

ANI



18-MONTH REPORT

for the period 1st January 2020 to 30th June 2021





**Reference and Administrative Information for the
18-month period from 1st January 2020 to 30th June 2021**

Directors/Board Members

Chairman: Phillip Iwuala Ihenacho

Managing Director: Andrew Babatunde Morakinyo

Executive Director (Security and Operations): Olajide Laleye

Management:

Financial Controller: Judith Aboli-Tedi

Business Processes: Victor Okorie

Wildlife Policy Coordinator: Wilson Ogoke

Gashaka Project Manager: Quinton Rochat

Head of Logistics: Chidi Ukoha

Head of Operations: Kamaya Pepeh
(seconded from Gashaka Gumti National Park)

Gashaka Section Manager: Samuel Amos Meshack

Community Liaison Manager: David Dagizuwa Peter

Company number:

RC: 1509832

Bankers:

Standard Chartered Bank Nigeria Limited, 35 Opebi Road, Ikeja Lagos, Nigeria

Auditors:

Pedabo Audit Services, 67 Norman Williams Street, Ikoyi, Lagos, Nigeria

Lawyers/Company Secretary:

ALSEC Nominees Limited, St. Nicholas House (10th Floor), Catholic Mission Street, Lagos

Our donors, supporters, and partners

Azura Power For change

Chester Zoo

Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA)

Ford Foundation

ForRangers

Gbolahan E. Elias & Co

Leventis Foundation

National Park Service (PkS)

Tusk Trust

TY Danjuma Foundation

UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)

US Dept. of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)

US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Nigeria

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. The National Park Service-ANI Foundation Partnership	4
2. ANI Foundation and The Gashaka Project	5
3. Overview for the reporting period	8
4. Key indicators of impact	10
5. Our activities and achievements	11
5.1 OUR TEAM	11
5.2 Refurbished Gashaka Outpost	13
5.3 Park Infrastructure and vehicles	14
5.4 Equipped rangers	16
5.5 Training and deployment of rangers	17
5.6 Community Engagement and surveys	19
5.7 Partnership with WCS and EIA on activities to combat the Illegal Wildlife Trade in Nigeria	21
6. Planned activities for the coming year	23

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE-ANI FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIP

The national parks of Nigeria face tremendous challenges and yet, they could play a significant role in the development of the country as it strives to diversify away from the oil and gas sector. In other countries, national parks are economic assets. They are engines for development, they generate employment for thousands of and provide revenue to government. This is in addition to provide critical ecosystem services (watershed protection, carbon sequestration and stores of biodiversity) which are essential to support a healthy environment which we rely upon for food, clean air, water, etc.

Yet in Nigeria, the national parks face tremendous challenges and are yet to reach their full potential. It was a belief in a vision of what the national parks could become, that in November 2017, ANI Foundation signed a 30-year Partnership Agreement with National Park Service (PKS) to provide technical, management and financial support for Gashaka Gumti National Park.

We salute the Ministry of Environment and the National Park Service for this visionary move in signing the first agreement of its kind in Nigeria to co-manage a national park with a not-for-profit organization.

ANI Foundation and the National Park Service have since developed a strong working partnership based on openness, trust, and mutual respect.

In April 2021 Gashaka Gumti National Park and ANI Foundation were pleased to host the National Park Service Conservator General, Goni Ahmed to the first Passing Out Parade of trained rangers.

In May the Park and ANI were honored to host the Honorable Minister of Environment, Sharon Ikeazor and Iroro Tanshi, a world-renowned expert on bats. The Honorable Minister spent 3 days in the park including a highly memorable day camping by the banks of the Mayo Kam River.

Long may this fruitful Partnership continue!



ANI FOUNDATION AND THE GASHAKA PROJECT

Africa Nature Investors (ANI) is a not-for-profit organisation registered in Nigeria and is led by experienced African professionals committed to bringing best-practice nature conservation to West and East Africa. More than just beautiful landscapes and rare animals, we believe that Africa's nature, wildlife, and ecosystems are fundamental to the long-term wellbeing of African people. We aim to catalyse the participation of Africans in conservation and to attract African capital and expertise across the continent into the sector. We also aim to demonstrate that investment in conservation can be profitable, generate revenue and promote development locally and nationally. ANI's first project is the protection and development of Gashaka Gumti National Park.

