

LARGE CARNIVORES INITIATIVE

REPORT

FEBRUARY 2012

Summary

1. Context.....	3
2. Activities.....	3
2.1. Updating of LCI website and sending of new LCI alerts.....	3
2.2. Construction of an enclosure in a surrounding village of Waza National Park (WNP).....	4
2.3. Lions Guards activities in Waza National Park.....	6
2.4. Lions Guards activities in Benue National Park	9
3. Conclusion	14

1. Context

The first phase of the Large Carnivore Initiative funding from the Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Fund ended the 1st November 2011. From November 1, 2011 until October 2012, the second phase of Large Carnivore Initiative will continue with funding from *the Prins Bernhard Natuurfonds* and *National Geographic Big Cats Initiative*. During the first phase four lion guards were trained and began a program for monitoring large carnivores in northern Cameroon. During this second phase, the same lion guards will continue to monitor, Bachirou Mohamadou from CEDC will coordinate the construction of a communal enclosure in a surrounding village of the Waza NP and Nadia Nhiomog, will continue her work as coordinator of the network LCI.

The different activities taking place throughout this phase were discussed in July 2011, during a visit of Hans Iongh and Iris Kirsten, from the Leo Foundation, to Cameroon with funding from National Geographic Big Cats Initiative and the Prins Bernhard Natuurfonds.

The main objective of their visit was the launch of the second phase of the Large Carnivore Initiative and the continuation of the Lion guards project. During the various meetings with the curators of Waza NP and the Bénoué NP, the staff of CEDC, the coordinator of LCI and the Director of the Ecole de Faune, all parties have confirmed and agreed to continue all activities in this follow-up monitoring program under the framework of the LCI which is a continuation of the project that began on 1 January 2011 until 1 November 2011, with funding from MBZSF.

2. Activities

The various activities of this new phase are scheduled from to the 1st November 2011 until the end of October 2012.

2.1.Updating of LCI website and sending of LCI newsletters

These activities will be conducted by Nadia Nhiomog (EFG) and Iris Kirsten (Leo foundation), with contributions from Francis Tarla (Director of EFG) and coordinated by Hans de Iongh (Project leader).

The webmasters are to write various newsletters and translate them in order to have an English version and a French version. Then, newsletters are to be sent to members of the LCI mailing list in English or French, depending on their preference.

Once the various newsletters are sent, they are placed on the LCI website for global broadcasting. The following newsletters have been sent from the 1st November 2011 to January 31, 2012:

- Start of the second phase of the LCI (2011/11/02);

- Safari hunting has an impact on social structure and population density of lion in Africa (2011/11/03);
- Carnivore livestock conflicts around Pendjari biosphere reserve (2011/11/09);
- Article on impact of trophy hunting in Cameroon published in Journal biological Conservation (2011/12/19);
- News Cubs born in Waza National Park and in Benoue National Park (2011/12/26);
- "Sun" and "Moon" two new lions have been moved to North Cameroon (2011/12/26);
- Construction of a new enclosure in the village of Badadaye, Cameroon as a part of lion guards project (2012/01/31).



Lioness "Moon" in EFG, Cameroon



Lioness "Moon" in EFG, Cameroon

2.2. Construction of an enclosure in a surrounding village of Waza National Park (WNP)

This activity was conducted by Bachirou Mohamadou (CEDC) in collaboration with André Ndjidda the conservator of Waza National Park aimed to build an enclosure to communal management for livestock in a village bordering the Waza National Park, to limit losses due to predation by lions.

The choice of the village fell on Badadaye because this village has recorded the highest number of livestock losses due to predation. The second reason that played in favor of this village is that there is only one ethnic group which will allow easy management of the enclosure.

The construction of this Boma happened from January 7 to January 17, 2011. It was done in two stages:

- **The meeting with the local population.** It aimed to present the project to the people of Badadaye and make a work program. After an interview, discussions and a set of questions and answers, the people gave consent for the execution of the work. A project approval document was signed by representatives of the village. The population is committed to achieve a number of activities including: watering of concrete poles, looking for thorns to put around the enclosure, community management of the Boma and maintenance of the boma.



