



BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2025

Dear Friends of the Lac Télé Community Reserve,

This bulletin presents the main activities carried out during November and December 2025 within the Lac Télé Community Reserve, a period marked by significant progress in governance. The strengthening of consultation mechanisms, increased participation of local communities, and advances in the structuring of planning and management tools have represented important milestones towards the sustainable and inclusive management of the Reserve.

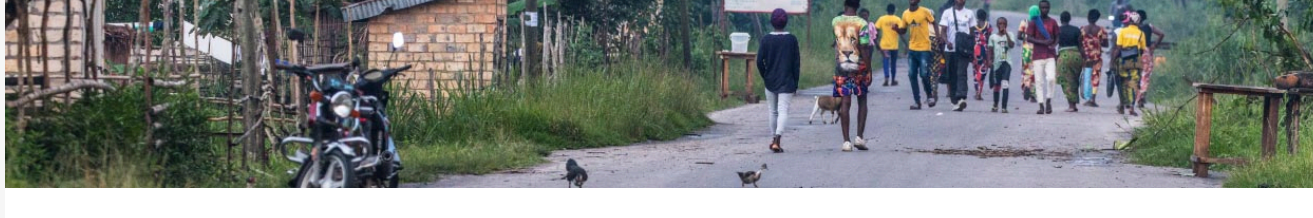
During this period, several concrete actions were also implemented for the benefit of both communities and conservation efforts, including the distribution of school kits and support for the reopening of the Impongui primary school, the strengthening of community-based beekeeping initiatives, as well as the completion of ecological data collection on forest ungulates and primates. These initiatives reflect an integrated approach aimed at reconciling biodiversity conservation, local development and the generation of scientific knowledge.

These achievements were accompanied by key institutional developments, notably the organisation of the annual exchange workshop between the Coordination of the Lac Télé Community Reserve and the Local Management Committee, as well as the departmental validation of the Reserve's management plan for the next ten years, a critical step prior to its submission at national level.

Taken together, these results reflect the sustained commitment of the Reserve's teams, local communities, administrative and customary authorities, as well as technical and financial partners, to promoting participatory governance and the sustainable management of the Lac Télé Community Reserve.

With commitment,

The Lac Télé Community Reserve (LTCR) team



KEY DATES & HIGHLIGHTS

- **November 5, 2025:** Logistical support for the reopening of the Impongui primary school.
- **December 6-7, 2025:** Organization of a workshop for exchanges between the Coordination and the Local Management Committee of the Lac Télé Community Reserve in Bouanéla.
- **December 12, 2025:** Participation in the workshop to validate the departmental development plan in Impfondo.

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION



Support for community beekeeping in the Reserve

At the beginning of 2025, a Congolese consultant was recruited. His first mission, launched in June 2025, aimed to evaluate WCS's support in 2016, raise awareness among communities about modern beekeeping, and identify and train beekeepers.

In December 2025, another mission was carried out in the eight villages of the Reserve (four in the Bouanéla district and four in the Epéna district): distribution of beekeeping equipment, training in identifying sites for installing hives, creation of apiaries, and trapping.

A total of 60 hives, 30 beekeeping suits, and 30 smokers were distributed to the 60 beekeepers who were selected and trained. A new distribution of harvesting equipment is planned for January 2026.



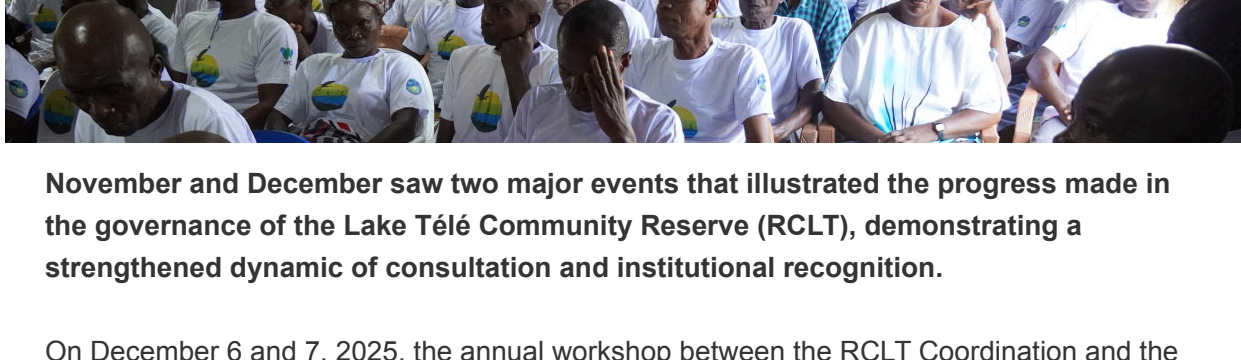
Distribution of school kits and reopening of schools in Botongo and Impongui

