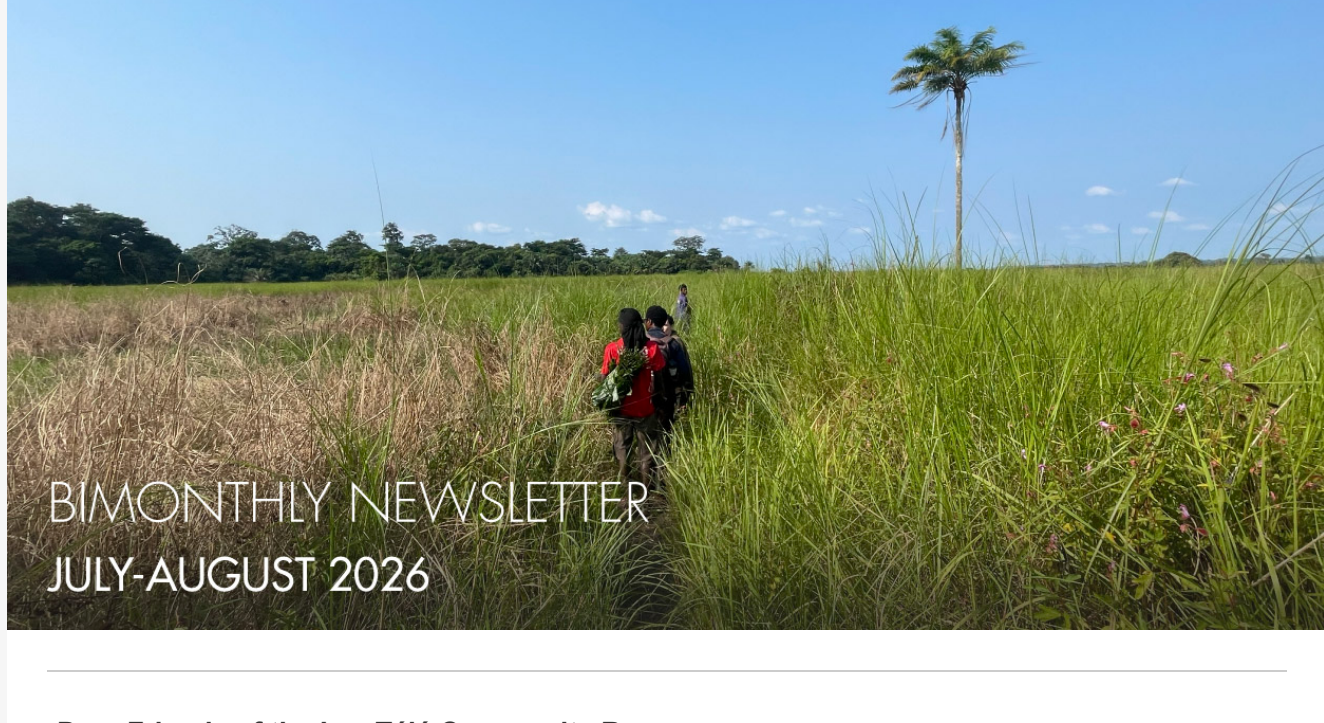




Dear Friends of the Lac Télé Community Reserve,

July and August 2026 were marked by a high level of activity within the Lac Télé Community Reserve and its surrounding areas. The various initiatives carried out during this period demonstrate a commitment to simultaneously strengthening biodiversity conservation, local community involvement, the capacity of the teams and the governance of the Reserve. Particular attention was paid to the development of income-generating activities, notably through support for cocoa farmers and raising awareness of beekeeping. These initiatives are key drivers for strengthening communities' livelihoods whilst fostering their involvement in conservation. In this regard, continuing to support producers and helping them organise themselves into associations is a key step towards consolidating sustainable local governance of economic activities.

At the same time, a number of initiatives have helped to strengthen the Reserve's institutional and operational capacities. Training for all staff on human rights, the Code of Conduct, the fight against corruption and the protection of vulnerable populations represents an important step towards promoting responsible professional practices. Efforts in the area of ecological monitoring, notably through the use of camera traps and acoustic monitoring devices, are also helping to gradually strengthen the RCLT's capacity to produce and utilise scientific data to inform management decisions.

Finally, the demarcation of the Reserve's eastern boundary and the improvement of infrastructure and logistical facilities at the Épéna base are helping to tangibly strengthen the capacity for managing and monitoring the area.

These advances are based on the commitment and collaboration of all teams, communities, partners and local authorities. The Coordination would like to thank everyone who contributes daily to the implementation of these activities and wishes to encourage the continuation of this momentum over the coming months.