Consultation with local people for the realization of the pen Community



Signature of the approval document of the project and the contribution of local people

- **Construction of the enclosure.** It all started with the transport of equipment necessary for the project from Maroua to Badadaye. Material needed for the project were: chicken wire, angles formed into stakes, gravel, cement, pliers, clamps, wire ties, sand, etc. For this construction, a workforce and expertise has been sought in masonry. The latter came from Maroua. Activities such as collecting water, looking for thorny and watering poles was left up to local people, according to the signed document of commitment. The Boma was finished in three (3) working days.



Livestock enclosure



Presentation of the enclosure to beneficiaries

Difficulties

The choice of Badadaye was strategically a good decision; however in terms of construction operations it was quite difficult, because Badadaye lacked raw materials such as sand and gravel, indispensable for the construction of the enclosure. The sand was found at about thirty kilometers from the village and gravel at 90 km, which increased construction costs.

The low participation of local people (concerned with monitoring their crops because of grain-eating birds attacks and grasshoppers) in construction has forced the call of an additional hand labor from Maroua. This also increased the cost of construction.

The construction has cost a total of 1074 Euros or 704,400 FCFA, above the initially estimated cost (1000 Euros).

2.3.Lions Guards activities in Waza National Park

With the human-carnivore conflict and the poaching of carnivores in general and lions in particular, a named Project " Lions guards project " was initiated and implemented during 8 months in the National Park of Waza in 2011. During this period, two guards, well-known villagers for their passion for lions, and supported by the conservation's service of Waza National Park conducted a number of activities articulated which investigate the presence of the carnivores and give a the indication of the presence of the Human/Carnivores conflicts in and around the Waza NP. This phase was successful in the collection of some relative data of Human/Fauna conflicts. A second phase of this project started in November 2011 until August 2012.

Main objective:

The main objective of this project is *to prevent Human/carnivores in general and Human/lions conflicts in particular in and around the Waza National Park.*

Activities Foreseen

- "Monitoring of the traces and other indications of presence of the lions and the other carnivores in and around the Waza National Park
- "Sensitization of the local populations for the prevention of the conflicts with the carnivores (Leopards, lions, Hyenas and Jackals)

Methods:

Several methods have been used:

- Investigation (interviews) of lion's presence around the villages;
- Photography of the traces and presence signs of the carnivores;
- Identification of human/carnivores conflicts (photos and geographical positions);

Activities from November 2011 to January 2012

These activities were conducted:

- Identification of carnivore's presence in general and of lions in particular around villages;
- Documentation of carnivore's presence by taking photos of their traces, or other indications of presence and / or damages caused by them;
- Compilation of the frequency of observation of carnivores in the visited locations;
- Sensitization of pastoralists on the prevention of the conflicts with carnivores.

The table below explains these activities

Date	Activities	Indications of presence of carnivores	Locations / Geographical position / Photos
2/11/2011	Investigations in AMKOYE	Two (02) lions killed a cow from 100 m of the village	
9/11/2011	Investigations in Takawa	Three (03) lions wounded a cow	Photos of a wounded cow
11/11/2011	Investigations in Goulou	Three (03) lions killed two cows at Goulou	
16/11/2011	Investigations in Goulou	Three (03) lions and two cubs have been seen by herders between Goulou and Ndouda Ndiam's pool	
24/11/2011	Investigations in Djéguéré et Andirni	Eight (08) lions have been seen between Djéguéré and Andirni	
28/11/2011	Investigations in the WNP	Tracks of two (02) lions have been raised around Ndouda Ndiam waterhole	Photos of tracks
3/12/2011	Investigations in Mbilé	Two horses have been killed by two lions to 1 km of the village	Photos of killed horses
6/12/2011	Investigations in Mbilé	The traces of two lions have been raised to 2 kilometer of the Mbilé village in the WNP	Photos of traces Coordonnées N 11,46072 E0 1479607
10/12/2011	Investigations in Bouroum	Two (02) horses have been killed by 4 lions in Gabada and Bouroum. They have been seen by the shepherds	
10/12/2011	Investigations	Three lions have been seen around	

