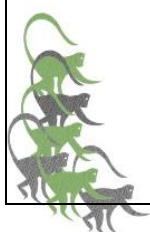




# West African Primate Conservation Action ANNUAL REPORT 2022

[www.wapca.org](http://www.wapca.org)



## Message from the WAPCA-Programme Manager

We were pleased to return to normality in 2022 and I was able to visit Ghana four times as usual.

There must be love in the air for our monkeys this year as we welcomed three new offspring at the Endangered Primate Breeding Centre in Accra, the capital city. The population that we manage are part of the global breeding programme, ensuring that we maintain a genetically healthy reserve population.



We did however say farewell to our last Roloway at the Centre, who died this year. At the moment we do not have a recommendation from the Coordinator so the space is currently occupied by a pair of spot-nosed monkeys – Happy & Lucky, mixed with two young Mona monkeys which makes for a vibrant habitat.

Zoo de Cerza in France became our newest member, and we thank them for their support. We also had a change in staff, David and Martin our Insitu Project Coordinator and Field Officer respectively both left and were replaced by Karen & Boakye. We warmly welcome them all to the WAPCA family.

This year also saw the production of a new documentary on WAPCA. A film crew from Germany visited all our activities in Ghana following the work of our Coordinators to illustrate our mission. It was a fun and interesting experience for the team, who did such a great job. We are now excitedly anticipating the final cut which we look forward to sharing with you.

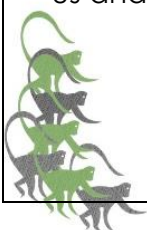
2022 saw a fantastic opportunity for our Ex-situ Project Coordinator, thanks to a private donor and the amazing hospitality of Yorkshire Wildlife Park, ZSL London Zoo and Paradise Wildlife Park, Foster spent two weeks learning and sharing his animal care skills. The experience validated the passion Foster has for his work and the welfare of the animals which he always prioritises.

We still face many challenges in our work, including a new petroleum hub development project in one of our primate habitats. If the development proceeds as planned the area will be seriously threatened. However, WAPCA is working hard to take considered but concerted effort against the Hub, which we hope will see the translocation of the project away from such an important biodiversity area. More details of which can be found in this report.

Thank you to our two Boards, advisors, supporters, members and friends who continue to support us and special thanks to the WAPCA team for their hard work & dedication in 2022.

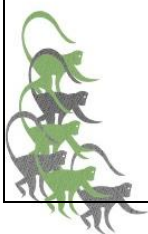
Best Wishes for 2023,

*Andrea Dempsey*



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# What is WAPCA?

West African Primate Conservation Action (WAPCA) is an initiative of several European Zoos spearhead by Heidelberg Zoo, and the Zoological Society for the Conservation of Species and Populations (ZGAP)

# What is our objective?

WAPCA's objective is to effectively preserve primate habitat in the Upper Guinean Rainforest of West Africa, which is under serious threat of destruction. WAPCA has been promoting the protection of Critically Endangered primates in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire since 2001 and in 2007 established WAPCA Ghana, a local NGO which is managed in partnership with the Wildlife Division of the Ghana Forestry Commission.

# How do we do this?

WAPCA Ghana's activities have integrated various approaches to primate conservation, categorized into the following four disciplines:

- **Discover** - new populations through comprehensive survey work;
- **Protect** - through community driven and sustainable action;
- **Reinforce** - with two captive breeding sites managed by the European Association of Zoos & Aquaria (EAZA) breeding programme;
- **Connecting** - nature with adults and children alike, so that they are inspired to care for the planet they share, not own.

# Who do we do this with?

WAPCA works closely with the Wildlife Division (WD) of the Ghana Forestry Commission which is a full managing partner of WAPCA Ghana. Other collaborating partners include; Noe's Man & Nature, Research and Actions for the Safeguard of Primates in Côte d'Ivoire (RASAP-CI), and The University of Barcelona.

# Where do we do this?

The Upper Guinean Rainforest constitutes a 350 km wide strip of West African coastal rainforest stretching from Sierra Leone to the Ghana-Togo border and is listed as one of the IUCN's 25 Key Biodiversity Areas, WWF's Global Spot region, a CI Biodiversity Hotspot, and a Birdlife International's Important Bird Area. The IUCN 25 Key Biodiversity Areas cover only 1.4 % of the earth's surface but contain more than 60% of all animal and plant species found on this planet.





The Upper Guinean Rainforest is one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems on the African continent supporting over 1800 endemic plants, 31 endemic threatened birds, 35 endemic threatened mammals, and 49 endemic threatened amphibians. As well as our focal primate species it is home to lesser spot-nose monkey (*Cercopithecus cephus petaurista*), Lowe's monkey (*Cercopithecus mona lowei*), and olive colobus (*Procolobus verus*) as well as other unique mammals such as zebra duiker (*Cephalophus zebra*), royal antelope (*Neotragus pygmaeus*), Liberian mongoose (*Liberiictis kuhni*), Dephwa mouse (*Dephomys eburnea*), white-throated shrew (*Crocidura wimmeri*) and the Togo mouse (*Leimacomys buettneri*).

## What are our focal species?

- Miss Waldron's Red Colobus (Pictured here)  
(*Procolobus badius waldroni*)  
Status: *Critically Endangered*
- Roloway Monkey  
(*Cercopithecus Roloway*)  
Status: *Critically Endangered*
- White-naped Mangabey,  
(*Cercocebus lunulatus*)  
Status: *Endangered*
- White thighed black and white Colobus  
(*Colobus vellerosus*)  
Status: *Critically Endangered*



Within the eastern region of the Upper Guinean rainforest that extends from Côte d'Ivoire to Ghana, there resides a distinct community of primates endemic to the area, including the Critically Endangered (and possibly extinct) Miss Waldron's red colobus, the roloway monkey and the white-thighed black and white colobus – both Critically Endangered, and the Endangered white-naped mangabey which are listed amongst the world's 25 most Endangered primates. While Miss Waldron's red colobus may already be extinct, the roloway monkey and white-naped mangabey (pictured below) appear to be following the same path towards extinction. Additional endemic primates include the *Critically Endangered* Western chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes verus*), the *Near Threatened* olive colobus (*Procolobus verus*), the lesser spot-nose monkey (*Cercopithecus petaurista petaurista*), the Lowe's monkey (*Cercopithecus mona lowei*).



West African primate illustrations by  
artist Stephen D. Nash

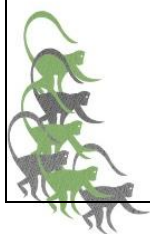
# What are the threats?

The prime threats come from loss of habitat, and poaching or hunting of the animals.

Deforestation is the greatest threat to both the environment and wildlife dependent upon the rainforests of West Africa. According to a recent CEPF Ecosystem Report, the Upper Guinean Forests has been reduced to a mere 15% of its original forest cover. Logging, unsustainable and poor practice agriculture in cocoa and palm oil, illegal mining (termed “galamsey”), and human encroachment have left fragmented remnants of rainforest. Studies of legal and illegal logging in Ghana have shown an increase of 600% over 15 years. As you would imagine, illegal logging is the most devastating, being wholly unmanaged with no discretion for tree species, age, or size. One third of illegal logging is carried out by licensed companies who either take more than their quota or in protected areas. The remaining two thirds is down to illegal chainsaw operators, operating any way they can access by road. According Global Forest Watch, Ghana lost more than half a million hectares between 2001 and 2014 - around 9% of its total forest cover.

Extensive bush meat hunting for both local consumption and export to other countries is similarly devastating. Estimates of the bush meat trade run as high as \$400 million per year in Ghana and \$500 million in Côte d'Ivoire, causing a massive decline in the wildlife populations of West Africa. Wildlife populations in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire are disappearing at such an alarming rate that many of the remaining rainforest habitats have become nearly devoid of mammal species, causing conservationist to now label these forests as “empty forests”.

The unique fauna and flora found within these areas of rainforest have long been under the stress of deforestation and overhunting and with diminishing forest cover in which to retreat, wildlife within these sparse forests are increasingly finding they've no place left to hide.



