

Project Update: May 2018

Background

Rare bonobo, *Pan paniscus*, is endemic and in danger in the MLW landscape (Maringa-Lopori-Wamba). Its habitat is under threat through both illegal hunting for bushmeat trade and farming. The forest will be completely depleted in 5 years and tensions keep on rising between managers and community members. A survey was carried out systematically from February 1st to 25th 2018 for getting more comprehensive data of lyondji community members and shows that 53% of conflicts are from hunting, 20% from fishing, 17 % from agriculture and 10% from others.



In the last 3 months, we experienced how The Rufford grant contributes to bring positive attitude between stakeholders of the project (villagers, local authorities and protected area managers) towards bonobo habitat protection than exacerbating conflicts and undermining conservation efforts.

What are the three months outcomes of our project?

- **Local assistants recruited – Achieved**

Three support technicians were hired and we launched the census of illegal hunting/farming camps inside the reserve with the support of local authorities. The complete team of the project is composed by:

- M Dieu-Merci LOTSULU
- M Louison BOLOOTO
- Ms Lydie NKOY
- M Jacques BATUAFFE 'Mentor'
- M Balemba 'Project Lead'

- **Successful meeting with the Administrator of Territory of Djolu – Achieved**

We met the administrator, Mrs Béatrice MPAKO AFALOOKO, freshly appointed as governor representative of Djolu. She fully supports the project and delegated the local chief at the project kick off.

- **Community outreach kick off “Football Championship”**

On March 8th 2018, four teams of teen girls took part in a football match at the International Women’s Day. The administrator delegate encouraged girls who have fewer opportunities to take part in structured physical activity.



- **Workshop – Achieved**

From 30th April to 1st May 2018, a 2-day workshop was organised (men/women/youth) debating on illegal and legal activities allowed by national laws about conservation.