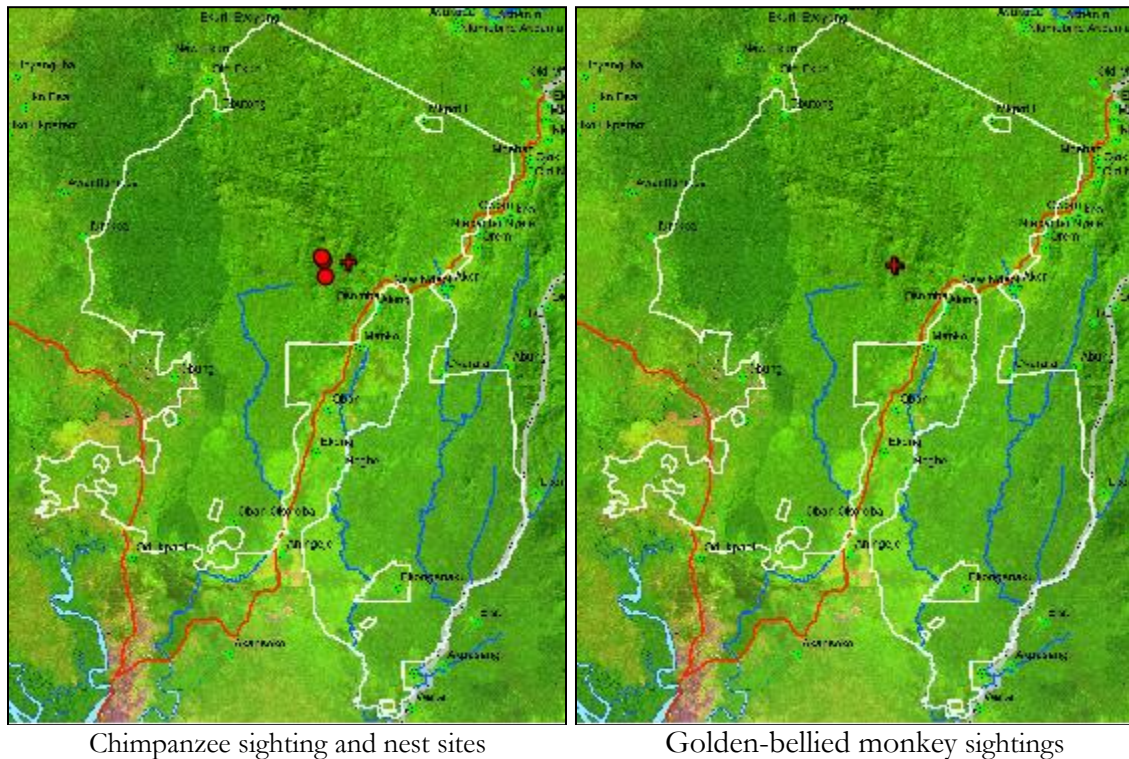


Table 7. Number and encounter rate of chimpanzee nest sites recorded for the period July 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018.

Species	Number of Nests	Encounter Rate per km
Chimpanzee	3	0.0046

Table 8. Nest sites recorded for the period July 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018.

Species	Nest site type	Age	Dung present	Number of ground nests	Total number of nests
Chimpanzee	Tree	Fresh	false	0	2
Chimpanzee	Tree	Fresh	false	0	1
Chimpanzee	Tree	Recent	false	0	1

Table 9. Sightings of primates for the period July 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018.

Species	Number of observations	Encounter rate per km
Putty-nosed monkey	16	0.025
Red-eared monkey	3	0.005
Mona monkey	19	0.029
Golden-bellied monkey	2	0.003
Chimpanzee	1	0.002
Unidentified monkey	1	0.002
Total	42	0.065

Other Wildlife

Other large mammals recorded include forest elephant, buffalo, red river hog, and yellow-backed duiker (Appendix II).

Acknowledgements

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. WCS appreciates the support and collaboration of the Cross River National Park on this project. WCS is formally registered in Nigeria through an agreement with the Ministry of Budget and National Planning of the Federal Republic.

Appendix I. Patrol effort statistics July 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018.

Date	Number of Patrols	Distance (km)	Number of Hours	Number of Rangers
2018-07-11	3	25.4	17.8	23
2018-07-12	3	21.9	24.1	23
2018-07-13	3	17.9	16.4	23
2018-07-14	3	26.8	22.7	23
2018-07-15	3	23.8	19.5	23
2018-07-16	3	25.6	22.1	23
2018-07-17	3	17.3	16.0	23
2018-07-18	3	13.3	8.4	23
2018-07-22	1	6.2	7.9	8
2018-07-23	3	25.6	17.5	23
2018-07-24	3	22.9	20.4	23
2018-07-25	3	23.6	18.0	23
2018-07-26	3	29.0	17.4	23
2018-07-27	3	28.5	29.4	23
2018-07-28	3	26.2	24.4	23
2018-07-29	1	5.5	3.7	8
2018-08-12	2	16.7	11.3	17
2018-08-13	2	13.2	12.2	17
2018-08-14	2	14.7	13.0	17
2018-08-15	2	15.7	12.4	17
2018-08-16	2	10.2	8.4	17
2018-08-17	2	14.7	8.0	17
2018-08-24	2	15.6	9.1	15
2018-08-25	2	26.9	16.3	14
2018-08-26	2	18.9	13.6	15
2018-08-27	2	25.9	13.8	15
2018-09-12	2	22.5	11.4	16
2018-09-13	2	14.1	11.9	16
2018-09-14	2	24.3	14.3	16
2018-09-15	2	13.0	11.6	16
2018-09-16	2	15.1	12.2	16
2018-09-17	2	8.1	7.9	16
2018-09-18	2	16.5	12.6	16
2018-09-19	2	11.9	12.1	16
2018-09-20	2	7.8	18.4	16
2018-09-21	1		24.0	9
2018-09-22	1	0.0	10.4	9