	in Baram	the Baram village	
12/12/2011	Investigations in the WNP	The traces of three lions have been observed to the pool Tchingoa	Photos of the tracks Coordinates N 11,22144 E0 14,68971
19/12/2011	Investigations in the WNP	The traces of two lions have been noted at Louloubaya	N 11,1524 E0 1467661
23/12/2011	Investigations in Bouroum	A horse has been killed by lions	Photo of horse carcass
29/12/2011	Investigations in Mbilé	A cow has been killed by lions between Mbilé and Bouroum.	Photos of carcass N11,48454 E014,81384
30/12/2011	Investigations in	A cow has been killed by the lion to	Photo of carcass N11,46387 E014,83425
30/12/2011	Investigations in Bouroum	A horse has been killed by lions at Bouroum	Photo of carcass N11,46387 014,83425
4/01/2012	Investigations in Baram	Roar of two lions heard by the two lion guards in the WNP	
9/01/2012	Investigations in Magala dans le PNW	The traces of a lion raised to the Magala pool	Photos of the traces N11,23811 E014,71630
10/01/2012	Investigations in Tchikam dans le PNW	Roar of one lion heard around gamzamia around 3 :00 AM The traces has been noted	Photos of the traces N11,27200° E014,81294
13/01/2012	Investigations in DJEGUERE	Droppings of lion observed in DJEGUERE	Photos droppings N11,16935 E014,81263
18/01/2012	Investigations in Halé	Roar of a lion heard toward 3:00 AM in the Vo pool in the PNW	
22/01/2012	Investigations in Lougouma	Roar of two lions in the PNW toward 1:00 AM in the morning	

2.4.Lions Guards activities in Benoue National Park

Study of big cats in Northern National Parks (Benoue, Faro and Bouba Ndjidda and hunting zones) showed that lion's density in National Parks is higher than in surrounding areas. This difference is due to the impact of sport hunting on lions (Croes *et al.*, 2011). To consolidate this information by showing the current trend in this complex, a new project with the same objectives was developed on the same site.

The methodology of data collection is to follow up on the five previous areas identified. These axes are: Banda - Black Buffalo camp (32 km), Black buffalo -Tcholliré (75 Km), Guidjiba - Tcholliré (73.1 km), Bantadjé - Gamba and the bed of the Benoue on the section of mayo Mbam along 12 km.

This project planned for a period of 10 months (November 2011-August 2012), was cut down because of budget miscalculations. Two lions-guards are committed to data collection. The conservator (Saleh Adam) of the Benoue National Park (BNP) coordinates the activities, while Nhiomog Nadia at the Ecole de Faune is responsible for overseeing the transmission of the communication between the various actors involved in the project. Also, before starting the project, a number of equally important materials (digital camera, two cell phones, motorcycle, and a GPS track stick, etc.) have been made available to the team for data collection.

Activities:

Scheduled for early November, tracking of big cats in BNP began on 15/11. Indeed, for this first phase, the circuits selected for monitoring are the main Banda – Black Buffalo, Black Buffalo - Tcholliré and Guidjiba - Tcholliré. Each axe should be followed for a period of 4 days for a total of 16 days trip with a break of two days. Unfortunately after 10 days, no signs were visible and we decided to begin Nov. 15.

Tracking on all axes was achieved without any difficulty. All the face to face observations were also noted. However, as we noted last time, a lioness and a cub were observed in the park, another lioness and two cubs were observed by a volunteer of the NGO Emergency planet. Finally, on Friday 3/02, a panther and her cub were also observed by a volunteer.

Results:

During the first three months of monitoring in these five areas, we observed tracks of nine (09) adults and a cub of panther, tracks of 50 adults and 3 cubs of hyenas. Eleven (11) tracks of lion were observed on these five areas during this period of monitoring. The total distance covered was 1737.7 km. The summary data is shown in the table below.

