



CROSS RIVER NATIONAL PARK-OBAN DIVISION QUARTERLY REPORT: APRIL-JUNE 2019



Prepared by:
Ukpabi, Itehm
WCS Nigeria Program

Summary

From April to June 2019, Cross River National Park rangers completed 11 anti-poaching patrols of the Oban Division of the Park with support from Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). The patrols covered a total distance of 402.9 kilometers over 64 patrol-days (361 person-days). Thirteen persons were arrested – 9 for illegal logging and 4 for hunting. The patrols also destroyed 10 hunting camps and 218 wire snares were destroyed. In addition to law enforcement, data were collected to monitor wildlife abundance and distribution within the Park. Primates sighted include red-eared monkey *Cercopithecus erythrotis* (sighted twice), Mona monkey *Cercopithecus mona* (sighted 12 times) and putty-nosed monkey *Cercopithecus nictitans* (sighted twice). Signs of other large mammals were also observed including forest elephant *Loxodonta cyclotis*, buffalo *Syncerus caffer*, and red river hog *Potamochoerus porcus*.

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/>). The project focuses on strengthening law enforcement 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. 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. This report covers law enforcement activities supported by WCS in Oban during the period from April to June 2019.

Methods

Each day, two teams of six CRNP rangers each patrolled different areas of the park but camped together to enhance supervision by the WCS Oban project manager. 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. All patrols were SMART-based. All detected wire snares and hunting camps were destroyed. Data were analyzed using SMART software.

Results

Patrol effort

Eleven anti-poaching patrols were completed over 64 patrol days (361 person-days) from April to June 2019. The patrols covered a total distance of 402.9 kilometers (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Patrol tracklogs for the period of April to June, 2019.

Table 1. Summary of patrol effort for the period of April to June, 2019.

Patrol ID	Number of Patrols	Number of Days	Distance (km)	Person - Days
CRNP-OB_000142	1	6	42.4	36
CRNP-OB_000143	1	8	49.7	48
CRNP-OB_000144	1	7	48.4	39
CRNP-OB_000145	1	8	46.0	48
CRNP-OB_000146	1	5	38.2	25
CRNP-OB_000147	1	6	33.7	36
CRNP-OB_000148	1	1	8.1	6
CRNP-OB_000149	1	1	8.0	6
CRNP-OB_000150	1	6	38.1	37
CRNP-OB_000151	1	8	42.9	40
CRNP-OB_000152	1	8	47.4	40
Total	11	64	402.9	361