Appendix II. Encounter rate of wildlife species observed during patrols July 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018. 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>	71	0.110
Mona monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mona</i>	60	0.093
Elephant	<i>Loxodonta cyclotis</i>	38	0.059
Unidentified monkey	-	33	0.051
Blue duiker	<i>Philantomba monticola</i>	29	0.045
Putty-nosed monkey	<i>Cercopithecus nictitans</i>	22	0.034
Chimpanzee	<i>Pan troglodytes ellioti</i>	16	0.025
Brush-tailed porcupine	<i>Atherurus africanus</i>	14	0.022
Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>	12	0.019
Unidentified large duiker	-	12	0.019
Drill	<i>Mandrillus leucophaeus</i>	11	0.017
Bay duiker	<i>Cephalophus dorsalis</i>	11	0.017
Common cusimanse	<i>Crossarchus platycephalus</i>	9	0.014
Crested Guinea fowl	<i>Guttera plumifera</i>	7	0.011
Red-eared monkey	<i>Cercopithecus erythrotis</i>	3	0.005
Turaco	-	3	0.005
Red-capped mangabey	<i>Cercocebus torquatus</i>	2	0.003
Golden-bellied monkey	<i>Cercopithecus pogonias</i>	2	0.003
Yellow-backed duiker	<i>Cephalophus silvicultor</i>	2	0.003
Unidentified medium duiker	-	1	0.002
Unidentified small duiker	-	1	0.002
Tree pangolin	<i>Phataginus tricuspis</i>	1	0.002
Hornbill	-	1	0.002
African civet	<i>Civettictis civetta</i>	1	0.002

Appendix III. Ranger work time for the period July 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018.

Name	Number of Patrols	Number of Patrol Days	Number of Patrol Hours	Total Patrol Distance (km)
Abasi-ama Hope Edet	2	10	59.1	84.6
Abel Ita Akpu	1	6	32.7	43.6
Ajom Oru Oru	1	6	32.7	43.6
Akpela Peter Ihund	2	15	81.9	103.4
Albert Takubu Akom	1	4	26.4	46.4
Alexandra Wilfred Akamo	4	26	156.7	182.2
Aondona Michael Aernyi	4	29	168.3	223.7
Augustine Osim Bassey	3	18	106.8	126.2
Austine Etta Etta	2	15	81.8	101.6
Charles Sampson Okon	4	24	162.6	193.4
Christian Henry Ashu	1	4	26.4	41.0
Clement Abang Osang	3	25	182.2	191.7
Cletus Okon Ekun	1	8	47.8	43.4
Cornelius Itafaha Onyo	4	29	168.4	225.5
Dominic Inyang Anki	2	14	103.3	123.5
Eba Asinya Etahanjom	2	14	84.7	118.2
Edet Inameti Inameti	2	14	103.3	123.5
Edward Oyong Osor	1	8	47.8	43.4
Ekun Effiong Ekpe	3	21	177.8	176.2
Ephraim Imoh Oyoma	3	25	184.1	195.6
Eric Ita Mgban	2	12	74.2	91.4
Ernest Achura Anwah	1	9	49.1	59.8
Felix Emmanuel	1	4	26.4	46.4
Francis Akor Muyorkem	2	17	151.4	129.8
George Mkpe Mkpe	1	8	49.5	67.2
Itasun Mbusa Etim	1	6	53.9	56.3
John Effiom Edet	3	17	101.8	140.7
John Effiom Usim	4	26	207.5	206.3
John Osang Bisong	2	10	59.1	89.9
Joseph Erim Mkpa	1	3	18.2	31.6
Kennedy Missang Oyama	3	20	123.7	151.6
Kingsley Nkom Ari	1	8	47.8	50.4
Kingsley Ramsel Udoh	4	31	177.5	197.1
Lawrence Akuba Mgbang	1	8	47.8	43.4
Lekam Anim Obongha	1	6	32.6	41.8
Mathew Ojong Neji	4	26	184.2	195.6
Michael Usor Oyak	1	11	97.5	73.5
Nicodamas Onu Onu	1	8	47.8	43.4
Okon Edet Edet	4	29	168.3	223.7
Oru Patrick Erom	3	21	177.8	176.2
Peter Abanyam	3	25	179.9	169.5
Raphael Ukam Inna	1	8	49.7	54.3
Romanus Orim Egbi	2	14	80.4	92.1
Samuel Akparika Ndifon	2	12	75.9	113.6
Saviour Clement Oyom	1	8	49.5	67.2