Nigeria's largest protected area, Gashaka-Gumti National Park (GGNP), covers 6,731 km². Spectacular scenery is the hallmark of this park, with its magnificent mountain ranges, and panoramic views. The Gumti sector has an undulating topography covered by Savanna vegetation while the topography of Gashaka sector is rough, rugged, and mountainous. GGNP has exceptionally high biodiversity stemming from its diverse habitats and vegetation types - a mosaic of grasslands, woodlands and forests spread along lowland rivers and in mountainous areas.

This incredibly varied landscape includes Nigeria's highest mountain (called Chappal Waddi), one of West Africa's largest populations of the endangered Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee along with important populations of pangolin, yellow-backed duiker, golden cat, forest buffalo and a wide range of other primates and antelopes. The forested mountains of the park are one of the most important watersheds for the mighty River Benue. These act like a sponge - soaking up torrential rains and gradually releasing them into the Benue that sustains the livelihoods of people downstream.

Unfortunately, the park and its animals are threatened by logging, poaching, artisanal mining, and illegal cattle grazing. The park has been chronically underfunded for many years. Hampered by a lack of infrastructure and equipment, patrols by the rangers were ineffective and clashes between the park's rangers, poachers and loggers had become frequent. As a result,

animal populations crashed, and scientists said that within 5 years if nothing is done, the park would be irretrievable.



Bringing a park back from the brink - the Gashaka Project

Conscious of the urgency to save the park but also of the time it would take, ANI signed a 30-year partnership agreement in November 2017, with the Nigerian National Park Service (PkS) to provide technical, management and financial support for Gashaka Gumti National Park. This was a visionary move by the Federal Ministry of Environment and is the first agreement ever signed between the government and an NGO for co-management of a national park. This was followed up with a more detailed supporting document (the Implementation Manual) in July 2019. Work is now underway to restore the park to its former glory. ANI is currently investing in re-training, equipping, and deploying the park's ranger force to adequately protect the park. We are also developing partnerships with the park's communities to protect GGNP in return for development benefits.

Ultimately, we aim to make Gashaka Gumti National Park “the Yellow Stone” of West Africa - a premier tourist destination that all Nigerians can be proud of! We want Nigerians to be aware of and proud of GGNP as their largest and most biodiverse national park and will work overtime to make it easily accessible (logistically and financially) to the public including scholars and students.

Core to our vision is our intention that Gashaka Gumti should eventually become financially self-sustaining and a driver of economic growth in the region particularly for local communities.

We envisage the development of the park in two phases:



Phase 1: Securing the park. This phase focuses on putting in place the various parts of a functional national park with effective law enforcement and ranger patrols, engagement, and participation of communities in the protection of the park and enabling infrastructure. This phase is funded mostly by philanthropic donations and grants.



Phase 2: Private Sector Investment: This phase focusses on attracting private sector investment so that the park can begin to cover the annual costs of its protection and provide jobs and development benefits for the local communities. The aim is to establish private sector enterprises in and around the park that are compatible with nature conservation and can generate profits part of which could go towards offsetting the annual recurrent costs of managing the park. These include eco-tourism, forest carbon credits and the harvesting, and export of shea butter.

In parallel with these two phases, we will also work to re-establish permanent populations of wildlife species in the park that were formerly resident but now thought to only visit occasionally from neighbouring Faro National Park in Cameroon. These include elephant, eland, and lion. This will require research to establish a staged approach to ensure abundance of prey species, adequate protection, community acceptability and other factors.