# Who makes WAPCA possible?

Zoo Heidelberg serves as the managing body for WAPCA. WAPCA membership dues provide the crucial funding for all WAPCA Ghana core operating expenses and provide significant funding for rainforest protection activities in Côte d'Ivoire. Zoological Collections who become members or support us in one off donations demonstrates the important role the modern zoo plays in conservation as they adopt an One Plan Approach whereby the two worlds of in-situ and ex-situ become more and more interlinked. As a visitor supporting good zoos similarly enables them to support us in our work

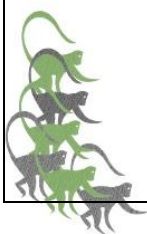
Our members, who we are incredible grateful to are:

- **Zoo Heidelberg**
- **Zoo de Mulhouse**
- **Parc Zoològic de Barcelona**
- **Dublin Zoo**
- **Zoo Landau**
- **Allwetterzoo Münster**
- **Zoologische Gesellschaft für  
Arten-und Populationsschutz  
(ZGAP)**
- **Zoo La Palmyre**
- **La Vallée des Singes, Romagne**
- **Zoo Bojnice**
- **Twycross Zoo**
- **Zoo Duisburg**
- **Rotterdam Zoo**
- **Gaia Zoo**
- **Fundacion Bioparc**
- **Ouwehands Rhenen**
- **Zoo Kosice**
- **Zoo de Cerza**
- **Tierpark Berlin**



If you are interested in becoming a member or supporting WAPCA please do not hesitate to contact WAPCA Secretary Sandra Reichler, who can facilitate your support.

**Sandra.Reichler@Heidelberg.de**





# 2022 ACTIVITIES REPORT

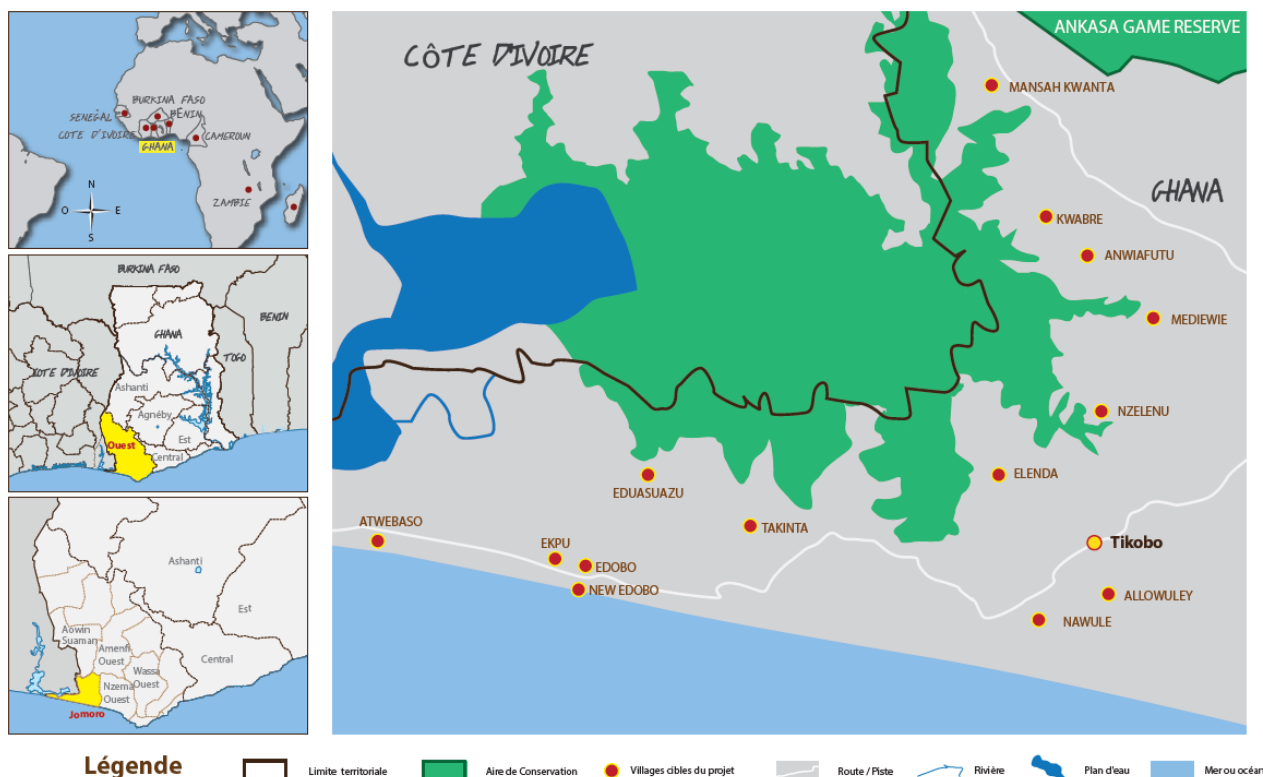
## WAPCA IN ACTION CREATING VIABLE LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

### TRANS-BORDER COMMUNITY-MANAGED RAINFOREST PROJECT

*by Insitu Project Coordinator – Karen Akuaku*

#### Protecting the Last Remaining Primate Habitats in Ghana

The Kwabre Rainforest is a 2,500 hectare corridor of community-owned virgin rainforest which lies along the Tanoé River, directly opposite to the Tanoé Forest in Côte d'Ivoire. This very special rainforest is home to a number of Endangered primates including the white-naped mangabey (*Cercocebus lunulatus*), the Critically Endangered white-thighed black & white colobus (*Colobus vellerosus*), the olive colobus (*Procolobus verus*) and the Critically Endangered Roloway monkey, which is listed on the 25 Most Endangered Primates of the World. WAPCA has been working in this area since 2012 when a primate survey rediscovered a population of Roloway after it was considered locally extinct. WAPCA works with the communities that surround the rainforest, empowering them to create a Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) which legally allows the communities to manage their natural resources and protect the Kwabre from destruction.



WAPCA, works in partnership with the 14 communities, the Research and Actions for the Conservation of Primates in Côte d'Ivoire (RASAP-CI), Savannah Fruits Company, Yayra Glover Cocoa and Noe's Man & Nature. Thanks to them and funding from the French Development Bank (AFD), Sofi Tucker Foundation, Ciel Azur and Nahe Cosmetics we have had another successful year.

## Our Project Goals:



*Cocoa beans drying in the sun*

- 1) Protect and enhance the 2,500 hectares of community-owned virgin rainforest through the transformation of the Kwabre Rainforest into a federated Community Resource Management Area (CREMA)
- 2) Reduce illegal activities in the rainforest through the training and implementation of community patrols,
- 3) Improve the health of the rainforest through the reforestation of areas degraded by illegal lumbering and mining
- 4) Create sustainable community-managed agro-forestry plantations, to reduce harvesting of forest products and clear-cutting of virgin forests for large scale export commodities
- 5) Lay the foundation for a Trans-border Community-managed Forest Reserve between the Kwabre Rainforest in Ghana, and the Tanoé Community Forests in Côte d'Ivoire.
- 6) Develop sustainable livelihoods and promote green value chains in organic cocoa and organic coconut oil.

## 1. Community Resource Management Area



With technical support from Noe and in collaboration with CREMA members, the CREMA boundaries and land-use was mapped. The results demonstrated that even though the CREMA communities are doing their best to ensure resource protection and management, not all individuals (community elders) have fully embraced the idea of resource stewardship.



*Researcher Maud Martin reviews the new forest map with CREMA members*



The CREMA Executive Committee (CEC) and CREMA Resource Management Committee (CREMC) members of Kwabre and Anwiafutu met to address illegal activities in these two communities and its adjoining communities. The Chief of Nuba reminded elders of being caretakers and not custodian of the land and encouraged reporting of such illegal activities to him and the CREMA. The chainsaw operators have been cautioned and instructed to move out of the forest.



***CEC and Wildlife Division meeting with members of the Kwabre community***

Additionally, a meeting was held with the people of Anwiafutu to discuss nomination of new CRMC members and patrol members and the support from the entire community. WAPCA made it known to the community that the selected members should be people with the willingness to work for the community and not themselves. Power conflict amongst the community leaders has affected elections in the Kwabre community.

## **2. Community Rainforest Protection Teams**

The Community Rainforest Protection Team have worked tirelessly throughout the year, conducting a total of 343 local patrols and 30 joint patrols in the Ankasa-Tano Community Rainforest. The patrol team commenced with the use of the Event Book for collecting biodiversity data and monitoring illegal activities.

During the year, 23 chainsaws and a total of 1,202 lumbers were seized. The patrollers made 35 arrests for illegal lumbering. Other illegal activities recorded during patrols included poaching activities, fuelwood collection and charcoal production. Three endangered primates namely, white-naped mangabey, Roloway and black and white-thighed colobus were encountered by the patrollers during local patrols.

