

## Project Update: January 2019

### Background

The Maringa – Lopori – Wamba (MLW) landscape refers to a territory that extends for more than 74 000 km<sup>2</sup> in the Congo basin of the Democratic Republic of Congo. To the east of this landscape, there is forest of Lyondji, a pilot community based-conservation, almost intact where several emblematic species coexist (pangolins, buffaloes, leopards, bongo antelope, Congolese peacock) and home to large populations of bonobos, *Pan paniscus*. This endemic primate species is threatened by illegal hunters and farmers, neighbouring territories and villages. This territory, rich in exceptional biological diversity, is receiving crucial support from The Rufford Foundation.

To ensure the conservation of all these species in general and bonobo populations in particular, the local communities of Yofala and Yokali villages have expressed the wish to surrender a portion of their forest for the purpose of making it a community reserve (Réserve Communautaire des Bonobos d'Lyondji, RCBI), in exchange of support for local development (education, health and culture)

In 2012, the state granted it a legal status with a double objective: on the one hand the conservation and protection of fauna and flora biodiversity, and on the other hand the valorisation of this biodiversity for a socio-economic development for the benefit of the surrounding community.

In 2014 was an agreement between all the local stakeholders, the official installation of the Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature (ICCN), state body in charge of the management of protected areas in the DRC.

### What are the outcomes of our project from June to December?

Outcomes	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
Workshop phase II (Capacity Building)				From 22-23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2018, 10 elders and 10 local chiefs "Nkumu" representing 10 villages of Lyondji were trained on conflict prevention and resolution and climate change focus on bonobo and surrounding habitat.

Community Outreach "Score for Bonobo" Football Championship			<p>After girls, 10 teams of teenage boys from 10 villages competed and were rewarded with gifts such as soccer balls and jerseys. Sports clinics were provided through "Coaching for Conservation".</p> <p>Lesley McNutt, the brainchild behind Coaching for Conservation, said: <i>"Coaching for Conservation started as a means to address the need for an essential shift in fundamental core values: respect for self and the environment, and maintain a positive outlook for the future. We've recognised the need for our conservation messaging to have a greater impact and use sport, which inherently creates a fun and receptive environment for learning, as a teaching means"</i>.</p>
Workshop phase III (Annual Gathering)			<p>An annual stakeholders gathering "Comité de Coordination du Site (site coordination committee)" took place from 4-5<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at Djolu Territory. 41 participants: officials, scientific staff, local chiefs, and civil society spent 2 days reflecting and planning for 2019.</p>
Bilya Class Project « Projet Ecole Bilya »			<p>*Three directors of three primary schools (Nsomo, Yangonde and Bisandu) and the head of community conservation service of Lyondji Reserve signed MOU and each received three French manuals "Guide de l'enseignant"(teacher guide), easy and very simple material to teach environmental education.</p> <p>This manual is intended to clarify key concepts that will help learners become aware of the environment around us, which is the pillar of our daily existence and which we are part of. « Bilya » is a vernacular name that means bonobo.</p>

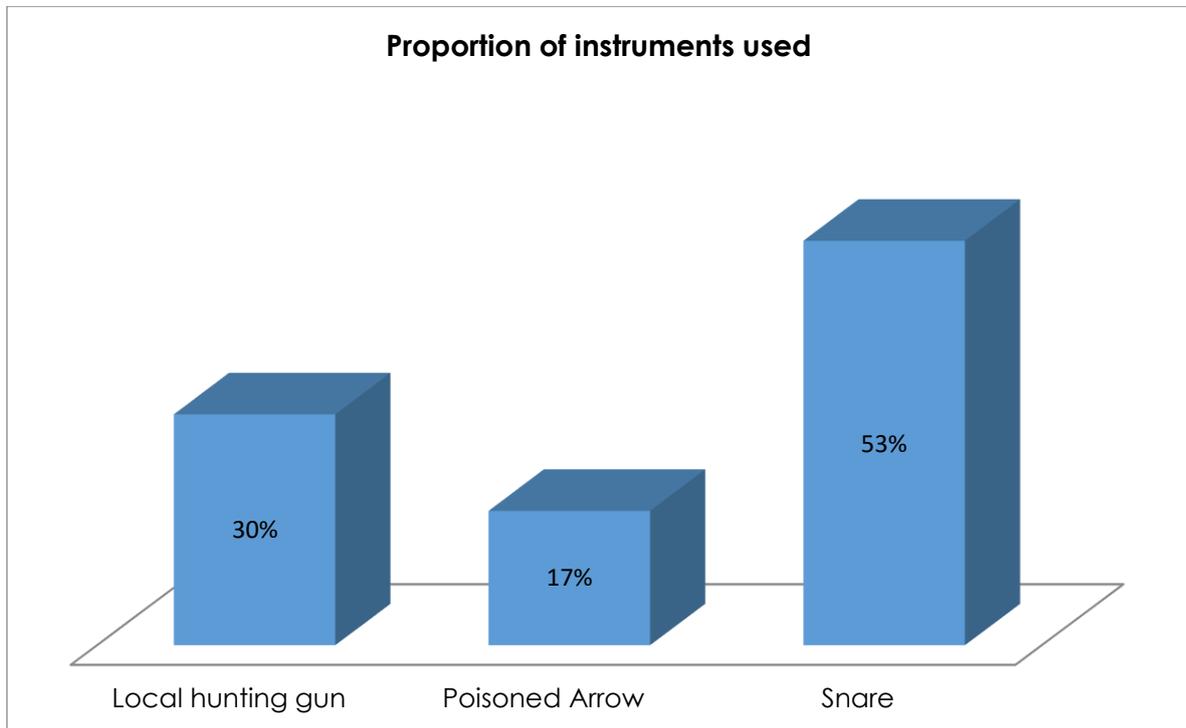
			<p>* Lyondji schools are very isolated and face permanent scarcity of chalk. For this reason 30 boxes of white chalks were donated in support of education.</p> <p>*Three soccer balls were given to schools to encourage physical activities.</p>
Data analysis by Wamba Ecology and Forestry Research Center			Ongoing
Final Report			To be submitted soon

**What are preliminary results from survey launched in collaboration with Wamba Forestry and Ecology Research Center (Centre de Recherche en Ecologie et Foresterie de Wamba)?**

1. Species frequently poached

Scientific Name	Vernacular Name/ Longando
<i>Cephalophus callipygus</i>	Bofala
<i>Cephalophus dorsalis</i>	Bombende
<i>Cephalophus leucogaster</i>	Mpambi
<i>Cephalophus monticola</i>	Mboloko
<i>Cephalophus nigrifons</i>	Bongudju
<i>Cephalophus sylvicultor</i>	Lisoko
<i>Tragelaphus spekei</i>	Mbuli
<i>Potamochoerus porcus</i>	Nsombo
<i>Cricetomys emini</i>	Motomba
<i>Atelerix albiventris</i>	liko
<i>Cercopithecus ascanius</i>	Nsoli
<i>Cercopithecus wolfi</i>	Mbeka
<i>Lophocebus aterrimus</i>	Ngila

## 2. Type of instruments used for poaching



**Comments:** During sensitisation our team campaigners, local assistants in partnership with the head of community conservation service of Lyondji reserve, were able to collect from illegal hunting camps 11 local hunting guns, 133 poisoned arrows and 406 snares.



Left: Stakeholders meeting. Right: Chief Elder's meeting.



Left: Poacher's guns seized. Right: Poached animal.