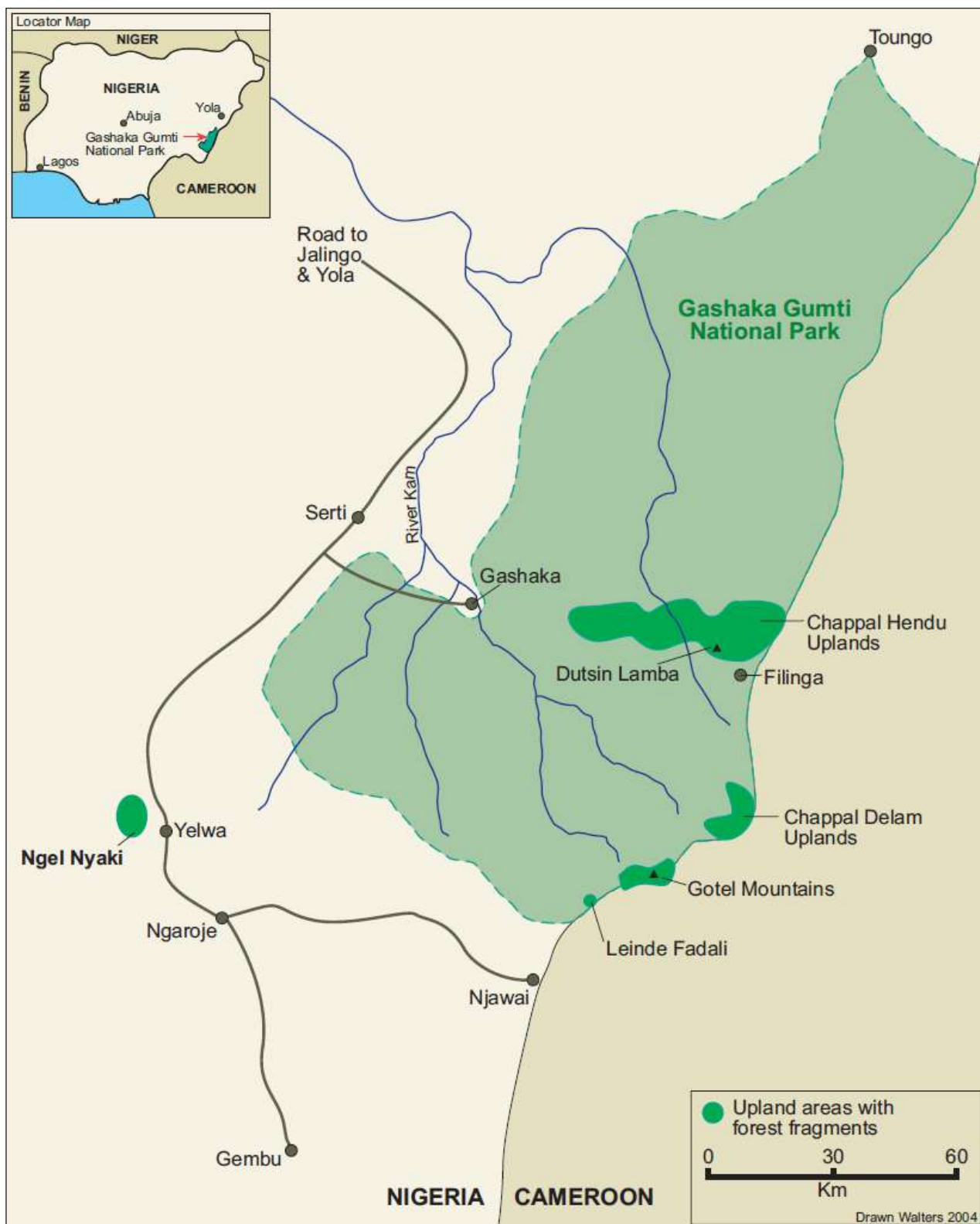
The first phase underway right now, is critical because it provides the enabling framework for the second phase to be possible. Once the Park is safe and secure for both people and wildlife, we can start to focus on developing eco-tourism, conducting research, and developing enterprises that will employ the local communities.

Besides the work, ANI is doing within Gashaka Gumti National Park, the bigger picture in Nigeria is that the country has become the continent’s largest exporter of ivory, pangolin scales and other products from the illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT). This is happening for several complex reasons linked to lax laws, corruption, and a lack of clarity regarding the roles of agencies and enforcement of the law. Thus, ANI has partnered with the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) on a project to revise Nigeria’s laws regarding IWT, and to strengthen the relationship between the various enforcement agencies.

Nigeria is country that is not usually associated with nature and wildlife even by Nigerians. ANI is working to protect some of the most magnificent landscapes in the region. We believe that our work has the potential to change the perception of Nigerians and indeed the world of the country’s parks and wilderness areas – and to create a future where these places and their wildlife contribute to the country’s development.

We hope you will support ANI on this exciting journey!





OVERVIEW FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD

This report covers the 18-month period from 1st period from January 2020 to 30th June 2021. It was decided to do an 18-month report due to a prolonged period of desk-based work due to the COVID pandemic. These past 18 months have been a watershed period for the project during which we moved from planning to implementation despite restrictions due to the COVID pandemic.