Average distance and length of patrols per month

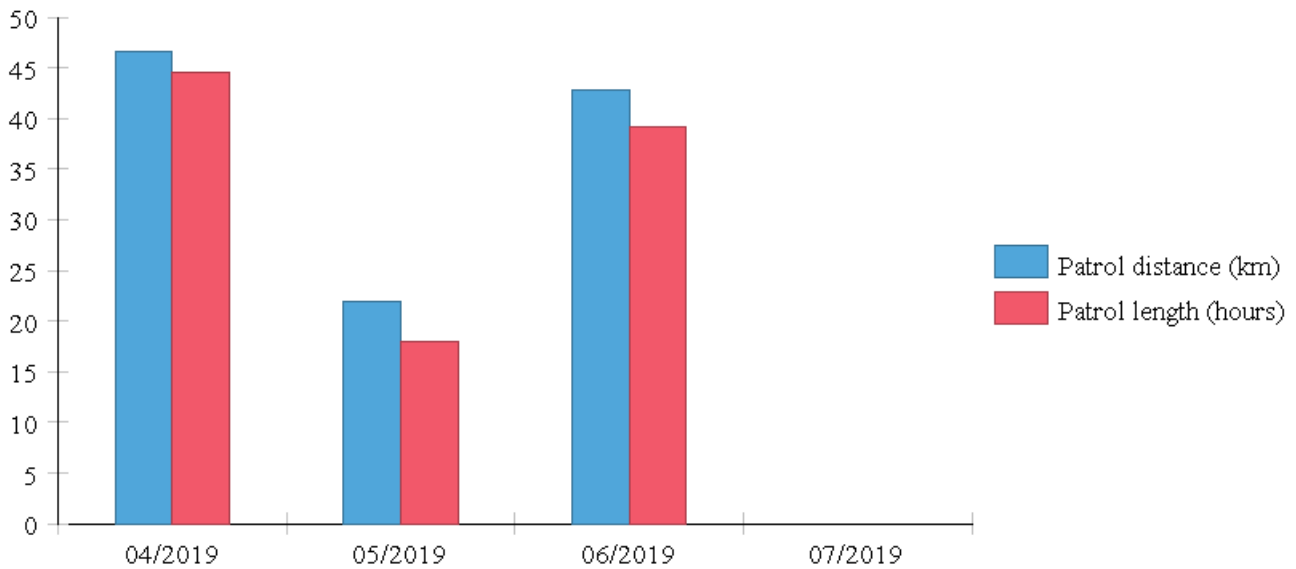


Figure 2. Average distance covered and time taken per patrol per month for the period of April to June, 2019.

Total patrol distance and length per month

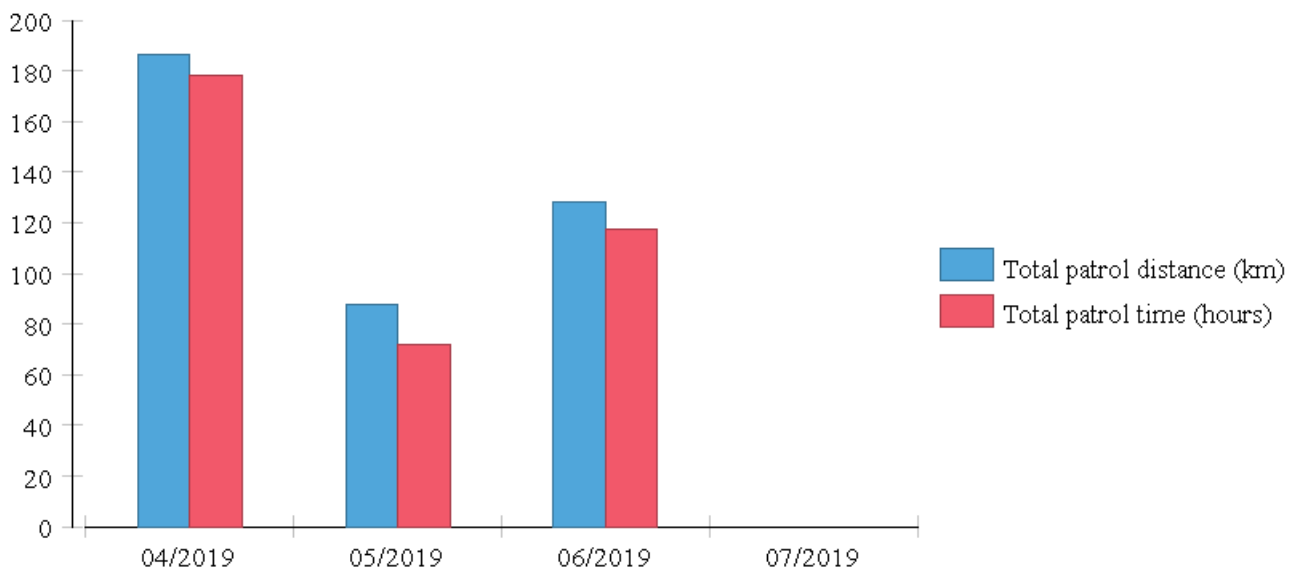


Figure 3. Total patrol distance and time per month for the period of April to June, 2019.

Law Enforcement

Thirteen persons were arrested for hunting and illegal logging and harvest of non-timber forest products, and 10 hunting camps and 218 wire snares were destroyed. Other hunting signs observed include 226 expended

shotgun cartridges and 11 gunshots heard. Four farms were encountered inside the Park (see Tables 2-6 for details)

Table 2. Summary of arrests for the period of April to June, 2019.