Itinéraire Banda- Buffle Noir (Novembre 2011)

Heures	dates	Km	GPS Nord	GPS Est	Panthères	Lions	Hyènes	Lycaons	N° photo des traces	Total km
7h 24	15/11/2011	0	08 1998 84	013 640 85						
8h41	15/11/2011	18	08 193 96	013 759 53	0	0	2AD	0	928	
9h08	15/11/2011	22	08 170 73	013 777 15	0	0	1J	0	927	
9h19	15/11/2011	25.5	08 564 06	013 793 98	0	0	1AD	0	926	
9h34	15/11/2011	27.2	08 125 01	013 808 05	0	0	2AD	0	924	
8h47	16/11/2011	6.7	08 163 84	013 794 22	0	0	2AD et 1J	0	923	
6h18	18/11/2011	0	08 198 84	013 640 85	0	0	0	0	0	
9h00	19/11/2011	4.1	08 124 92	013 807 09	0	0	1AD	0	921	
9h22	19/11/2011	10.5	08 770 71	013 777 21	0	0	2AD	0	920	
9h11	23/11/2011	5.1	08 209 38	013 670 56	1J	0	0	0	919	
9h27	23/11/2011	7.8	08 198 17	013 677 63	2AD	0	0	0	918	
10h14	23/11/2011	28.4	08 147 65	013 902 16	0	0	4AD	0	916	
10h25	23/11/2011	30.2	08 124 99	013 807 07	0	0	2AD	0	915	
8h17	24/11/2011	8.2	08 164 84	013 792 30	0	0	1AD	0	913	
8h20	25/11/2011	7.2	08 251 11	013 665 76	1AD	0	0	0	912	
8h46	25/11/2011	7.2	08 211 51	013 565 76	1AD	0	0	0	911	
8h46	25/11/2011	15.4	08 193 68	013 732 50	0	0	1AD	0	910	
9h15	25/11/2011	24	08 163 71	013 794 22	0	0	2AD	0	909	
Total					4AD et 1J	0	19AD et 2J	0	16	224.0

Itinéraire Guidjiba-Tcholliré

Heures	dates	Km	GPS Nord	GPS Est	Panthères	Lions	Hyènes	Lycaons	N° photo des traces	Total km
8h19	28/11/2011	0	08 477 85	013 735 00						
9h09	28/11/2011	9	08 495 97	013 788 27	0	0	1AD	0	908	
9h21	28/11/2011	13.7	08 496 53	013 828 58	0	0	2AD	0	907	
7h10	29/11/2011	0	08 398 28	014 161 32	0	0	0	0	0	
9h34	01/12/2011	15.7	08 498 67	013 841 03	0	0	1J	0	905	
9h48	01/12/2011	18.2	8 510 150	013 854 72	0	0	2AD	0	904	
7h37	02/12/2011	0	08 477 85	013 750 00	0	0	0	0	0	
7h16	03/12/2011	0	08 477 85	013 750 00	0	0	0	0	0	
7h19	05/12/2011	27	08 545 14	013 910 80	0	0	0	0	0	
8h15	06/12/2011	0	08 477 85	013 73 500	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	Total				0	0	5AD et 1J	0	4	511.7

Itinéraires Buffle-Noir Tchollire (Decembre 2011)

Heures	dates	Km	GPS Nord	GPS Est	Panthères	Lions	Hyènes	Lycaons	N° photo des traces	Total km
7h 21	16/12/2011	0	08 11 760	013 83 166						
10h10	16/12/2011	38	08 167 93	014 00 918	0	0	1AD	0	926	Lieu ZIC 3
11h 35	27/12/2011	37	08 168 14	014 00 937	1AD	0	0	0	918	Z 3
11h 55	27/12/2011	37	08 16 802	014 00 922	0	0	1AD	0	916	Z3
12h09	27/12/2011	39	818 284	014 01 499	0	0	1AD	0	915	Z3
8h14	20/12/2011	32	08 207 77	014 022 58	1AD	0	0	0	924	Z3
8h54	20/12/2011	32.2	08 205 34	014 022 29	0	0	1AD	0	923	Z3
9h10	20/12/2011	34.3	08 196 99	014 017 11	0	0	2J	0	922	Z3
10h29	20/12/2011	72	08 110 70	013 82 774	0	1AD	0	0	920	Z2
Total					2AD	1AD	0	0	8	219