At the beginning of 2020 in February, we got off to a great start by screening 89 of the park's rangers and selecting 25 to move to the next level of training. However, shortly after this, we were hit by COVID restrictions. This affected the project directly by preventing much activity in the field for nearly 8 months. COVID also had a profound effect on Nigeria's oil dependent economy and thus on the park and the project by impacting the finances of the government, the National Park Service, the value of the Naira and the cost of everyday goods.

On the positive side, the COVID restrictions gave us plenty of time to fundraise, plan and to recruit a staff team. In October 2020, we successfully recruited Quinton Rochat, as the Gashaka Project Manager. Quinton brings a deep knowledge of protected area management from South Africa, Mozambique, Tanzania, and the DRC. He is also a qualified helicopter pilot. We are very excited to have him join our team and he has already had a big impact on the project!

With Quinton moving to Gashaka in December 2020, we immediately commenced the establishment of a project base at the Gashaka Ranger post on the edge of the park. This required almost total rehabilitation of over 20 buildings many of which were unfit for human habitation. We have established an office, control room, stores, ablutions, gate security hut, accommodation for our team of 8 senior management staff and 57 rangers and 9 ANI Logistics staff. This complex also now has round the clock access to piped water, electricity,

and internet communications. We also established a ranger outpost on the Mayo Kam River that accommodates 2 drivers and 8 rangers.

In February 2021, following strict COVID protocols, 41 rangers successfully passed a 2-month ranger training course run by Conservation Outcomes. We provided each of these with a comprehensive set of equipment making them some of the best equipped in Nigeria. These rangers were joined by a second set of 14 also trained by Conservation Outcomes and equipped by ANI.

We have started to open some of the park's internal roads which had become overgrown. These are essential for effective patrols and logistics. The ranger squad has commenced systematic patrols across the south-western parts of the park and have already had a significant impact on some the challenges the park faced until recently.

In tandem with ranger patrols, we have also commenced a process of engaging and surveying over 20 of the communities living in and around the park. Developing a mutually beneficial partnership with them will be essential for successful protection of Gashaka Gumti.

In May 2021 Gashaka Gumti National Park and ANI together received the Honorable Minister of State for the Environment, Sharon Ikeazor. She spent two days touring the park. This included camping on the banks of the magnificent Mayo Kam River and having a barbecue in the evening. Her visit gave an enormous boost to the morale of GGNP and the rangers who work so hard to protect the park!

It is important to note that our strong working partnership with the National Park Service has been critical to our achievements thus far. We are excited at what we have achieved over these last 18 months despite the COVID restrictions and are looking forward to an equally exciting 2021/2022.

*Tunde Morakinyo,
Managing Director, ANI Foundation*



KEY INDICATORS OF IMPACT

Period: 1st January 2020 - 30th June 2021	Baseline (January 2020)	Figure at 30th June 2021
Approximate land secured for wildlife (ha) by GAPMT/ANI (we have assumed our patrols cover 30% of GGNP)	0	200,000
No. of rangers trained and supported by ANI	0	56
Ranger patrols (Km) – Foot	0	620
Ranger patrols (Km) – Car	0	3,920
Ranger patrols (Km) – Air	0	0
No. of snares collected	0	50
No. of firearms Confiscated	0	7
No. of arrests Made	2	121
Bushmeat recovered (Kg)	0	456
No. of Illegal incidences prevented	0	11
No. of Human Wildlife Conflict recorded	0	2
Km of internal park roads opened/rehabilitated	0	85
No of communities surveyed (out of a total of 38)	0	24
No of community meetings held	0	72
No of vehicles rehabilitated	3	5
No of new vehicles bought	0	3
No of park buildings rehabilitated	0	20
No of new park buildings constructed	0	3

*Note that the figures above reflect changes as a result of ANI support. So, for example, the park has been arresting offenders as well, but the numbers above reflect the activities carried out by the Gashaka ANI Project Management Team (GAPMT) which includes the national park rangers trained and equipped by ANI.

OUR ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

5.1 OUR TEAM

ANI signed a 30-year partnership agreement in November 2017, with the Nigerian National Park Service (PkS) to provide technical, management and financial support for Gashaka Gumti National Park. This was a bold visionary move by the Federal Ministry of Environment and is the first agreement ever signed between the Nigerian government and an NGO for co-management of a national park. This was followed up with a more detailed supporting document (the Implementation Manual) in July 2019 which established a Local Organising Committee (LOC) to oversee ANI's activities in the ark and the Gashaka ANI Project Management Team (GAPMT) that would implement the activities approved by the LOC.