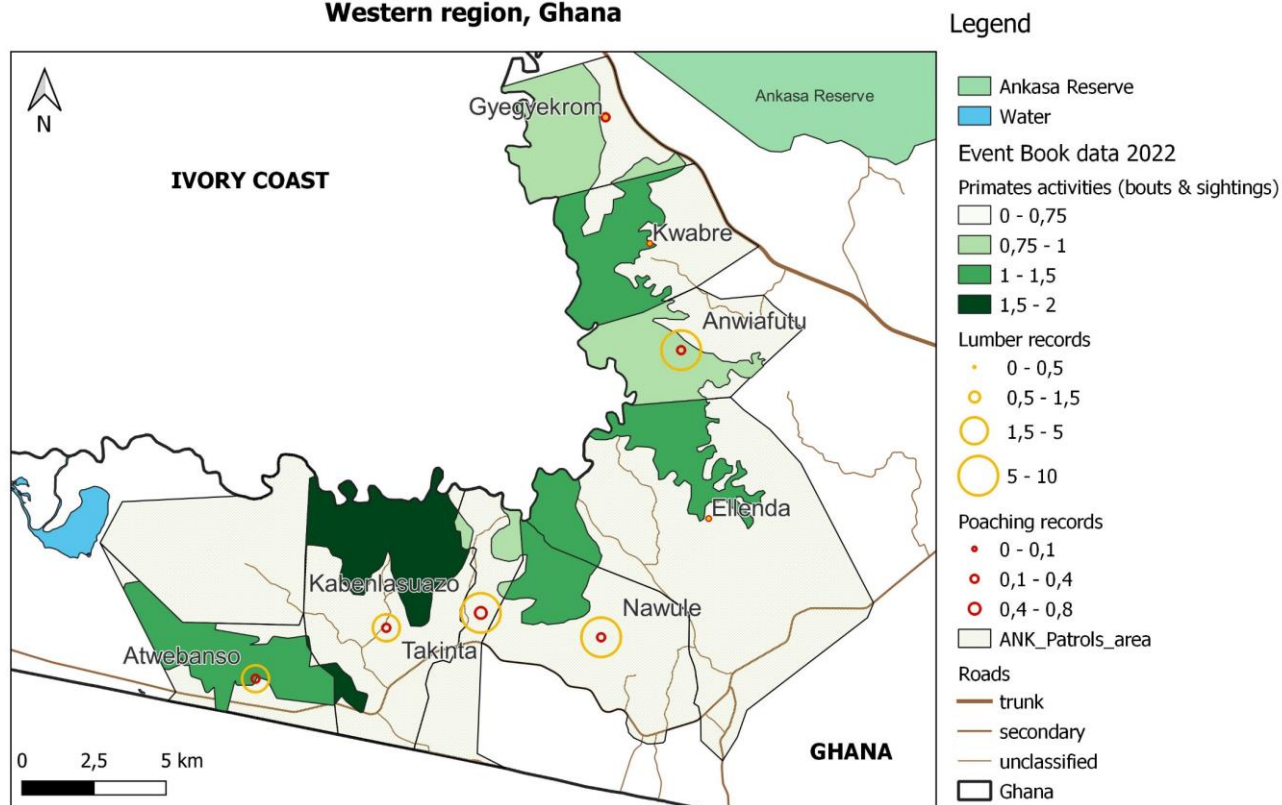


***Seized Lumber and Chainsaw***

Using the data collected from the Eventbook, our partners Noe were able to create this useful map, to visualise our work.



## Eventbook's results of the Ankasa-Tano CREMA in 2022 Western region, Ghana



Autor: N.CAYRE  
Date: 03/03/2023  
Projection: WGS 84 ESPG 4326



Sources: Noé (2023) / osm (2023) / Wapca (2023)

### 3. Reforestation & 4. Sustainable Community-managed Agro-forestry Plantations

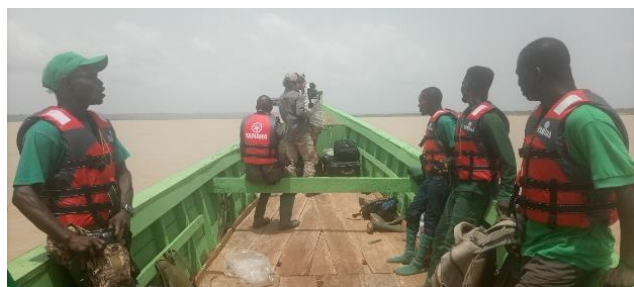


*Matured tree seedlings at community nursery*

Monitoring of tree nurseries was carried out during the year and this revealed that insects were attacking tree seedling particularly at the Kwabre nursery. Spraying of the seedlings with insecticide helped to resolve the issue. A total of 938 seedlings of framo, emire and prekesse were given out to 36 farmers (8F/28M) in all.

### 5. Transborder Collaboration with Côte d'Ivoire

Early in the year, WAPCA's patrol team and film crew made a joint patrol over the Tanoe river to the Edusuazo forest where some illegal loggers were arrested. Later in the year, a meeting was held to discuss the reopening of the Ivorian borders and plan for a steering committee meeting and a trans-border patrol.



*Film crew and patrol team on board for transborder patrol*

## 6. Develop sustainable livelihoods and promote green value chains in organic cocoa and organic coconut oil in partnership with Noé

**Organic Coconut Oil Green Value Chain:** WAPCA continued to work in partnership with Noe to reinforce support for the Ankasa-Tano CREMA in the development of the coconut green value chain within the Ankasa-Tano landscape.

The Coconut Development Cooperative (CDC) received a sum of GHS 104,000 as development fund during the year. WAPCA together with the Coconut Development Cooperative shared 80 Rainboot and 80 Cutlasses to various supplying farmers from Bonyere, Takinta, Nawulle, Ellenda, Edusuazo and Edobo. The Executives used the opportunity to advice the farmers to continue supply of coconut to the various centres. Meanwhile members of the CDC recognised the need to increase women participation in the leadership roles within the CDC. Thus, one (1) woman processor was voted to join the CDC Executive. Towards the end of the year, SFC paid an amount of GHS 9,466.00 into the CREMA account as conservation fund for 2021. Since the payment was done towards the end of the year, the CREMA is yet to plan for its use.

### Organic Cocoa Green Value Chain:

A total of 13 communities were engaged in the organic cocoa value chain. A total of 99 trainings were organised for the cocoa farmers during the year. The training sessions covered topics including storage, handling and use of bio-farm inputs, farm maintenance, record keeping, black pod management, village susu and loan monitoring, beans processing, farm rehabilitation, tree management, buffer zone, and ground management.

External audit was conducted in September and involved 415 famers on the project of which 347 were males and 68 were females. The registered cocoa farmers received a total of 156 litres of Agropy organic insecticide and 585 litres of phytogreen organic fertilizer.

YGL's efforts to secure a warehouse at the Takoradi port as a step towards organic cocoa was not achieved due to delays from Ghana's COCOBOD. YGL's expectation to begin purchasing of organic cocoa from registered farmers in 2022 was not actualized.



## 7. Environmental Awareness Raising



**WAPCA and Wildlife Division Staff having discussion on West FM**

WAPCA successfully held seven radio programs in collaboration with representatives from Ghana Wildlife Division, Yayra Glover, field officers, organic coconut oil processors and CREMA Executives. During the radio program, topics discussed included the role of CREMA in protecting biodiversity, forest, and community development. Key events such as Mangabey Awareness Day, World Wildlife Day, close season for hunting were also discussed. The essence of biodiversity conservation to the environment, combating illegal logging and bushmeat trade were also discussed.

Listeners were given the chance to also contribute to the discussion, with an average of 10 different calls to the program. Old and young people alike called in to ask questions, make contributions and suggestions which testifies the success of the radio program. The radio program has been a tool for reaching out to approximately 10,000 people within the project area and beyond which has helped to educate people on



environmental issues, CREMA organisation and its activities in ensuring the sustainable management of the Ankasa-Tano Forest.



**Veronica and Mabel (Noe) asking questions at the PHUB stakeholders' engagement meeting.**

Since the time of receiving the news about Ghana's proposed Petroleum Infrastructure Master Plan which intends to build a Petroleum Hub, taking 20,000 acres across our project site in the Jomoro District in the Western Region of Ghana, WAPCA has worked around the clock strengthening its advocacy with other relevant concerned stakeholders on the effects of the Hub.

WAPCA staff attended a three-day Petroleum Hub advocacy workshop, to plan advocacy action against the Petroleum Hub development. Together with like-minded environmental and advocacy organizations in Ghana, the three day workshop worked through a number of activities designed to fully understand the issue at hand, allies and adversaries mapping, changes we want to see and develop a comprehensive action plan to implement. A consortium consisting of seven organizations has been formed under the #haltthehub banner and a legal practitioner has been sought to support the consortium in particular to ensure that due diligence is followed.

WAPCA, partners Noe and Hen Mpoano attended a stakeholder meeting hosted by the Petroleum Hub Development Committee. The meeting was a worrying event, with the government pushing for this development with no meaningful mitigation for the loss of biodiversity.