Itinéraire Banda-Buffle-Noir

Heures	dates	Km	GPS Nord	GPS Est	Panthères	Lions	Hyènes	Lycaons	N° photo des traces	Total km
7h10	26/12/2011	0	08 198 85	013 640 86						
9h17	26/12/2011	32	08 117 60	013 83 167	Pas de traces observée					
8h07	15/01/2012	0	08 198 85	013 640 87						
9h52	15/01/2012	32	08 117 60	013 831 65	Pas de traces observée					
7h59	21/12/2011	3.7	08 125 02	013 807 10	0	0	1AD	0	919	
Total					0	0	1AD	0	0	128

Itinéraire Tholliré-Guidjiba

Heures	dates	Km	GPS Nord	GPS Est	Panthères	Lions	Hyènes	Lycaons	N° photo des traces	Total km
6h51	17/12/2011	0	08 398 76	014 164 21	0	0	0	0		
11h20	17/12/2011	73	08 477 85	013 73 500	pas de traces observées					
7h38	19/12/2011	0	08 477 85	013 73 500						
11h51	19/12/2011	73.1	08 398 76	014 164 21	pas de traces observées					

9h14	28/12/2011	48	08 523 59	013 877 71	0	0	1AD	0	914	
Total					0	0	1AD	0	1	219;3

Données janvier 2012

Itinéraire Mayo Mbam River

Heures	dates	Km	GPS Nord	GPS Est	Panthères	Lions	Hyènes	Lycaons	N° photo des traces	Total km
7h38	28/01/2012	0	08 116 45	013 842 39						
9h 27	28/01/2012	32	08 109 51	13 807 791	0	0	0	0	0	
8h 48	29/01/2012		08 109 46	013 812 28	0	0	1AD	0	912	
8h43	30/01/2012		08 113 19	013 828 62	0	0	2AD	0	910	
7h 24	31/01/2012		08 114 69	013 835 76	0	0	2AD	0	0	
8h32	31/01/2012		08 107 20	013 809 90	0	0	1AD	0	0	
8h43	31/01/2012		08 103 56	013 808 05	0	0	1AD	0	0	
8h47	31/01/1900		08 103 45	013 807 82	0	2AD	0	0	0	
Total					0	2AD	7AD	0	0	32

Itineraire Gamba Bantadjé

Heures	dates	Km	GPS Nord	GPS Est	Panthères	Lions	Hyènes	Lycaons	N° photo des traces	Total km
7h28	24/01/2012	0	08 090 12	013 594 23						
8h 19	24/01/2012	24	08 152 50	013 449 33	0	1AD	0	0	928	ZIC 5
8h 17	24/01/2012	28	08 152 02	013 381 20	0	0	1AD	0	927	ZIC 5
8h58	24/01/2012	32	08 156 04	013 367 67	1AD	0	0	0	927	ZIC 5
9h 27	25/01/2012	19	08 219 30	013 274 64	0	0	1J	0	924	ZIC 18
10h33	25/01/2012	35.7	08 156 78	013 372 69	0	2AD	0	0	923	ZIC 5
11h 20	25/01/2012	49	08 166 24	013 499 82	0	0	3AD	0	921	ZIC 5
10h23	26/01/2012	28.7	08 164 48	013 486 40	0	1AD	0	0	920	ZIC 5
10h36	27/01/2012	31	08 156 33	013 366 23	0	0	3AD	0	919	ZIC 5
10h49	27/01/2012	33.7	08 148 17	013 40 183	0	0	1AD	0	918	ZIC 5
11h07	27/01/2012	40.9	08 149 94	013 442 25	0	2AD	0	0	916	ZIC 5
11h18	27/01/2012	46	08 157 83	013 460 67	0	1AD	0	0	915	ZIC 5
Total					1AD	7AD	8AD et 1J	0	11	240