Leader	Waypoint Date	Action Taken	Home Village	Name	Threat
Kingsley Udoh	19 May 2019	Arrested	Osomba	Otiah Akparika	Hunting
Kingsley Udoh	19 May 2019	Arrested	Osomba	Kenneth Sunday	Hunting
Sylvester Akat	15 May 2019	Arrested	Obung village	Daniel ofu	Logging
Akpela Peter Ihund	11 Apr 2019	Arrested	Koji	Haruna Jamila	Logging
Akpela Peter Ihund	11 Apr 2019	Arrested	Kaduna	Sali Suleiman	Logging
Akpela Peter Ihund	11 Apr 2019	Arrested	Sokoto	Muhammed Adulraman	Logging
Akpela Peter Ihund	11 Apr 2019	Arrested	Sokoto	Tijani Abdulahi	Logging
Akpela Peter Ihund	11 Apr 2019	Arrested	Kebbi	Shuaibu Abubakar	Logging
Kingsley Udoh	26 May 2019	Arrested	Itu	Edet Bassey	NTFP collection
Felix Emmanuel	26 May 2019	Arrested	Obung	inocent ita.	Logging
Felix Emmanuel	26 May 2019	Arrested	Obung	Agu Patrick	Logging
Felix Emmanuel	26 May 2019	Arrested	Obung	Anietie Bassey	Logging
Felix Emmanuel	26 May 2019	Arrested	Akwa Ibom	Bassey Edet	Logging

Table 3. Number of people seen by threat for the period of April to June, 2019.

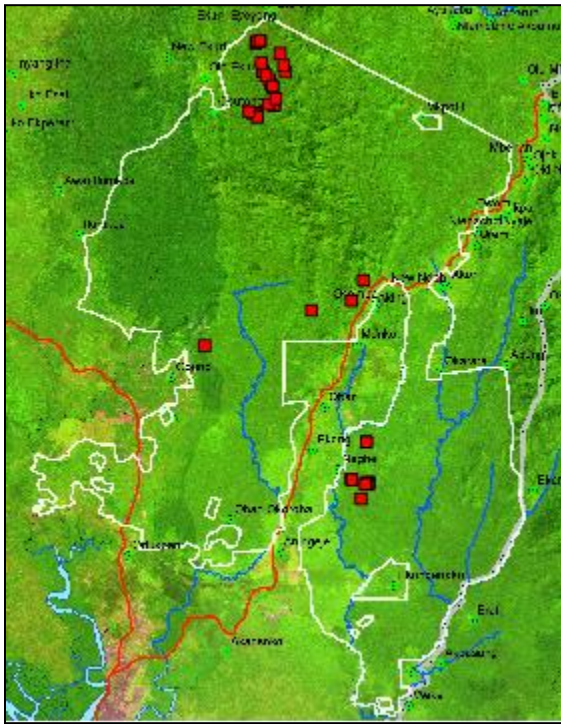
Threat	Number of people seen	Encounter rate per km
Hunting	4	0.009
Logging	8	0.019
NTFP Collection	1	0.002

Table 4. Total encounter rates of signs of human activity for the period of April to June, 2019.

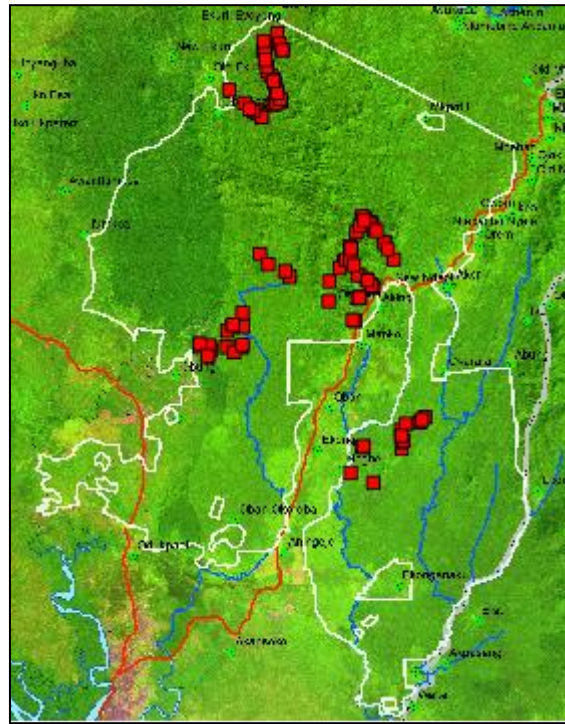
Activity	Number of Incidents	Encounter Rate per km
Farming and Land Clearing	4	0.010
Gunshot heard	11	0.027
Human Sign	4	0.010
Logging and Tree Cutting	2	0.005
People seen	5	0.012
Shed or Camp	15	0.037
Traps, Weapons & Equipment	135	0.335

Table 5. Total encounter rates of signs of logging for the period of April to June, 2019.