**Advocacy Workshop**



# 2022 ACTIVITIES REPORT

## WAPCA IN ACTION CREATING VIABLE LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

### CAPE THREE POINT FOREST RESERVE

**By Project Lead – Charles Afosah**

The Cape Three Point Forest Reserve is one of the last coastal forests in West Africa. Recognized as a Global Significant Biodiversity Area (GSBA), Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) and an Important Bird Area (IBA) it is also one of the last refuges for three highly threatened primates; the rolaway monkey, *Cercopithecus rolaway* – Critically Endangered, the white-thighed colobus, *Colobus vellerosus* – Critically Endangered and the white-naped mangabey, *Cercocebus lunulatus* - Endangered. The last captured on camera traps for the first time ever in 2018 by the WAPCA Research Group, comprising of students from Chester University, funded by Twycross Zoo.



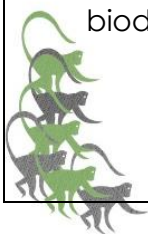
**Camera trap image**

With the confirmation of these species in the forest, it was imperative to engage with the local communities and government to increase the protection. The forest, classified as a Reserve, has the lowest level of government protection resulting in devastating levels of illegal logging, mining, clearing for agriculture and hunting with guns and dogs.

Partnering with Hen Mpoano, a local NGO already working in the region and who had recently completed a Management Plan for the area and connecting wetlands, WAPCA began project activities on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2021, appointing Charles Afosah as Project Lead.

The following preliminary project objectives were set:

1. Reenergize the dormant Community Management Resource Area (CREMA).
2. Training, Capacity building and Support of Community Forest Monitoring Team (CFMT).
3. Identify nursery sites within communities, select community members to be trained in nursery husbandry and seedling care. Saplings grown will be used in the forest, buffer zone delineation and community harvest.
4. Engage with all members of the communities to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity through film screenings and other conservation education activities.



For project success and sustainability, it is vital to be holistic in design; improving the socioeconomic status of the area (reducing the need to enter the forest to supplement poor income) and ensuring that the communities benefit from protecting the environment. To that end it is planned to expand the project objectives to include:

1. Development of sustainable livelihoods and the promotion of Green Value Chains, fostering partnerships with the private sector to ensure fair prices and Conservation Agreements. Farmers will also be trained in Good Agricultural Practices, to ensure good yield within the existing farm, reducing the need to increase farm size and encroach into the forest.
2. Develop an ecotourism working group to develop opportunities around the Reserve and increase revenue.

In 2022 following achievements were made:

### **1. Reenergize the dormant Community Resource Management Area (CREMA)**

WAPCA together with Hen Mpoano led and organized a successful election for Community Resource Management Committees (CRMCs) in all the eleven CREMA communities in the Cape Three Points Project area. After the successful free, fair and transparent election all the elected CRMC executives conveyed in Seremawu and elected CREMA Executive Committee (CEC) executive to lead and manage the affairs of the CREMA. During this period the CREMA had its first-ever Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Agona Nkwanta to discuss the way forward to strengthen the new executive, thus CRMC and CEC, benefit sharing and measures that can be put in place to protect the Cape Three Points Forest Reserve from all forms of illegal activities.

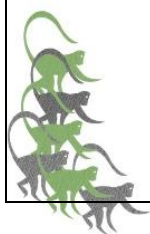


***Princess Town CRMC with Programme Mgr***

WAPCA Programme Manager paid a working visit to the newly elected CRMC executive in their communities to congratulate, encourage and motivate them for being elected to the position of executive and encourage them to work and support the protection of the landscape.

The fringe communities were engaged with consortium/consultation on Free, Prior, inform and Consent (FPIC) is the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) the

Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Labour Organisation Convention 169, which are the most powerful and comprehensive international instruments that recognize the plights of indigenous Peoples and defend their rights.



The FPIC requires states to consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior, informed and consent before adopting and implementing project activities that may affect them both positively and negatively.



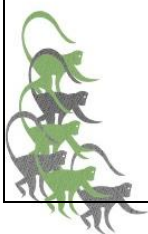
**FPIC Workshop**

Free implies that there is no coercion, intimidation, or manipulation. Prior implies that consent is to be sought sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of activities and respect is shown to time requirements of indigenous consultation or consensus processes. Informed implies that information is provided that covers a range of aspects, including the nature, size, pace, and scope of any proposed project or activity. The purpose of the project as well as its duration, locality and areas affected the preliminary assessment of the likely economic, social, cultural and environmental impact including potential risks and personnel likely to be involved in the execution of the project.

## **2. Implementation of Awareness Campaign Programmes**

WAPCA renewed its radio broadcasting contract with Ogya FM to continue discussions with experts and practitioners from natural resource management and its protection such as Wildlife Division Services, Hen Mpoano, Resource Trust, Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA), Friends for Wildlife, Community Monitoring Team, CEC and CRMC executives. The interactive programs on biodiversity conservation awareness creation which reach a larger audience in the municipality and beyond have made it possible to draw listeners' attention to the endangered animal species, plant species and other environmental issues which pose a threat to nature.

The platform which continues to allow these experts to educate the communities about the threats and importance of the Cape Three Points Forest Reserve also offers an opportunity for the listener to contribute and ask relevant questions during call-in sessions. The radio program aims to bring positive change to nature.





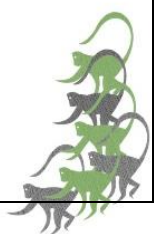


***Radio Programme with guests from Hen Mpoano***

In the implementation of awareness-raising campaigns WAPCA joined Nsemaba School to celebrate on the 6<sup>th</sup> March, Ghana's Independence Day. The event marks the 65<sup>th</sup> year since Ghana had independence. WAPCA uses the opportunity to talk and educate the school pupils through matching, football games and plays on wildlife conservation. We used the opportunity to educate the students about the importance of the Cape Three Points Forest Reserve, endangered animals such as mangabeys and how they can support the protection of the forest by educating their families about what they have learned.



***6<sup>th</sup> March Community Celebration in Nsemaba School***





WAPCA together with Hen Mpoano, Wildlife Division, and Forestry Division Services from Forestry Commission engaged seven community schools and eighteen fringe communities in the Cape Three Points project area to raise key conservation awareness on the importance of Cape Three Points Forest Reserve and illegal activities that continue to pose as a threat to the landscape. The encounter with schools made them accept that they have a very important natural resource at their disposal not only recognized by Ghana but the world at large. The participating schools were given posters on endangered primates and T-shirts.



***Community Sensitization in Schools around the Cape Three Point Landscape***

### **3. Restoring the degraded area of the Cape Three Point Forest Reserve**

More than 7300 tree seedlings raised in Adalazo and Seremawu nurseries sites were planted in the buffer zone of the Cape Three Points Forest Reserve to serve as a buffer zone between the landscape and the rubber plantation. Some of the tree species which were planted and distributed to individual farmers who were interested in planting trees were mahogany, Emire, Ciderella, and Framo.



***Adalazo nursery workers***



#### 4. Community Rainforest Monitoring Patrols

Community Monitoring Team with support from Forestry Division Services made a total of four arrests and confiscation of 284 lumber and bushmeat within the project area. Out of the four arrests, two of the case are still pending in court and the trial is ongoing. The cases break down are illegal mining popularly known as Galamsey, two lumbers seize on different occasions and one group hunting of which the fringe communities also play an active role in the arrest of group hunters in Cape Three Points and send the perpetrator to a Police station for necessary action to be taking against them.



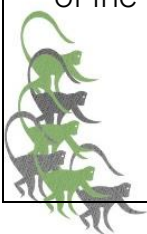
***Confiscated wood***

To strengthen the protection of Cape Three Point Forest Reserve, WAPCA, together with Hen Mpoano, Forestry Division Services and Wildlife Division Service meet on different occasions to develop a Memorandum of Understanding that will be allow Ankasa Wildlife Division Service to support the protection of the Cape Three Point Forest Reserve through special patrols.



***WAPCA, Hen Mpoano, Forestry Division Services and Wildlife Division Services in Takoradi***

Although the MoU is not yet signed a pilot patrol was undertaken by the Wildlife Division and one arrest was made. It is hoped bringing government authorities to the area will show the seriousness of the CREMA and their mission to protect it.





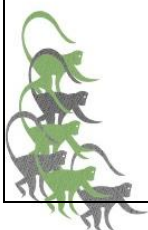
## 5. Development of sustainable livelihoods

In strengthening the Community Resource Management Area communities in Cape Three Point Project area WAPCA engaged the services of Challenges Ghana to do an assessment on beekeeping and honey production, Ecotourism and any other additional livelihood which will help the CREMA to generate revenue to support them in operating. The communities were engaged in their free will to have deeper and broader conservation on livelihood programs to assess, evaluate and confirm additional livelihoods that are more sustainable and will also generate revenue to ease the burden on the landscape. The group also identifies tourism destinations in the area which will also serve as another source of revenue generation for the CREMA.

