



Dear Friends of the Lac Télé Community Reserve,

The first two months of 2026 were marked by continued conservation, governance and community support activities within the Lac Télé Community Reserve. Our teams carried out several awareness-raising activities in villages in the southern part of the Reserve and its surrounding areas to improve local people's knowledge of wildlife legislation, species protection and issues related to zoonotic diseases. These exchanges helped to mobilise local communities in favour of sustainable natural resource management.

At the same time, support missions were carried out with the Local Management Committee to strengthen local governance and support the establishment of community fishing surveillance brigades. The Reserve also provided logistical support to certain community initiatives, particularly in the field of livestock farming.

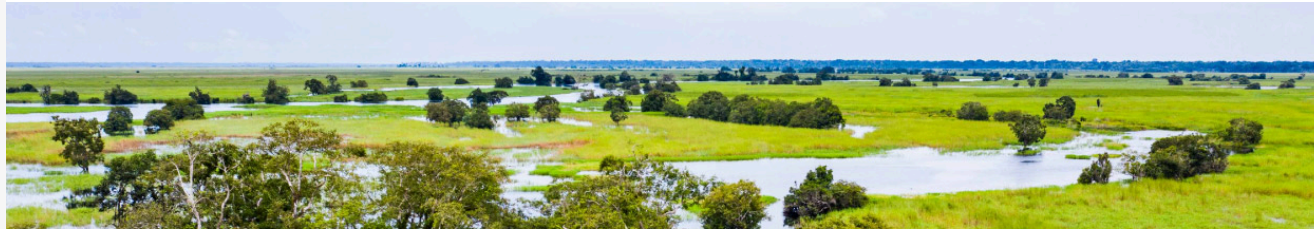
Anti-poaching and ecological monitoring activities continued, while several infrastructure improvement works were carried out at the Épéna base camp to strengthen the reserve's operational capacities.

Finally, the team continues to strengthen its skills through training and technical exchanges at the regional level.

We thank you for your continued interest and support for the conservation efforts of the Lake Télé Community Reserve.

With our sincere gratitude,

The Lac Télé Community Reserve (LTCR) team



KEY DATES & HIGHLIGHTS

- **14 to 15 January 2026:** logistical support for the delivery of SASSO chickens ordered by farmers in Epéna;
- **2 to 6 February 2026:** participation in training on Natur'Africa socio-economic indicators (BNS-SCA-NRGT) in Ouesso;
- **3 to 26 February 2026:** Mission to count waterbirds in the RCLT;
- **18 to 25 February 2026:** Mission to support the local management committee in revitalising natural resource management committees and launching fishing surveillance brigades in villages in the southern part of the Reserve.

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION



Community mobilisation for wildlife conservation

From 12 January to 4 February 2026, our teams conducted an awareness-raising mission in 12 villages in the southern part of the Reserve and two villages on the southern outskirts of Bouanéla. The aim was to raise awareness among communities about the importance of wildlife and encourage them to actively participate in its protection.

The sessions made it possible to:

- Disseminate Law No. 37 MDDEFE/CAB of 28 November 2020 on wildlife and protected areas;
- Present the species that are fully and partially protected under Decree No. 6075 MDDEFE/CAB;
- Remind participants of preventive measures related to zoonotic diseases.

A total of 743 people participated in these exchanges, including 662 Bantus (462 men and 200 women) and 81 indigenous people (74 men and 7 women).



Monitoring of cocoa plantations and nurseries in 10 villages

During the community mission, our teams provided support for cocoa cultivation in eight villages in the southern part of the reserve and two villages on the outskirts.

Supervised by our two cocoa managers, this mission enabled us to:

- Provide technical monitoring of the nurseries set up in Edzama, Mougouma Moke and Ebambé;
- Visit the plantations of new producers identified in these localities;
- Assess the success rate of redensified plantations in seven villages in the southern part of the reserve.

The mission will continue in early March 2026 in ten localities in the northern and central parts of the reserve, with a view to strengthening production and technical monitoring throughout the territory.

GOVERNANCE



In January and February 2026, the RCLT continued its efforts to strengthen community governance by providing regular support to local management structures and promoting dialogue between administrative authorities, community representatives and the reserve's technical teams. These initiatives aim to encourage community involvement in the sustainable management of natural resources and to support local regulation and monitoring mechanisms.

In addition, regular exchanges with local stakeholders have helped to consolidate coordination around the Reserve's management priorities and continue the participatory governance dynamic that has been underway in recent years. These efforts are contributing to the gradual establishment of an inclusive and concerted management model that serves to conserve biodiversity and promote sustainable development in the region.

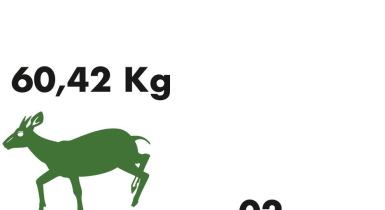
ANTI-POACHING

Interpellations



No arrests

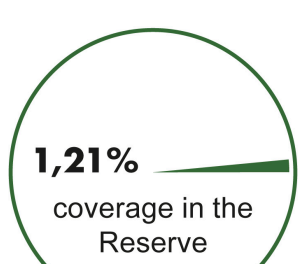
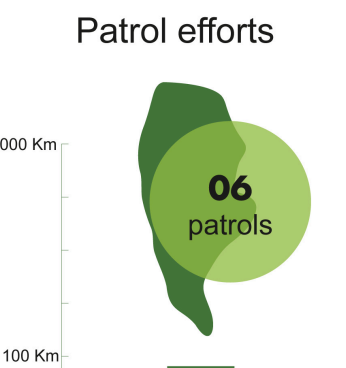
Seizures



60,42 Kg

02

Patrol efforts



87 KM covered by the eco-guards

Four eco-guards underwent refresher training at the Ndoki 2 station. This capacity-building activity aimed to consolidate their operational skills and improve their effectiveness in carrying out surveillance and combating illegal activities. The refresher training also served as a reminder of work procedures, safety rules and best practices related to field operations.

RESEARCH AND MONITORING



As part of the regular monitoring of waterbirds in the RCLT, a census was carried out on the Likouala-aux-Herbes and its tributaries. The main objective was to identify the different species of waterbirds present in the reserve, to count the number of individuals per species and the total number of birds observed.

A total of 5,208 individuals belonging to 16 families and 44 species were recorded this year.

Five species were particularly observed in 2026: *Microcarbo africanus*, *Ardea ibis*, *Ciconia microscelis*, *Ardea purpurea*, *Anhinga rufa*.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONSTRUCTION



Several infrastructure improvement works were carried out at the Épéna base camp in order to improve working conditions and operational capabilities. The roof of the CTP hut has been renovated, eliminating water leaks and improving the comfort of use of this infrastructure. A hangar made of durable materials has also been built by extending the existing structure to house and secure the new electric generator.



A new pond has been created to temporarily house dwarf crocodiles seized during anti-poaching operations, pending their release back into the wild. Dead tree trunks have also been added to the pond, providing the crocodiles with shelter and hiding places, thereby contributing to their well-being during their brief stay.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Since 1997, when the waterbird inventory along the Reserve's main navigable waterways began, the White-faced Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna viduata*) has only been observed twice: in March 2024 and February 2026. The recent presence of this migratory species highlights the importance of the RCLT as a strategic site for birds. This area is a key transit point, with rich avian biodiversity and serving as a migratory corridor. Photo: © Roger Mobongo/WCS



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