ANI Foundation has three Directors/Board Members:

- **Chairman:** Phillip Iwuala Ihenacho
- **Managing Director:** Andrew Babatunde Morakinyo
- **Executive Director (Security and Operations):** Olajide Laleye

In October 2020, we successfully recruited Quinton Rochat, as Gashaka Project Manager. Quinton brings a deep knowledge of protected area management from South Africa, Mozambique, Tanzania, and the DRC. He is also a qualified helicopter pilot. We are very excited to have him join our team and he has already had a big impact on the project! Besides Quinton, the Gashaka ANI Project Management Team includes:

- **Head of Logistics:** Colonel Chidi Ukoha

- **Head of Operations:** Kamaya Pepeh (seconded from GGNP)
- **Gashaka Section Manager:** Samuel Amos Meshack
- **Community Liaison Manager:** David Dagizuwa Peter

Reporting to the GAPMT is the following:

- ANI rangers x 7
- GGNP rangers x 50
- Kwano Research Assistants x 3
- Support staff (drivers, housekeepers, plumber, electrician, control room operators) x 14

Besides our team in Gashaka, others based in Lagos/Abuja are:

Financial Controller: Judith Abolo-Tedi

Business Processes/HR: Victor Okorie

Wildlife Policy Coordinator: Wilson Ogoke

We have developed a strong and effective working relationship with the National Park Service and make a good team! We meet regularly in Abuja at the PkS headquarters to discuss wider strategic issues. On a weekly basis, the GAPMT and GGNP management decide upon operational issues. We are pleased to report that this productive collaboration has resulted in a very positive impact on the park in a short time and caused the Minister of State for Environment when she visited in May 2021 to remark that "GGNP is the safest and most welcoming of all the parks in the country".

Trained Rangers with Jide Laleye, Tunde Morakinyo and Phillip Ihenacho



Project Manager Quinton Rochat and Phillip Ihenacho



Phillip Ihenacho, Tunde Morakinyo and Quinton Rochat



Tunde Morakinyo and Jide Laleye

5.2 Refurbished Gashaka Outpost

We have invested heavily in establishing an operational base at Gashaka ANI Outpost (GAO) on the edge of the park. This required almost total rehabilitation of over 20 buildings many of which had been unoccupied for many years and construction of new ones. The GAO complex now accommodates 55 rangers and 8 ANI staff. Work has included:

- **Rehabilitated buildings:** 4 room office complex, radio/ control Room, 7 ranger houses each with 2 rooms, 1 ranger barracks with multiple rooms, research office converted into storerooms, office toilet, workshop, research/ training House, old equipment store converted into a staff canteen, and generator building.



- **New facilities:** armoury, ranger barracks toilet/shower, Gashaka main entrance gate, Gashaka shooting range and parade ground.

- **Rehabilitated buildings:** 4 room office complex, radio/ control Room, 7 ranger houses each with 2 rooms, 1 ranger barracks with multiple rooms, research office converted into storerooms, office toilet, workshop, research/ training House, old equipment store converted into a staff canteen, and generator building.



- **Electricity:** Installed a new 24-hour power supply system at the office, armoury, and Control room with back up battery bank and inverter. We are in the process of installing a solar system to minimize our fuel consumption and be more sustainable.

- **Internet:** Installed an internet/wifi enabled centre for tracking and planning ranger movements.

5.3 Park Infrastructure and vehicles

The Park is vast, and it can take nearly 2 days to drive the entire length of the park. Good infrastructure is essential for good protection of a protected area. While much of the park is only accessible on foot, there are roads along parts of its perimeter connecting many of the surrounding villages. Bridges and access roads enable the rangers to move to and away from flash points around the park quickly. Having rugged strong reliable 4WD vehicles is also important to move rangers and staff around. Key activities includes:

New Mayo Kam Bridge and opened internal park roads:

We hired local labour to build a seasonal bridge over the Mayo Kam River which gets removed each rainy season. Building the bridge was lots of fun involving over 100 villagers working for a full day! In addition, the following park roads have been repaired or opened-up.