WAPCA together with Bee Abroad trained fifty-eight community people coming from eight forest fringe communities in an additional livelihood program in Beekeeping and honey production. The two days of theoretical and practical training offered them the opportunity to make their own beehives using local materials like raffia palm and baboons that can be found in their communities at a lesser cost. After the trained one hundred wooden complete beehives were given to eight communities and an apiary has been set up. An additional one hundred wooden base and gable end has been distributed to the communities to complete it with raffia palm. The training was on gender balance which females fully participated.



*Construction of beehives with Bees Aboard*





## 6. Developing an ecotourism working group to develop opportunities around the Reserve and increase revenue.

Developing Ecotourism to create employment and a source of revenue for the CREMA, the Eastern Block of the Cape Three Points Forest Reserve Ecotourism Working Group was formed and engaged by Challenges Ghana to know the opportunities, potentials and challenges facing tourism in the area, some the working group who are existing local tour guards raise issues of



***Ecotourism Working Group***

transportation, food and high cost of entry fees as major challenges that tourists face which has had an impact on tourism. The ecotourism in the area which has a lot to offer to tourists when developed to certify standards. The working group visited areas such as Princes Castle Town known as Fort Fredericksburg built in 1683, Black lagoon known as Ehonle in Princess Town Akatakya crocodile, Cape Three Point Lighthouse and among others within the project area.



***Fort Gross Fredericksburg (Guest House) & sea views from the lighthouse***



# 2022 ACTIVITIES REPORT

## WAPCA IN ACTION CREATING VIABLE LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

### EX-SITU CONSERVATION

***By Exsitu Project Coordinator – Foster Poasangma***

#### 1. ENDANGERED PRIMATE BREEDING CENTRE

The Wildlife Division of the Ghana Forestry Commission maintains the Accra Zoo in the capital city, which is located in a large urban forest known as the Achimota Forest. In 2005, WAPCA constructed an Endangered Primate Breeding Centre (EPBC) on the Accra Zoo premises to house confiscated and orphaned monkeys, placing them into social breeding groups. The Centre currently has. Both species are part of the European Breeding Programme, and we have made a number of exchanges between Ghana and Europe, playing a vital role in maintaining the genetic viability of the captive populations.

#### **WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS**

This year ended with fantastic news in the Endangered Primate Breeding Centre as we welcomed three cute looking babies which comprise of two males and one female. These new additions are very crucial to the breeding program and is an indication of proper management of the reserve population at the centre.

2022 did not only grace us with good news, with the sudden loss of our only lone male Roloway monkey at the Endangered Primate Breeding Centre. He experienced minor medication conditions which the veterinary doctors and the

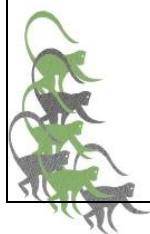
WAPCA staff intervened but despite our best efforts, we painfully could not save his life. It was a heart-breaking moment for us, Fergus was very lovely and drew the attention of visitors at the centre due to the coloration of his coat. He was calm and easily get along with the keepers and responsive to corporative trainings.



***Fergus – male Roloway***



***Ziggy & Baby***



## CENTRE IMPROVEMENT



**Enclosure Extension**

a circular movement for the animals. The new extensions will greatly enhance the exhibit of the natural behaviours of the animals especially the new male, Kwame, who likes to portray his territorial dominance by jumping from branch to branch. Kwame is an important male to the breeding programme as he is a founder (wild) gene.

After the death of our adult male, Mensah in 2021, there was the need to pair a new male with the adult females from Mensah's group; Kate and Lisa. We received a recommendation to move Kwame, who was now an adult male in Ape's group, to establish a breeding group with the girls.

To provide a relatively bigger space to ensure an improved welfare, it was agreed to extend the existing enclosure.

Thanks to donations from GAIA Nature Fund, Paradise Wildlife Park and Wildlife Foundation the enclosure was extended from both sides with a walkthrough in between and connected at the top with a tunnel to provide

## CAPACITY BUILDING

As one of WAPCA's strategies for achieving its mission and vision is to prioritize capacity building for its staff through exchange programs, workshops, and conferences, among other things, I was sponsored to attend an Afro-Eurasian monkey workshop and complete a 10-day work placement at Yorkshire Wildlife Park, Paradise Wildlife Park, and London Zoo in the United Kingdom.



**CEO Lynn Whitnall and the Primate Team at Paradise Wildlife Park**



**ZSL London Zoo Team**

It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me as a young conservationist. The trip introduced me to experienced keepers in each of the three collections I visited, allowing me to interact, share ideas, and learn from these passionate individuals. In fact, it changed my perspective on animal welfare and conservation in general.

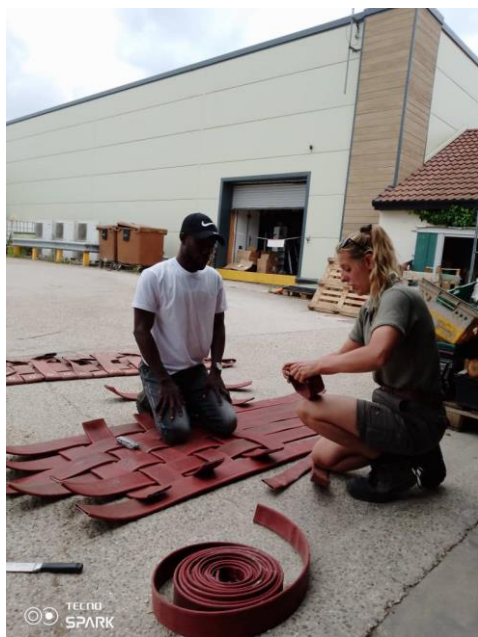
I came away with mind-blowing ideas and a renewed determination to change the narrative of conservation in Ghana, particularly among the youth.



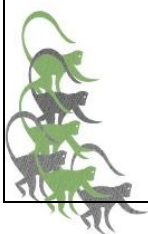
When I returned to Ghana, I made a concerted effort to share my experiences with the Accra Zoo keepers, encouraging them to begin embracing what they do and developing interest through self-motivation and mental shift. I was able to organize a presentation where I shared my experience with the Kumasi Zoo team. I believe that in this manner, they will learn to appreciate what they do, even if they do not have all the resources available in advanced countries, but they can use what is available to achieve the desired results.



***Meeting the Red Panda and Siberian Tiger at Paradise Wildlife Park***



***Getting to work – fire hose enrichment, food prep and cleaning!***





## REPAIRS/ MAINTENANCE



**Repairing branches**

To ensure the proper functioning of the centre, we routinely undertake repairs and/ or maintenance activities on the enclosures. These activities include but not limited to; repairs of the furniture in the enclosures, repairs on the chain link mesh among others. These repairs activities are necessary as it ensures proper functioning of the enclosures, provides a stimulating environment for the primates as well as ensure safety for both the animals and the keepers. Onetime, a hard working young man usually assists with the repairs at the centre.

He has effected amazing repair work for instance he routinely changes the branches for our animals and this provides a robust climbing system for animals which plays a significant role in enriching their lives.

## ENRICHMENT



**PVC pipe enrichment**

At the centre, we explore and implement a variety of enrichment activities as this significant improves the welfare of the primates.

This year, I worked with the team to implement enrichment ideas using different materials for example for the food-based enrichment, we wanted to increase the animals foraging time, so we purchased pvc pipes and sliced them into pieces. They were then closed from both ends and drilled holes of varying sizes. This ensures that, the content in it does not easily falls out.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
PATAS	Grandnut	Grandnut	Wild seeds	black berries	Browse
AM	Peanut	pea	in pods	in bamboo pipe	
PM	Blackberry	popcorn	Browse	popcorn in	peanut
	in bamboo pipe	in bottles		bottles	
ANGABEY	Blackberry	Grandnut	Wild seeds	black berries	Browse
AM	in bamboo pipe	pea	in pods	in bamboo pipe	
PM	Grandnut	popcorn	Browse	popcorn in	peanut
	in peanut	in bottles		bottles	

**Enrichment Board**



## 2. FORESTED ENCLOSURE – KUMASI ZOO

The Forested Enclosure is a 0.4ha open top enclosure which currently houses nine mangabeys. The enclosure is within the walls of Kumasi Zoo but is not open to the public. The space is to prepare animals that may be suitable for release. WAPCA undertakes a number of research projects at the enclosure to inform any release proposal such as diet adaptation, social networks and budget activities.



*New satellite enclosure*

During the year in perspective, we undertook the construction of a second satellite enclosure to house a new breeding group of the white-naped mangabey. This new group will be a composition of some recommended member of the existing group and possibly two adult females from Europe.