With commitment,

The Lac Télé Community Reserve (LTCR) team



KEY DATES & HIGHLIGHTS

- **5 July:** Death of Mr Ferdinand KIHOUAKA (alias Bim), patrol leader at the LTCR.
- **8–23 July:** Online workshop on managing camera trap data with expert Alice Laguardia.
- **14 July:** Meeting between LTCR Coordination Team with the Epena Notables Platform.
- **7–13 August:** Training for RCLT staff on human rights, combating violence against women and children, corruption and compliance with the code of conduct.
- **10–13 August:** Harmonisation of the BNS and SCA data collection methodology and validation of the new list of goods and services within the Ndoki-Likouala landscape, in Nouabale-Ndoki National Park.
- **24 August:** Meeting with members of the Épéna district's young cocoa producers' brigade, established by the PARSa project, with the aim of supporting their organisation and strengthening the governance of producers' associations at district level.

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION



Support for community beekeeping in the Reserve

As part of the project 'Securing critical biodiversity, carbon and water reserves in the Congo Basin's peatlands through informed decision-making and good governance', funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) and implemented by the FAO in partnership with WCS, an awareness-raising mission on the development of beekeeping was carried out from 25 July to 4 August 2026.

The objectives of this mission were to raise awareness amongst communities about the development of beekeeping, to present the criteria for selecting beneficiaries, and to identify individuals interested in this activity who are likely to meet the established criteria. It covered the four neighbourhoods of the Épéna urban community as well as the villages of Iyahou, Matoko, Ibolo and Koundoumou.

Following these consultations, 208 potentially interested individuals were identified. The next step will be to organise individual interviews with those identified in order to assess them against the pre-defined criteria and draw up the final list of beneficiaries.

Those selected will, subject to their final selection, receive technical and material support for the implementation and development of their beekeeping activities under the project.



Support for cocoa cultivation

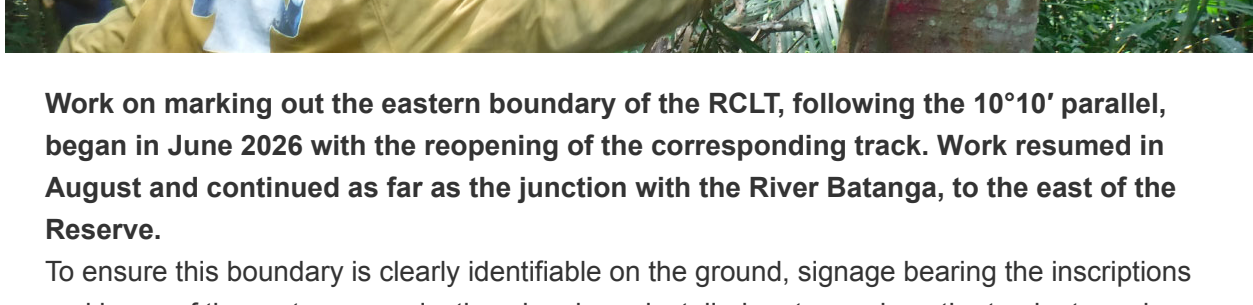
July and August 2026 saw the completion of two field missions as part of the support programme for cocoa farmers.

The first mission, carried out from 24 July to 1 August 2026 in the villages of Edzama, Ebambé and Moundouma-Moké, aimed to publish the lists of beneficiaries, present and have the memoranda of understanding signed, train farmers in planting techniques and the redensification of cocoa plantations, and distribute young plants. At the end of this mission, 64 producers, including 11 women, were selected from among the 86 potential producers initially identified.

The second mission, carried out from 13 to 17 August 2026 in the Kabounga region, notably in the villages of Mboua, Minganga, Mobangui, Toukoulaka and Bene, enabled producers' capacities to be strengthened in the use and maintenance of ploughing equipment, facilitated the distribution of this equipment to beneficiaries, and allowed for the collection of duly signed memoranda of understanding in the various villages concerned.

These two missions have thus contributed to strengthening the technical and material capacities of cocoa producers and to improving their agricultural practices.

GOVERNANCE



Work on marking out the eastern boundary of the RCLT, following the 10°10' parallel, began in June 2026 with the reopening of the corresponding track. Work resumed in August and continued as far as the junction with the River Batanga, to the east of the Reserve.

To ensure this boundary is clearly identifiable on the ground, signage bearing the inscriptions and logos of the partner organisations has been installed on trees along the track at regular intervals of 200 metres. This initiative helps to enhance the visibility and recognition of the Reserve's boundary amongst the various users of the area and represents an important step towards the complete and effective demarcation of the RCLT.

