

Newsletter

June 2014



Lions

Villagers reported the presence of lions in the Boé. They have seen two adult lions in 2013 and two adult lions and a cub this year. Our team went looking for lion traces and excrement to learn more about lions in the Boé, and with success. They found lion traces within one km of the PANAF research site in Aicoum (see picture) and heard lions near the camp.



SOS

Chimbo Foundation has received a grant from SOS - Save Our Species, a joined initiative of IUCN, GEF and World Bank, supporting on-the-ground field conservation projects all over the world. The grant is provided to support the project 'Participatory conservation of West African chimpanzees and their habitat in and around the future Boé National Park'. The goal of this project is to contribute to the conservation status of the West African Chimpanzee. We want to achieve this goal by strengthening our Village Vigilance Committees (CVV's), by improving their functioning and by creating an enabling environment for the CVV's to perform well.



Chimpanzee drumming sites

During the data collection for the PANAF chimpanzee survey in Aicoum, Joost van Schijndel discovered some interesting drumming sites of chimpanzees. Many trees bear marks: scarred bark with rocks lying next to the tree. Now he found for the first time, a tree with a rock collection (see picture). We have installed extra trail cameras at these sites with which we hope to find out more about this behavior.



Cereal banks

Over the past years three rice banks have been set up in different villages in the Boé: Beli, Balandugu and Capebonde. The rice banks aim to ensure local farmers of a fair price when selling rice and local consumers of a reasonable price when buying. They make sure that less rice is exported after the harvest from the area by traders so that rice needed later in the year by the local population stays available. We have sad and happy news about the cereal banks. The sad news is that one of the banks had to be closed because of fraud. The happy news is that the bank in Capebonde performs very well and is nicely decorated with chimpanzees by one of its enthusiastic supervisors (see photo).



Elections Guinea Bissau

Both parliamentary and presidential elections were held in Guinea Bissau on 13 April 2014. In the presidential elections the two candidates with most of the votes were Mario Vaz (ex-finance minister from PAIGC party) and Nuno Nambiam. Mario Vaz won the second round on 18 May 2014. In the parliamentary vote, the PAIGC party won 55 of the 102 seats. The leader of that party's parliamentary list is Domingos Simoes Pereira.



MISUBAB project

After three years plus 10 months extension we have finalized the MISUBAB project (Mineração Sustentável da Bauxite em Boé) at the end of October 2013. The project was started by Daridibó in January 2010 with financial support from the Non State Actors Programme for Guinea Bissau of the EU and from the Chimbo Foundation. The objective of the MISUBAB project was to ensure responsible bauxite mining in which a sustainable and equitable development of the Boé sector will occur. We now have a well-equipped 'Casa Daridibó' which is a training, research, information and meeting centre, an effective Horizontal Platform that unites local people, NGO's, national and local authorities and the mining company, a stronger Daridibó and more environmental awareness in the Boé.



Ebola virus

After the Ebola virus outbreak in Guinea Conakry, Chimbo Foundation and Daridibó had to take preventive action, although there was no reason to panic, given the distance between outbreak area and the Boé and the remoteness of the Boé. Chimbo Foundation and Daridibó informed the local population about the dangers of Ebola by radio and explained that it is dangerous to eat or touch (dead) wild animals.

