

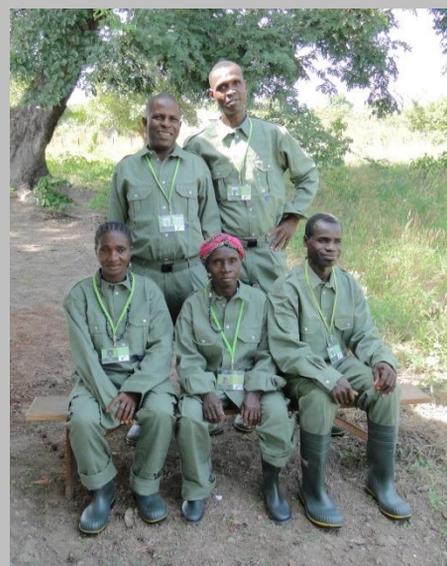
Newsletter

December 2015



Another new species spotted: the Caracal

We recorded the first images of a new red listed species, the Caracal (*Caracal caracal*), on our cameras. This happened shortly after showing pictures of big predators that may occur in the area to more than 50 members of our village committees, asking them if they recognize any of these animals. They said the wild dog, the lion and the golden cat live in the Boé, but they did not recognize the caracal with its eye-catching plumed ears. Therefore it is very remarkable that it now has been proofed that this species lives in the Boé.



Red Colobus

Our cameras are placed relatively close to the ground to be able to catch wild animals passing by. Species like the Red Colobus (*Procolobus badius*) spend most of their time in treetops. Therefore they are rarely recorded by our cameras, but these monkeys are regularly spotted by our team members. The Red Colobus is on the IUCN red list classified as 'endangered'.

The local Fula population believes that the Red Colobus is a messenger of misfortune: when this animal is seen on the ground, evil will come to that person, his family or friends.

New uniforms for the village committees

A lot of preparatory work was necessary: measures (shoe size and length + waist measures) of all village committee (CVV) members had to be taken. A supplier had to be found who could provide the right type of uniform (olive green, fire-resistant, strong, comfortable to wear even at high temperatures, and not too expensive). It proofed easier to find boots; they just needed to be strong and not too expensive. Everything has to be produced and shipped to Guinea Bissau. Finally by the end of this year all CVV members could put on their uniform and sign a contract for receiving the right size of boots, socks, pants, belt and shirt (with Chimbo logo).

Along with the identity cards (see newsletter May 2015) the uniforms enable CVV members to identify themselves as Chimbo-collaborators to outsiders during their patrol tasks. It gives them the authority to correct people's behavior, while serving them self as an example.





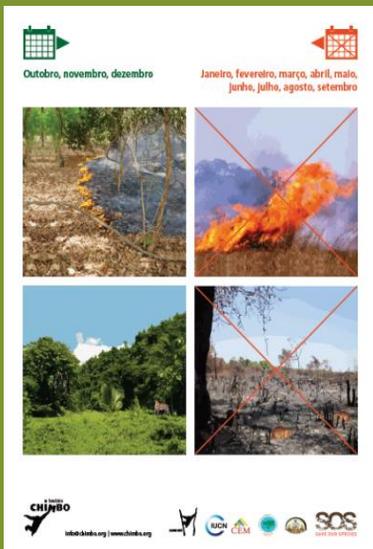
Chimpanzee survey

Menno Breider, student of the Vilentum University of Applied Sciences in Almere (The Netherlands), investigated the seasonal availability of food of chimpanzees. He investigated during which period of the year trees have leaves, flowers or fruits. The results give us insight during which months there will be abundance or shortage of food for chimpanzees (see example).

Yearly fruiting cycle of trees eaten by the Western Chimpanzee (<i>Pan troglodytes verus</i>) in the Boé, Guinea-Bissau													
Tree species	Cycle subject	Month											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<i>Ceiba pentandra</i>	Flowers	1,4	0,4	0	0	0	0,0	0,0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total fruits	0,3	2	0,7	0	0,2	0,0	0,0	0	0	0	0	0
	Ripe fruits	0	0	0,3	0	0,2	0,0	0,0	0	0	0	0	0

Next steps of our bush fire control program

Teresa Borasino, a Peruvian artist, produced an instructive poster for our bush fire control program. The poster explains the importance of early fires. It is wise to burn grassland right after the rainy season to prevent the occurrence of later, much hotter, fires that damage large trees and reduce the forest cover. Our program started at the end of 2012 with a project run by Amadu Baldé (Major of the Guarda Nacional). Teams to fight bush fires have been set up in 14 villages. The teams were trained, uniforms with logo produced, meetings were held in several villages in which hundreds of people participated and radio Beli was, and still is, used to instruct the population on how to diminish the damage of bush fires. Since 2013 also IBAP is active in this field in the Boé. We have put the first trap cameras near sacred forest as an extra control measure to monitor the occurrence of fire. During two meetings, attended each by over 60 people in November, Fai Dje Djo, head of the Fauna and Forests department of the Ministry of Agriculture, explained how forests are being protected legally and he underlined the importance of early fires.



New: ambulance insurance

The Boé is a remote area and therefore it takes about 5 hours by car to get to the nearest-by hospital. The government donated an ambulance to the Boé population, but they have to provide for the fuel themselves. However, in case of an emergency the ambulance often cannot ride because there is no fuel in the tank. To solve this problem Chimbo Foundation initiated ambulance insurance: Every person in the Boé can participate by paying 250 CFA (37 euro cents) per person. With the collected money and thanks to a contribution by Chimbo we assure that there will always be a sufficient stock of fuel for the ambulance. In case a participant in the scheme has to be evacuated, only a limited own contribution will still have to be paid for the transport. People that do not participate can also use the ambulance, but they will have to pay the full amount of 40.000 CFA (60 euros) to fill the tank. This type of insurance is new in Guinea Bissau.