The two groups will alternate the use of the forested enclosure as this will ensure that they all have equal opportunity to explore the semi-natural environment and be able to exhibit their natural behaviors.

This project was beautifully executed from the funding we had received from our cherished funders, IUCN. The enclosure is yet to be operationalized because we are still working on the documentation for the recommended adult females. Individuals placed in this space will be considered for translocation into the wild range should it deem feasible.

### REPAIRS / MAINTENANCE

As maintenance culture is highly esteemed in WAPCA, we conduct regular maintenance at the Forested Enclosure such as pruning of overlapping and potential overlapping branches to avoid unexpected damages on the fence should it break during rainfall and more importantly to ensure the animals do not climb them and jump outside the fence. To ensure the work is professionally executed, we often procure the services of a tree surgeon, who comes with his team and fell the trees carefully to prevent damages to the fence.

It is also important the solar panels are working properly as they power the electric fence which runs around the entire perimeter.



*Checking the solar panels*



## 2022 ACTIVITIES REPORT

### **WAPCA IN ACTION CREATING VIABLE LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS**

### ***The Conservation Translocation and Population Restoration of White-naped Mangabeys, *Cercocebus lunulatus*, in their Indigenous Range of Ghana, West Africa by Programme Manager, Andrea Dempsey***

The purpose of this project is to understand the potential and put WAPCA in a position, if determined as a clear conservation tool, to translocate groups and/or individuals of *Cercocebus lunulatus* into their indigenous range.

The aim is to restore the population through:

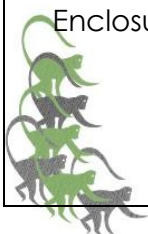
- 1) **Reinforcement**, the intentional movement and release of an organism into an existing population of con-specifics with the aim to enhance population viability through increased population size, increased genetic diversity and/or increased representation of specific demographic groups or stages.
- 2) **Reintroduction**, the intentional movement and release of an organism inside its indigenous range from which it has disappeared with the aim to re-establish a viable population of the focal species.

WAPCA will create a reintroduction working group and following the IUCN Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations, will look to undertake FOUR key activities, which are crucial to inform or proceed onto the next stages.

**1. Habitat Assessment:** A forty day 'recce' survey carried in and around the Kwabre Community Rainforest. Data collected will include primate presence, illegal activity, holding capacity and vegetation study. Data collected will be combined with annual surveys conducted since 2014 to identify suitable release sites (i.e. low human disturbance, presence of other mangabeys, feeding trees and water sources). In addition, systematically survey the historical range, using foot surveys, camera traps and audio recordings to find other potential release sites.

**2. Socioeconomic study:** Interviews in all 18 communities surrounding the Community Forest will be undertaken. We aim to interview 10% of each community population (~ 40 individuals/community), representing the communities demographic to determine community attitudes and values, motivations and expectations, behaviours and behavioural change, and the anticipated costs and benefits of the translocation. Results will also be used to design appropriate community outreach, awareness, and training programmes.

**3. Species Adaption:** Data collection of a 7.2 group of mangabeys held in the 0.4ha Forested Enclosure as discussed below in detail.



**4. Disease and Parasite Management:** Working in partnership with Wildlife Vets International to ensure that should WAPCA find the introduction of mangabeys be the most effective conservation tool, it is done so with rigorous safety measure in place for both captive and wild populations.

**5. Monitoring.** To provide techniques to best measure the performance of released mangabeys against objectives, to assess impacts, and provide the basis for adjusting objectives or adapting management regimes or activating an exit strategy.



In 2021 we were successful in a funding bid to IUCN Central & West African Programme (IUCN-PACO) to support our feasibility study into the conservation translocation project, together with our partnership with Wildlife Vets International WAPCA has been able to make significant steps in understanding the potential of such a translocation and if deemed appropriate in a position to do so with due diligence.

This year we continued to strengthen our disease and parasite management. In partnership with Wildlife Vets International we were able to provide medication to the veterinary team but also provide training in general veterinary care from a keeper's perspective.

Due to limited resources when a primate dies the carcass is frozen, sometimes for months which will compromise diagnosis plus the risk of a power cut and the specimen completely ruined. Therefore, WVI worked with the vets on how to swiftly take samples immediately after death and before the carcass is frozen. The protocol will ensure the most accurate diagnosis and give WAPCA the best information for necessary preventative action to be taken. WVI donated a sample 'grab bag' providing all the necessary equipment.

Two workshops were held, one at Accra Zoo and another at Kumasi Zoo. The workshops worked with the keepers on how they can strengthen their capacity in the health of their animals. The workshop discussed common signs of illness, quality of life assessment and geriatric care.



*Post mortem grab bag & sample collecting training*



We also welcomed intern Meline Klopfenstein who continued the data collection at the Forested Enclosure so that we can understand how the monkeys adapt to a natural habitat but also to look at the social network of the group and how this might be influenced if individual/s are removed.



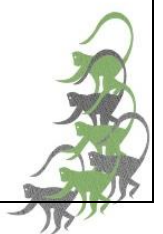
***Collecting data at the Forested Enclosure***

Lastly, we have developing monitoring techniques in particular if thermal imaging is a viable monitoring option. WAPCA partnered with WildlifeTek to first collect reference material from Yorkshire Wildlife Park and ZSL London Zoo. It is then hoped we can trial using thermal images collected on a drone in natural environments such as island exhibits and at the Forested Enclosure. We also started a research project on mangabey vocalisations and whether they can be used to determine individuals.



***Thermal images***

We also completed our socio-economic study in the Ankasa-Tano, please see Nuria's report for more details.



## 2022 ACTIVITIES REPORT

### WAPCA IN ACTION CREATING VIABLE LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

#### WAPCA RESEARCH & EDUCATION

*by Research & Education Coordinator Núria Badiella*

WAPCA Research and Education projects continued expanding during the year 2022. This is the second year of Friends For Wildlife and it expanded to a second school in the Cape Three Points communities, we also celebrated Mangabey Awareness Day with a joint program between both CREMAs in the Ankasa-Tano landscape, and celebrated Wildlife Conservation Day in Kumasi Zoo. All educational activities are enjoyable for the whole WAPCA team, giving a sense of gratification to see the growing interest from participants in knowing more about the animals we share the planet with.

This year we also increased the number of research projects and students and interns involved, both in the field and the breeding centre. Two primate surveys were completed during the year by amazing research teams, a socio-economic survey was also done in the Ankasa-Tano landscape, and we started working in a new field for us to better understand mangabey's vocalizations. This is all achieved with the support of many stakeholders with whom we hope to continue working towards WAPCA's mission.

### 1. EDUCATION

#### MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FEATURES WAPCA



**WAPCA stand at the Museum of Science and Technology**

The Museum of Science and Technology (MST) in Accra was closed during the pandemic and they took the opportunity to renew their past exhibition to reopen in 2022 and they counted on the collaboration with WAPCA, to highlight the work we do while educating the public on the primate species found in Ghana and the threats they are facing. WAPCA Exsitu Projects and Research Education Coordinators attended the MST reopening event where all stakeholders were invited to have a tour through the new exhibition. Along the exhibition we talked about communications development in Ghana, electronic devices, the production of rubber, a few wildlife species, and the circulatory system in humans. The museum is a great opportunity for WAPCA to have a wider reach to schools and the general public who visit the museum.

#### FRIENDS FOR WILDLIFE

In July 2021, WAPCA and Nsemaba School in Ghana and Five Sisters Zoo and Dedrige School in Scotland launched the Friends for Wildlife project. Inspired by the PenPal idea, the students exchange letters on wildlife topics and present results of their wildlife activities with the other



school to exchange knowledge on the wildlife species in both countries and reflect on how to better conserve them.

In 2021 we completed the first project pre-evaluation activity and two letters were shared between Nsemaba and Dedridge school. The project continued in 2022 to see the pupils setting camera traps in the forested areas near their school. Nsemaba found different animals within their nearby environment including squirrels, mongoose, a potos and endangered pangolin. Giving the teachers a great opportunity to share with the pupils the importance to protect the environment not only on protected areas but also off the reserves.