Type of logging evidence	Action Taken - Items	Age of Sign	Number of cut pieces	Number of Logs	Number of Planks	Number of Stumps
Logs	Seen Only	Recent	-	300	-	-
Cut Pieces	Seen Only	Old	34	-	-	-



a) Wire snares



b) Empty cartridges



c) Sheds and camps



d) Farms (circles), gunshots heard (crosses), logging (squares)

Figure 4. Distribution of all signs of human activity recorded during the period April to June, 2019

Table 6. Hunting signs recorded for the period of April to June, 2019.

Sign	Number of Observations	Encounter Rate per km
Gunshots heard	11	0.027
Set wire snares	117	0.290
Unset wire snares	101	0.251
Empty cartridges	226	0.561
Hunting camps	10	0.025

Wildlife Observations

Primates

Primates were sighted a total of 32 times during patrols this quarter including drill, Mona monkey, putty-nosed monkey and red-eared monkey (Table 7; Figure 5).

Table 7. Sightings of primate species for the period of April to June, 2019.

Species	Scientific Names	Number of Sightings	Encounter Rate per km
Putty-nosed monkey	<i>Cercopithecus nictitans</i>	15	0.0372
Mona monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mona</i>	12	0.0298
Red-eared monkey	<i>Cercopithecus erythrotis</i>	2	0.0050
Drill	<i>Mandrillus leucophaeus</i>	3	0.0083

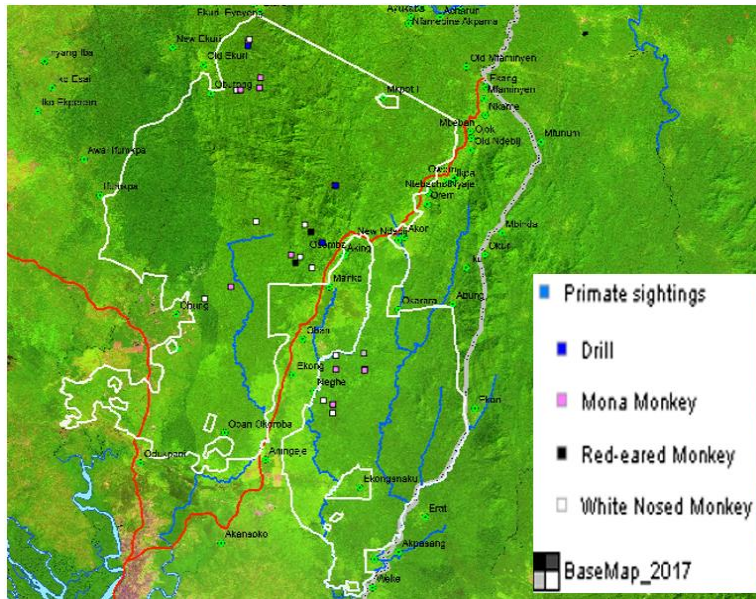


Figure 5. Sightings of all primates for the period of April to June, 2019

Other Wildlife

Other large mammals observed include forest elephant, forest buffalo, red river hog, bay duiker, and blue duiker (see Appendix II for encounter rates). Animal signs recorded were sightings, calls and fresh dung.

Recommendations

More effort should be made to prosecute arrested offenders to deter would-be offenders. In addition to deterring potential offenders, prosecution of offenders will encourage rangers to work hard to make arrests and improve effectiveness of law enforcement patrols.

Acknowledgement

Funding for this project was provided by the North Carolina Zoo and The Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund. 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 of Nigeria. Support for the protection of Cross River National Park by WCS is made possible through an MOU with the National Park Service.

Appendix I. Patrol effort statistics for the period of April to June, 2019.

Date	Number of Patrols	Distance (km)	Number of Hours	Number of Rangers
2019-04-09	1	4.3	3.5	6
2019-04-10	2	16.1	12.5	12
2019-04-11	2	21.9	13.8	12
2019-04-12	2	13.0	21.1	12
2019-04-13	2	14.2	20.5	12
2019-04-14	2	8.4	11.9	12
2019-04-15	2	13.7	9.8	12
2019-04-16	1	0.5	6.3	6
2019-04-23	2	13.3	8.3	9
2019-04-24	2	10.0	10.5	12
2019-04-25	2	19.7	12.8	12
2019-04-26	2	15.1	12.2	12
2019-04-27	2	13.1	11.3	12
2019-04-28	2	10.6	10.0	12
2019-04-29	2	12.2	7.5	12
2019-04-30	1	0.4	6.1	6
2019-05-14	1	5.7	6.2	6
2019-05-15	2	10.7	10.2	11
2019-05-16	2	18.1	11.1	11
2019-05-17	2	18.8	13.3	11
2019-05-18	2	13.1	11.5	11
2019-05-19	2	5.6	9.8	11
2019-05-26	2	16.1	10.1	12
2019-06-15	2	12.3	10.1	10
2019-06-16	3	21.7	14.8	17
2019-06-17	3	18.7	16.3	16
2019-06-18	3	20.8	17.6	16
2019-06-19	3	23.5	18.7	16
2019-06-20	3	10.7	15.0	16
2019-06-21	3	16.0	17.4	16
2019-06-22	2	4.7	7.6	10