On 24 August 2026, a meeting was organised with members of the Épéna District Young Cocoa Producers' Brigade, established as part of the PARSa project. Discussions focused on the prospects for structuring the brigade and on the steps required to consolidate producer organisations at district level.

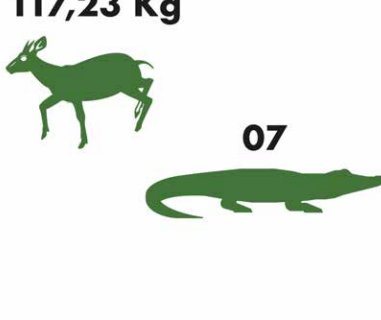
This approach aims to promote better collective organisation amongst producers, strengthen their capacity for representation, and facilitate their participation in local development initiatives. The gradual development of these organisations is therefore a key factor in strengthening local governance mechanisms and fostering dialogue between communities, the RCLT and the various partners operating in the area.

ANTI-POACHING

Interpellations



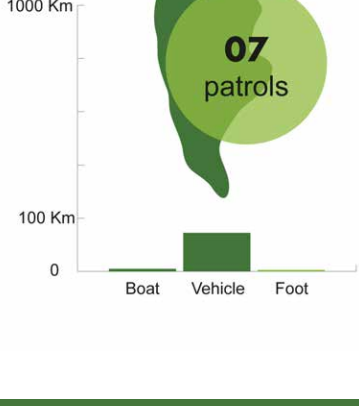
Saisies



117,23 Kg

07

Patrol efforts



81 KM covered by the eco-guards

Overall, the operations carried out focused mainly on monitoring, enforcement and combating wildlife offences, with seven patrols conducted and several seizures made, notably of crocodiles and game products. All the crocodiles seized were released into the RCLT forest.

RESEARCH AND MONITORING

Acoustic monitoring



From 24 July to 23 August, a mission to monitor large mammal populations using acoustic units was carried out in the forests around the village of Likonda. The main objective was to install the devices according to a predefined acoustic grid, in order to collect recordings that would enable the identification and analysis of the vocalisations of the target species.

This approach represents an innovative research method for the site. Analysis of the vocalisations recorded by the acoustic units should help to improve our understanding of the presence, distribution and population sizes of the animals studied, thereby enabling existing estimates to be refined.

During this survey, the teams also recorded various tracks and signs of animal presence, as well as signs of human activity observed in the field.

Training in the use of camera traps

Three WCS field staff members undertook an online training course on the use of camera traps and the management of data collected using the Timelapse software. This training, delivered by Alice Laguardia, was part of a programme aimed at strengthening the skills of WCS field staff. Four virtual training sessions were organised. They focused primarily on the following topics: the management of camera traps, their installation and the resources required for their use, the value of these devices for ecological monitoring, and the structuring and organisation of data files.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONSTRUCTION

A number of measures have been taken to improve working conditions, safety and the logistical and operational capabilities of the Épéna field camp.

- Refurbishment work has been carried out on the food store, including repairs to the roof and ceiling, as well as on the accommodation for the curator and the senior technical adviser.
- Significant improvements have been made to the base's internal network through the installation of new underground cabling, the fitting of a switch in the finance office, and the extension of coverage to the visitor's hut and the guest house.
- Finally, the base's nautical resources have been bolstered by the acquisition of a new 15-horsepower (15 CV) outboard motor. This new equipment will improve the teams' mobility on waterways and facilitate the implementation of field missions.

CAPACITY BUILDING

From 7 to 13 August 2026, a training and refresher course for all staff members of the Lac Télé Community Reserve, drawn from various roles and operational teams, was held at the Epena base. The overall aim was to strengthen their understanding of the obligations arising from the Code of Conduct and the Internal Regulations, as well as the principles relating to the fight against corruption, the protection of women, children and indigenous peoples, and the rules governing the use of force and self-defence.

This session also aimed to enable each participant to better understand their professional rights and duties, as well as the disciplinary and legal consequences that may arise from failure to comply with internal rules and applicable international standards. A total of 36 officers took part in this training session.



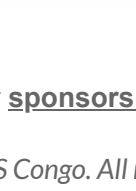
Given the importance of these issues, it is recommended that the capacity-building programme be sustained and strengthened by organising regular training sessions, systematically providing policy documents to every new staff member upon taking up their post, and incorporating more practical exercises and field simulations into future sessions.

IN MEMORIAM



Mr Ferdinand KIHOUAKA joined the RCLT in 2015 as a collaborator, before being appointed patrol leader in 2024. He joined the RCLT unit with dedication, commitment and honour.

The Coordination Team, together with all the staff of the Reserve, deeply mourn this sudden loss and offer their sincere condolences to his family and loved ones.



Thank you to our sponsors and partners.

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