**Camera trap captures near Nsemaba Basic School in Ghana. L-R: pangolin, potos**

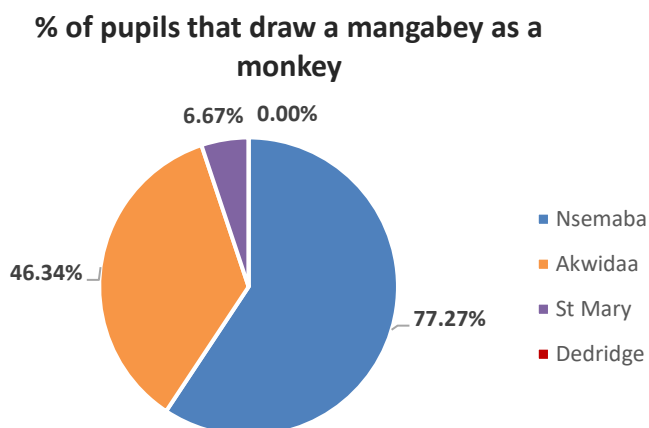
Upon completion of two activities planned out of three, we also conducted a post-evaluation exercise, however, the results were misleading as the pupils got better results on the pre-evaluation exercise than the post-evaluation. For the year 2022-2023 WAPCA intends to address this challenge by having a member of WAPCA present during the evaluation exercises.



**Cape Three Points Project Lead, Charles (left) indicating how to complete the project pre-evaluation activity to Friends for Wildlife project participants (center and right).**

Another of the Cape Three Points CREMA schools, Akwidaa Seven Days Adventist Basic School, joined the Friends for Wildlife project this academic year 2022-2023, together with St Mary's R C Primary school in Scotland. They are both very enthusiastic of this collaboration and we hope all the pupils get a fun wildlife experience.

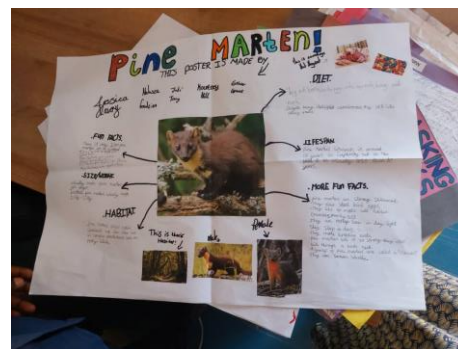
The pre-evaluation this year already showed some interesting results. There was a great difference in results from the Ghanaian schools, as 77,27% of Nsemaba School pupils knew that a mangabey is a monkey.



**Pie chart highlighting the % of pupils that correctly draw a mangabey as a monkey during the pre-evaluation activity in the four schools for FFW 2022-2023.**

Compared to Akwidaa School that scored 46.34%, this difference could be influenced by the awareness created during the celebration of Mangabey Awareness Day in the Nsemaba School, and the start of FFW project a year before. It was however expected that most kids in the Scottish schools would not know what a mangabey is.

Similar to last year, in 2022 the program also started with an exchange of letters where the kids introduce themselves to their friends for wildlife and explain their favourite animal, the school they come from, and their hobbies. Ending the year of 2022 Ghana schools received amazing artistic works from the Scottish schools highlighting the main characteristics of some endangered species in Scotland. This is the first activity of the second year of Friend For Wildlife Project, and during 2023 we hope the classrooms will learn a whole lot about wild animals in the Cape Three Points landscape and in Scotland!



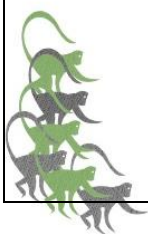
## MANGABEY AWARENESS DAY AT ANKASA-TANO LANDSCAPE



*School children and elders that joined the celebration of MAD 2022*

The Ankasa - Tano CREMA hosted again the celebration of Mangabey Awareness Day on 1<sup>st</sup> August with the aim to create awareness of this species among the landscape. The event took place at Allowule School who was the host of our fun activities' day. 2022 saw a joint celebration between the Ankasa-Tano CREMA and the CREMA Executive Committee and football team of the Cape Three Points – Princess Town CREMA. The first time that both CREMAs meet for such an occasion.

Among our distinguished guests we had the chiefs of some nearby communities as well as representatives of our partner organizations, this included Noé and the Manager of Ankasa National Park and representatives of the Wildlife Division in Takoradi.





MAD22 started with a short speech by WAPCA's Field Officer and Vice-Chair of the Ankasa-Tano CREMA to highlight the purpose of MAD celebration and the role of the CREMA in protecting primates and their habitats. Which was followed by an awareness walk through the nearby communities to highlight the importance of protecting biodiversity and specially the endangered primates.

The most awaited activity of MAD is usually the MAD Football Cup, which this year was won by the hosting community of Allowule. Cape Three Points took the second place in the competition. And Takinta, was the winner of the Wildlife Quiz. We congratulate all the participants and winners of MAD 2022.



***MAD March through the CREMA communities***

The Nawule School kids prepared an extraordinary drama performance to educate the communities present on the consequences of engaging in illegal activities within the CREMA. And additionally the children also had the opportunity to learn the mangabey song, engage in a clean-up exercise, sack race, and other fun activities. Some adults also engaged in table games such as "oware" – a traditional game in Ghana and cards.



***(L-R) WAPCA Project Support Officer teaching the MAD song, participants showing their mangabey face masks, and adult participants engaged in playing cards.***

## **INTERNS FROM ALU**

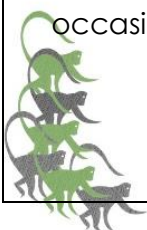
Yvant and Jokhebed, two students from the African Leadership University (ALU) in Rwanda, joined WAPCA from May to August to assist WAPCA at the EPBC as well as research and education projects. They participated in different activities such as planning and designing MAD21 materials and other office tasks. It was a great exchange for both the interns and WAPCA, and we are happy to continue this partnership with the African Leadership University to train future conservationists.



***ALU interns Yvant and Jokhebed***

## **WILDLIFE CONSERVATION DAY**

On 4<sup>th</sup> December, coinciding with the International Wildlife Conservation Day, WAPCA and Kumasi Zoo celebrated the occasion within the premises of the Kumasi Zoological Gardens.



The day in visitors to the zoo were given the opportunity to do an extra activity while doing their regular zoo visit with a chance to win a prize at the end. Visitors were given a map of the zoo with a few activity stations indicated. At each station, seven in total, they had to complete an activity and upon completion of all seven, they would win a prize.



**(L-R) Participants of WCD conducting an activity and receiving their gift after completion of all the activities.**

The activities included a visit to a pet shop, for the participants to learn how to select a good pet; learning the Wildlife Division wildlife rescue protocol; the “Adowa Chop Bar” where participants had to choose an animal to be part of their lunch meal, face painting related to animals, participants were also encouraged to create a wildlife conservation message, to mimic an animal, and finally to choose a sustainable souvenir for their families.

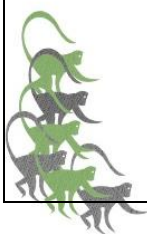
In total, the event gathered about 150 participants, and most of them were able to complete the activities and take their gift home. It was fun for all, the zookeepers and the participants and a lot of learning about wildlife conservation.

## 2. RESEARCH

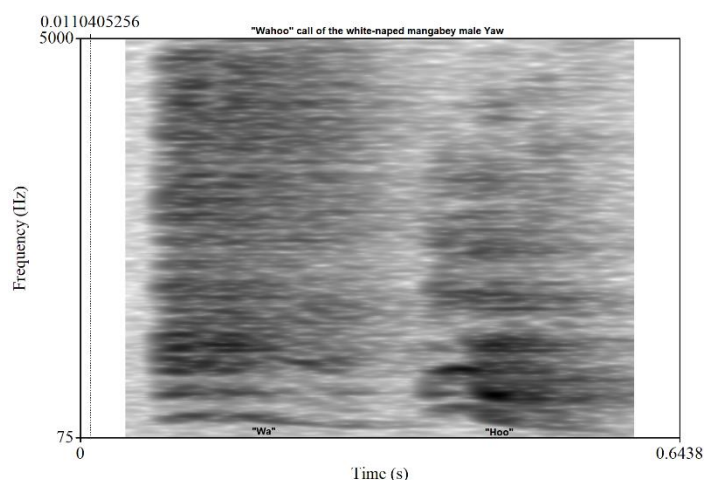
### **MANGABEYS’ VOCALIZATION STUDIES AT THE EPBC**

Seda Kavlak, a former intern at WAPCA requested to do a second study with us this year. As we are studying techniques to monitor the white-naped mangabeys for a potential translocation, we considered the option to monitor them through their vocalizations. Seda undertook the task to see if we can identify adult males by their loud calls’ “wahoo”.

Through a period of 11 weeks, Seda recorded vocalizations of the adult males in the morning from 6 to 9 am – when the males vocalize the most, obtaining a total of 14 clear calls per adult male. The calls were analysed by extracting the vocal features from the call’s spectrograms. The results showed that our adult white-naped mangabey males could be discriminated by their vocalizations with an accuracy of 59%. Providing the first evidence of vocal individuality in *Cercocebus lunulatus* males. However, more studies are needed to conclude on the possibility to identify reliably *C. lunulatus* males in the wild.