Appendix II. Encounter rate of wildlife species observed (all sign types) during the period of April to June, 2019.

Species	Scientific name	Number of observations	Encounter rate per km
Mona monkey	<i>Cercopithecus mona</i>	54	0.134
Red river hog	<i>Potamochoerus porcus</i>	42	0.104
White-nosed monkey	<i>Cercopithecus nictitans</i>	28	0.069
Blue duiker	<i>Philantomba monticola</i>	18	0.045
Unidentified monkey	--	17	0.042
Brush-tailed porcupine	<i>Atherurus africanus</i>	13	0.032
Bay duiker	<i>Cephalophus dorsalis</i>	12	0.030
Drill	<i>Mandrillus leucophaeus</i>	9	0.022
Elephant	<i>Loxodonta cyclotis</i>	5	0.012
Guinea fowl	<i>Guttera plumifera</i>	4	0.010
Hornbill	<i>Tockus fasciatus</i>	4	0.010
Common cusimanse	<i>Crossarchus platycephalus</i>	4	0.010
Buffalo	<i>Syncerus caffer</i>	3	0.007
Red-eared monkey	<i>Cercopithecus erythrotis</i>	3	0.007
Blue turaco	<i>Corythaesola cristata</i>	3	0.007
Grey parrot	<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>	1	0.002

Appendix III. Ranger work time for the period of April to June, 2019.

Name	Number of Patrols	Number of Patrol Days	Number of Patrol Hours	Total Patrol Distance (km)
Abel Ita Akpu	3	20	94.1	119.1
Ajom Oru Oru	1	6	27.4	41.7
Akpela Peter Ihund	5	31	164.0	180.4
Aondona Aernyi	4	19	132.7	122.6
Austine Etta Etta	3	10	52.4	63.6
Benjamin Apah Nkose	2	12	87.4	80.5
Christopher Itandak	2	14	77.6	89.1
Cornelius Itafaha Onyo	3	22	122.5	129.4
Dominic Abel Samuel	2	12	87.4	80.5
Edet Inameti Inameti	1	8	48.2	46.0
Ejum Cyprian Olory	1	6	30.8	38.1
Ekun Effiong Ekpe	3	14	85.6	93.6
Ekuri Ogut Nkom	1	6	56.6	42.4
Emmanuel Akorokpor	1	6	56.6	42.4
Emmanuel Akpona	1	1	5.1	8.0
Ernest Achura Anwah	4	30	159.0	172.3
Etim Itomin Nyane	1	1	5.0	8.1
Felix Emmanuel	1	1	5.0	8.1
Godfrey Lawo Ashu	1	6	56.6	42.4
Ignatius Egot Edet	1	6	30.8	38.1
Itehm Ukpabi	2	12	58.2	79.8
John Effiom Edet	1	7	30.6	48.4
John Osang Bisong	2	9	55.1	55.5
Kennedy Oyama	1	8	36.5	42.9
Kingsley Ramsel Udoh	4	23	121.4	130.6

Name	Number of Patrols	Number of Patrol Days	Number of Patrol Hours	Total Patrol Distance (km)
Lawrence Mgbang	1	8	42.7	49.7
Lekam Anim Obongha	1	6	30.8	38.1
Michael Usor Oyak	1	1	6.1	8.4
Okon Edet Edet	5	30	160.1	187.3
Oru Patrick Erom	2	6	35.3	46.3
Peter Etim Ekun	1	5	30.4	38.2
Romanus Orim Egbi	2	9	55.2	55.4
Sylvester Ojong Akat	1	5	30.4	38.2
Ugumanim Effiong	1	1		8.0