The school kit distribution mission, launched on October 2, 2025, ended with a visit to the primary schools in Botongo and Impongui. The latter had been closed for 13 years due to a lack of teachers and adequate infrastructure, but was able to reopen on November 5, 2025, thanks to logistical support from the Reserve Coordination.

The school kits were distributed on November 19, 2025, in the presence of parents, village chiefs, dignitaries, and the beneficiary students.

To mark the reopening of the school, the sub-prefecture donated tables and benches in kit form, which were assembled with the support of the project, as well as materials to repaint the blackboards in the two classrooms. This support was widely welcomed by the communities of Impongui and the surrounding villages.

GOVERNANCE



November and December saw two major events that illustrated the progress made in the governance of the Lake Télé Community Reserve (RCLT), demonstrating a strengthened dynamic of consultation and institutional recognition.

On December 6 and 7, 2025, the annual workshop between the RCLT Coordination and the Local Management Committee (LMC) was held in Bouanéla. This meeting brought together administrative and traditional authorities as well as representatives of local communities. Discussions focused on the main issues related to the sustainable management of the Reserve's natural resources, including hunting, fishing, fire management, and resource use. This forum for dialogue also provided an opportunity to jointly develop plans for activities for the following year, thereby strengthening local ownership of conservation actions. The next edition of this workshop is scheduled for December 2026 in Epéna.

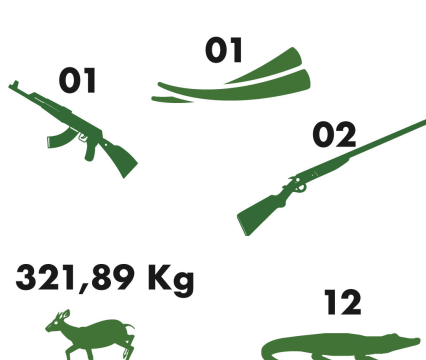
In addition, on December 12 in Impfondo, a departmental workshop, under the authority of the Likouala authorities, validated the RCLT's management plan for the next ten years. After incorporating a few minor adjustments, this strategic document was officially approved at the departmental level. This validation is a key step in the governance of the Reserve, ahead of its upcoming presentation to the central government in Brazzaville.

ANTI-POACHING

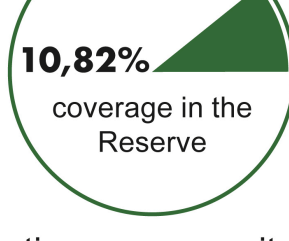
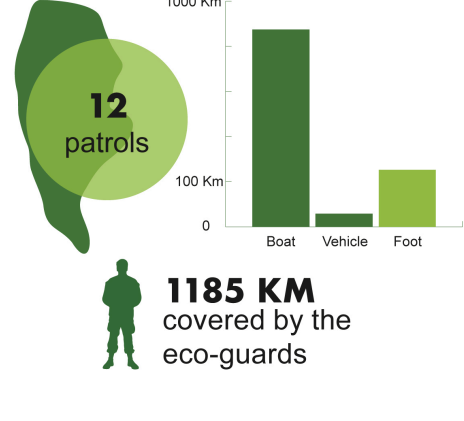
Interpellations