***Spectrogram of a white-naped mangabey (*C. lunulatus*) male (Yaw) “whoop-gobble” call at the EPBC.***



***Jasmine during her data collection sessions at the EPBC***

Additionally, an undergraduate student from the University of Ghana (UG), Jasmine, also joined Seda in her vocalization studies. Jasmine worked on identifying all vocalizations that the white-naped mangabeys made at the Endangered Primate Breeding Centre (EPBC).

She described the main vocalizations she was able to identify during her data collection, which included grunts, screams, whoop-gobble and twitters. Additionally, she identified the behaviors that were associated with each type of call. Mainly, grunts were produced in multiple contexts by adult males and females; the adult females and juveniles screamed more often during chases and threats; only dominant adult males produced the whoop-gobble; and twitters were mainly done during situations involving food by adult females and juveniles.

## **KALAKPA SURVEY**

In 2021 WAPCA was reached out by the Kalakpa Club, an organization working on the protection of the Kalakpa Resource Reserve (KRR), a reserve located near Ho in the Volta Region of Ghana, as they wanted to determine if the white-thighed colobus is still present within the reserve. The finding of this species would increase the biological value of the reserve as it is classified by the IUCN as a critically endangered species.

The WAPCA team started the survey by mid December 2021 and finalized in January 2022. Reconnaissance transects, camera traps and audio recorders were used for this survey for a total of 36 days. The survey team encountered four primate species: patas monkeys, mona monkeys, spot-nosed monkeys and green monkeys. There was no activity detected of the white-thighed colobus though the local people believe they are still in the area especially in a mountain outside the Reserve. However, as the detectability of a small population of colobus might be difficult and we are yet to analyze the data of the audio recordings, we cannot yet confirm their detection by the team in the reserve.

During the survey we also encountered a lot of habitat destruction, and poaching within the Kalakpa area which tends to affect the presence of these primates. From interactions with local people, the team was told the white-thighed colobus is very selective with what it feeds and since the whole landscape is exposed to a lot of human interferences, the team concluded that its absence could be attributed to habitat destruction in the area.



**Survey team**

## **PRIMATES SURVEYS (BIA)**

Through the collaboration with Wildlife Foundation this year we undertook a primate survey at Bia National Park under the primates historical range surveys project WAPCA is carrying out since 2017. Two students from the University of Roehampton, Callum Carpenter and Nathanael Witsey, both motivated by their strong passion for wildlife conservation, undertook their master's projects with us.

Callum looked at the "effects of anthropogenic activity on primate in the Bia Conservation Area". During the survey he found out that the anthropogenic activities had dramatically increased in Bia Conservation Area and the encounter rates for all primate species were also lower in the park since the last published report in 2006.

Nathanael used the data gathered from the camera traps to work on his thesis on the topic "Short-term camera trap survey highlights key areas of conservation priority within the Bia National Park, Ghana."

The study obtained 586 camera trap nights in total and compared the animal observations to habitat variables. The study reveals two major hotspots of animal richness in the far West of the National Park, and the East and noticeable absences of species in the South. These distributions are likely heavily influenced by human use of Bia National Park. Unfortunately, no diurnal primates were detected throughout this survey, highlighting a key need to understand the conservation pressures on primates in this particular forest.



**Map of Bia Conservation Area**



**L-R: Eastern spot nosed monkey direct sighting captured on photo camera, Survey team at Bia, hunting signs on a tree trunk.**



## FORESTED ENCLOSURE

Meline finalized her internship with us in August 2022 after three complete months of data collection on the behaviour of the mangabeys and their diet at the Forested Enclosure. She then compared the activity budgets and use of space with the previous data collected by other interns in 2020 and 2021. Meline's main findings were that the mangabeys at the Forested Enclosure behave similar to other captive primates. However, in 2022, Meline also noticed an increase of abnormal behaviors within the juveniles of the troop compared to the other phases of the study which will need to be monitored closely. During the study it was also observed that the group is spending only half of their time out in the Forested Enclosure, but this might be influenced by the fact that feeding only happens in the satellite enclosure and at night they are locked in. She also concluded that a vegetation study would help in understanding why the mangabeys are using some areas more than others.

On the other hand, Bethany Newton, a student from the University of Chester, conducted a desktop study on the topic "Consistency in social structure of white-naped mangabeys *Cercocebus lunulatus* following soft release in Ghana". The study looked at the changes during the three years (2020, 2021 and 2022) on preferred associates in the troop. The results found that the social proximity networks, affiliative networks and agonistic networks were not consistent across the two years, whereas the grooming networks were consistent across the two years. This may be due to some juveniles becoming more mature over this period of time, causing social roles to change. Her results highlighted that at this point in time this troop of mangabeys may not be the best suit for a translocation project due to the inconsistency of their social networks.

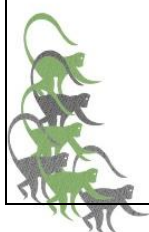
## CREMA SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDY

Paul Agyemang, WAPCA survey leader this year undertook a socioeconomic survey in the Ankasa-Tano CREMA. On this survey, WAPCA wanted to look at the current knowledge on the CREMA project within the communities nearby the forest, the knowledge on existing wildlife species and their current status, and perceptions on wildlife, use of natural resources, human wildlife conflicts and traditional beliefs systems related to wildlife.

During the study, Paul highlighted the difference in knowledge among CREMA and NonCREMA communities, showcasing the WAPCA activities are having an impact in the Ankasa-Tano CREMA. However, we are yet to receive his complete report to be able to draw conclusions from this study.



**Paul conducting the socio-economic study**



## IN OTHER WAPCA NEWS.....

### Conferences

In 2022 WAPCA team members attended a number of conferences throughout the year. Thanks to funding from IUCN both the Field Officer and Programme Manager were able to attend and present at the Africa Protected Area Congress held in Rwanda. The Programme Manager also attended and presented at the EAZA Afro-Eurasian Monkey workshop, the EAZA Conservation Forum and the Primate Society of Great Britain Winter Meeting.



*Panel at the APAC*

### Publications

Fernández, D., Kerhoas, D., Dempsey, A. et al. The Current Status of the World's Primates: Mapping Threats to Understand Priorities for Primate Conservation. *Int J Primatol* 43, 15–39 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10764-021-00242-2>

### Documentary

Two filmmakers from Germany came and visited us working with our Coordinators to capture the work that we do. Using traditional camera set up as well as drones, the crew were able to get first hand footage of the work that we do.



*Filming at the EPBC*



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The West African Primate Conservation Action was formed by a consortium of European zoos and conservation organizations. WAPCA began working in Ghana in 2001, with additional activities commencing in Ivory Coast in 2004. In 2007, WAPCA established the local NGO, WAPCA Ghana. WAPCA Ghana operates in full partnership with the Wildlife Division of the Ghana Forestry Commission. We would like to thank the Wildlife Division for all their support over the past year, without which the activities and achievements of WAPCA Ghana would not be possible.



## WAPCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

West African Primate Conservation Action Ghana would also like to formally thank our board members for all their support and advice throughout 2021. The WAPCA boards are the backbone of our organization and it is through their support and advice that WAPCA Ghana is able to have a positive effect on preservation of West African primate habitat and the successful breeding of Endangered West African primates.

### WAPCA EUROPE BOARD

WAPCA's global activities are overseen by the WAPCA Europe Board of Directors which includes the following members:

Dr. Klaus Wuennemann-Chairman of the Board  
 Dra. M<sup>a</sup>Teresa Abelló Poveda -Vice Chair of the Board  
 Dr Brice Lefaux -Secretary  
 Mrs Sandra Reichler-Treasurer  
 Mr Roland Wirth- Advisor to the Board  
 Mr Tjerk terMeulen – Advisor to the Board  
 Dr Matt Hartley – Advisor to the Board

### WAPCA GHANA BOARD

WAPCA Ghana is a local NGO, overseen by a Ghanaian board of directors, who advise on WAPCA's Ghana's in situ and ex situ activities. The WAPCA Ghana Board of Directors includes the following members:

Mrs Vivian Nuhu – Acting Chair of the Board

Board Members:

Prof. Erasmus Owusu	Mrs Carly Edwards
Dr Richard Suu-Ire	Mr Stephen Tamanja
Dr Selorm Tettey	Dr Edward Wiafe
Dr Meyir Ziekah	Mrs Chaachele Ponu
Mrs Andrea Dempsey - Secretary	

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

# THANK YOU WAPCA MEMBERS!

It is the support of WAPCA membership that has allowed WAPCA to implement vital *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation efforts throughout the year. Zoo Heidelberg serves as the managing body for WAPCA. Funds for specific projects are acquired through major sponsor donations.



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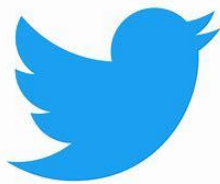
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