The first two below had become totally overgrown over the years:

- Mayo Kpaa loop (~30km)
- Western boundary road between Gidan Zaria & Bodel road intersection (~20km)
- Gashaka village bypass road and Gashaka village to Mayo Gashaka wet season road (~5km)
- main road between Bodel and Gashaka (~30 km)



Vehicles: ANI has refurbished 3 of the park's existing 4WD park vehicles. We purchased and deployed two more second hand 4WD vehicles. At the time of writing, we were waiting for the arrival of another 2 x 4WD Land Cruisers, a brand new 4WD tractor and two aluminium boats. The lack of adequate vehicles remains an on-going challenge.



Communications and Domain Awareness System: The lack of communications has been a serious challenge for the park and the rangers had been without communications on patrol for several years. ANI installed a satellite enabled Domain Awareness System (DAS) consisting of 24 Iridium satellite radios, 18 ranger tracking devices (Rockstar), 14 Garmin cyber trackers. The system runs on Earth Ranger software and enables the rangers to collect data on patrol which is streamed live to computer screens in the control room that is monitored 24 hours a day. Besides collecting data, it enables us to send back up support to rangers at short notice, essential for unpredictable encounters that may occur.



Shooting range and parade ground: We have also constructed a shooting range for regular target practice by the rangers and a parade ground which is used for daily drill practice.

5.4 Equipped rangers

The lack of decent equipment for the park’s rangers has been a particular challenge. To equip the rangers properly, we purchased the following equipment for 50 rangers in total:

Item	Quantity
Olive Green L/SL Military Field Shirts	100
Olive Green Combat Trousers	100
Olive Green 1l Ranger Water bottle	50
Olive Green Military Drill Caps	50
Olive Green Short Bush Socks (pairs)	150
Olive Green Crew Neck T-shirts	100
Black Physical Training Shorts	50
Olive Green Web Belts	50
Olive Green Rubberized Ranger Poncho	50
Silver Steel Handcuffs	50
Charcoal Grey Eva Sleeping Mats	50
Poffadder Brown Boots various sizes	50
Trail base Outdoorsman Tents	50
Chest webbing	50
Back packs	50
JW SABS Gumboots	50
JW 258 Men’s Shoes	50



All this equipment was purchased in South Africa from various suppliers and arrived in Abuja by airfreight in March 2020.

On the 6th of February 2021, ANI held a ceremony in Abuja to present all the equipment purchased for the park’s rangers to Nigeria’s Minister of Environment. The event was extensively covered on national TV and the newspapers as well as on social media.





5.5 Training and deployment of rangers

ANI and the National Park Service recognized the importance of training for a park to have a well-disciplined and effective ranger force. So, ANI in partnership with the National Park Service embarked on a training programme using the services of Conservation Outcomes (CO), a highly respected international ranger training organisation. CO have trained rangers in parks all over Africa and bring a huge amount of practical hands-on experience to the project.

In February 2020, seventy-nine (79) rangers participated in a screening process out of which twenty-five (25) successfully completed the selection. Then COVID struck and all training was put on hold. In January 2021, CO screened an additional 51 individuals of which 28 passed the screening.

Over an eight-week period from January – March 2021, forty-one (41) trainees, thirty-two (32) rangers, seven (7) casual recruits and two (2) interns began the Basic Field Ranger (BFR) course. This comprised of:

1. The Field Ranger and the Law (including human rights)
2. Parade Ground Training and Physical Training
3. Firearm Training and Armed Contacts
4. Tactical Patrols, Navigation and Radio Communication
5. Camp Attacks, Unarmed / Close quarter combat and Ambushes – rapid and deliberate
6. First Aid and Practical Deployment

ANI in partnership with the National Park Service embarked on a training programme using the services of Conservation Outcomes (CO), a highly respected international ranger training organisation.



A total of 41 successfully completed training (including 2 interns) and took part in a Passing Out Parade on 13th March 2021.

The Passing Out Parade and a momentous occasion for the national park. The rangers spent weeks practicing their drills on the new parade ground and in the run up to the event, all hands were on deck to get the Outpost ready for our guests. On the day itself, the Passing Out Parade was attended by the Conservator General himself (representing the Minister of Environment), an Assistant Conservator General, representatives from the Taraba State and Adamawa State Governments, the Local Government Chairman, the Lamdo of Gashaka, a wide range of traditional chiefs, the police. Other key local agencies also attended and last but not least, over 300 people from the local communities and the press.