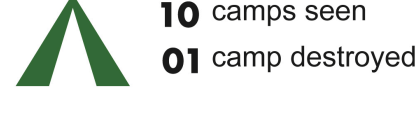
Seizures



Patrol efforts

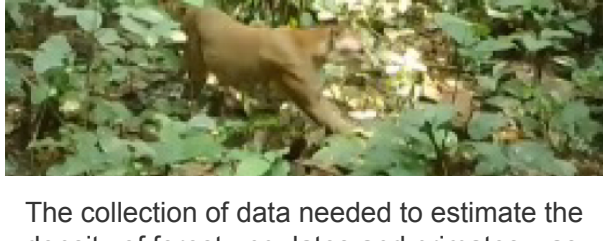


Hunting camp monitoring



In November, a refresher training session was organized for the eco-guards, including a patrol leader, to strengthen their skills. In addition, a joint mission was carried out with the Impfondo Gendarmerie in the village of Mougoumba Bailly. Finally, an operation to apprehend those involved in the illegal killing of a forest elephant led to the seizure of an AK-47-type weapon and an ivory tusk.

RESEARCH AND MONITORING

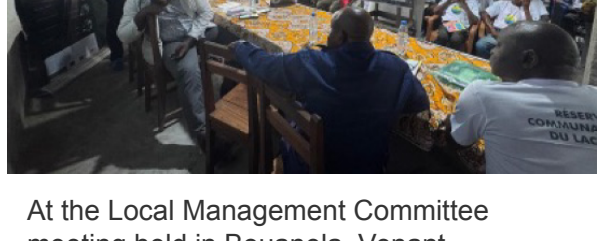


The collection of data needed to estimate the density of forest ungulates and primates was completed in late November, both in seasonal floodplain forests and dryland forests, after several months of intensive fieldwork.

The data collected, which will enter the analysis phase, is now refining our understanding of the distribution and abundance of these key species, which are essential to the proper functioning of forest ecosystems.

A highlight of this period was the teams' rare opportunity to observe a golden cat (*Caracal aurata*), a discreet and rarely detected species. This exceptional sighting is an encouraging indicator of the quality of the habitats monitored and adds to the already promising results of this monitoring campaign.

In November, an intern from Marien Ngouabi University conducted his study entitled "Fishermen's survey: birds, wildlife, and environmental changes" as part of the preparation of his bachelor's thesis.

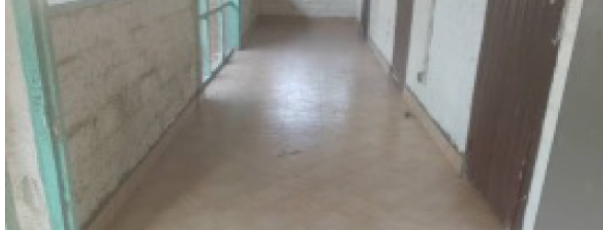


At the Local Management Committee meeting held in Bouanéla, Venant BOMOMO, research assistant at the RCLT, presented the research work carried out during 2025 to nearly 150 participants (administrative and traditional authorities) from the 27 villages in the Reserve). This presentation provided a clear and structured overview of the main scientific activities carried out throughout the year, as well as the major results and lessons learned.

Venant placed particular emphasis on the completion of a major strategic project: the development of the RCLT's research strategy for the next ten years. This document, the result of a long process of reflection and consultation, now serves as an essential roadmap for guiding and strengthening long-term research and ecological monitoring activities.

The presentation was widely appreciated by participants, who highlighted both the quality of the work accomplished and the importance of having a clear and shared scientific vision for the future of the Lac Télé Community Reserve.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONSTRUCTION



During the last two months of 2025, several development and construction works were carried out:

- Tiling in the temporary hut (bedrooms and kitchen), as well as the replacement of electrical appliances;
- Completion of tiling in the anti-poaching service's operations room, followed by renovation of the windows and doors with the installation of mosquito nets;
- Construction using sustainable materials and modernization of the cafeteria.
- Construction, under the supervision of the logistics team, of a shed to serve as a shelter for vehicles.
- Installation of a shower;
- Cleaning of the courtyard and the interior and exterior areas around the fence;
- Reinforcement of the fence by adding recycled wire mesh and wooden posts.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Top: Departmental workshop to validate the RCLT development plan, Impfondo (December 12, 2025). Local and departmental authorities and representatives of the RCLT.

Bottom: Annual RCLT-CLG coordination workshop, Bouanéla (December 6-7, 2025). Authorities, traditional leaders, and local communities gathered to discuss the sustainable management of the Reserve's resources and plan future conservation actions.



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