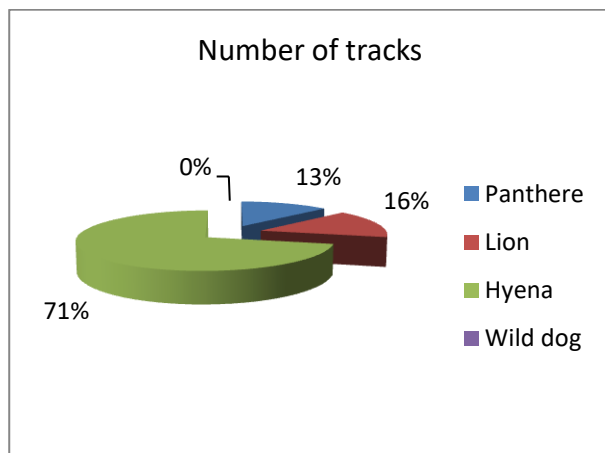
Itineraire Buffle-Noir Banda

Heures	dates	Km	GPS Nord	GPS Est	Panthères	Lions	Hyènes	Lycaons	N° photo des traces	Total km
7h 29	01/02/2012	0	08 117 60	013 831 60						Début
7h57	01/02/2012	10.4	08 172 48	013 776 16	0	0	1AD	0	903	
8h17	01/02/2012	18.7	08 193 46	013 738 07	0	0	2AD	0	902	
8h42	01/02/2012	28	08 211 97	013 665 23	1AD	0	0	0	901	
9h56	02/02/2012	19.2	08 182 58	013 769 81	0	0	2AD	0	899	
10h11	02/02/2012	24	08 164 01	013 793 98	0	0	1J	0	898	
7h24	03/02/2012	3.7	08 125 13	013 8065 70	0	0	2AD	0	897	
7h47	03/02/2012	9	08 171 20	013 776 80	0	0	1AD	0	896	
9h51	04/02/2012	17	08 196 03	013 770 54	0	0	1AD	0	895	
					1AD	0	9AD et 1J	0	8	128

Itinéraire Guidjiba-Tchillirey

Heures	dates	Km	GPS Nord	GPS Est	Panthères	Lions	Hyènes	Lycaons	N° photo des traces	Total km
7h 29	Aucune trace pendant tous les transects									

The diagram below illustrates the frequency of tracks.



To this result, we must add the observations of lions and panthers by the French volunteers were not on the transects, but in other parts of the park.

Difficulties

About this first follow-up, the major difficulty observed is the inaccessibility of some axes during the month of November. This difficulty has changed the frequency on road initially selected. Another problem is the numbering of the images on the camera. Indeed, at the end of last issue, the following figures are decreasing and sometimes interspersed. Thus one can observe for example 923 and 921 displays the next number. This shall not derogate from the quality of data collected. Also it should be noted that at the end of January, the track stick failed. No conflict man /big cat have been reported.

Outlook

For future surveys of the second phase, all axes selected will be followed including travel Kum-Bouba Ndjidda. "It should be noted that the Mayo Mbam River trip is on foot a distance of 12 kilometers." images could not be will be presented because of poor internet network.

3. Conclusion

At the end of this first trimester, many activities have been made: Construction of a Boma in Badadaye village, Cameroon. The work of lions-guards on the observation of presence indices of carnivores in general and lions in particular.

About the next trimester, the LCI coordinator for North Cameroon will make a field trip to see how things are going on in the different sites (Waza NP and Benoue NP). This visit will also help to ameliorate communication between the different actors.



Lions in Waza National park photographed
by lions guards and tourists.