During the parade, music was provided by the army band from the 20 Battalion stationed down the road from the park.

It was immensely moving to see our trainees on the parade knowing how tough the training was and what it took to get to this day! Luckily for us,

everything went very smoothly in terms of the logistics of getting our guests from Serti to the park and back (across 3 rivers) and providing all the dignitaries with food after the event.

Since then, we have trained another 14 park rangers who will guard key facilities around the park rather than going out on patrol.

Since the training, we have commenced the deployment of systematic ranger patrols across the park. We have 5 teams of 8 rangers who go out on 7-day rotation camping and foot patrols to different parts of the southern section of the park. So, at any time, we have 3 teams out, 1 team resting at the Outpost and another team on Leave. In the period May-June we covered over 620 km on foot patrols and over 3,920 km with vehicle patrols. We made 121 arrests which consisted of illegal cattle herders, poachers, miners, and loggers all of whom have been handed over to the park for prosecution.

It is exciting to note that this has made a big impact already with incidences of illegal activity dropping dramatically and we hope to see a corresponding rebound in animal populations!

A total of 41 successfully completed training (including 2 interns) and took part in a Passing Out Parade on 13th March 2021.



5.6 Community Engagement and surveys

Gashaka Gumti National Park is one of the poorest parts of the country with 8 villages living inside the park and another 38 within 2km of the park's perimeter. They are mostly engaged in cattle herding, farming, and petty trading. ANI aims to build partnerships with the communities around the park so we can work together to protect it. However, we recognise that this requires us to identify common goals and achieve mutual benefits together. We would plan to enroll the communities as guardians and stewards for the park and for the park to provide them with jobs and development benefits in return.

So, in April/May 2021 over a period of four weeks, ANI conducted a comprehensive socio-economic

survey on the communities using two Nigerian specialist organisations: Translantic Development Ltd (TDL) and the Centre for Micro-enterprise Development (CMD). The survey had two aims:

- To engage the communities in and around the park, inform them about the aims of the ANI project and solicit their opinions.
- To collect qualitative and quantitative data from a sample of communities within GGNP and its buffer zone to understand socio-economic profile and development challenges to inform potential development projects for to ANI support in livelihoods education and health.





The survey was a huge logistical challenge involving the movement of a team of 28 social surveyors, 8 rangers, 3 cooks and 4 porters into the mountains with no roads! We ended up using 20 donkeys and 10 motorbikes to get all the people, food, and tents into the mountains. While we used a few tents, most of us stayed in houses provided by the villagers who were incredibly friendly and welcoming. It is a credit to the park staff that the relationship with the communities is good, so they did all the initial introductions for us.

It was quite an adventure and good fun too as well as hard work but there was a great camaraderie between all the surveyors by the end of the 3 weeks! During the survey time, we held separate meetings with groups of men, women, traditional leaders, hunters, cattle herders, and farmers in 14 villages and also did a 100% household survey in 9 of the villages. CMD was chiefly in charge of the household survey while TDL conducted the focus group meetings.

The key findings of the survey report include:

- Most villages around the park are small, the largest surveyed had **740** people, the smallest had **66** people
- Most people are engaged in subsistence farming and cattle herding
- There are no schools or health centres in any of the villages in the park
- Literacy levels are very low even for this part of Nigeria and poverty levels are high
- **90%** of the people are semi-nomadic Fulani
- There is generally a very good relationship between the park and communities
- They are overwhelmingly keen to collaborate with the project to protect the park
- There is much interest in support for education, health and village enterprise (e.g. agriculture and processing of shea nuts/other non-timber forest produce)



5.7. Partnership with WCS and EIA on activities to combat the Illegal Wildlife Trade in Nigeria

Outside of Gashaka Gumti National Park, due to inconsistent laws regarding the trade in wildlife and weak enforcement, Nigeria to become a global transit hub for the Illegal Wildlife Trade in elephant ivory, pangolin scales, and African rosewood sourced from other countries across Central and West Africa. For our Gashaka Project, it has become clear that besides protection of wildlife within the park, we also need to address the demand for wildlife products across Nigeria.

ANI has partnered with the Wildlife Conservation Society Nigeria (WCS), on a project funded by the UK Government to do two things:

- Work with communities around Gashaka Gumti National Park and Yankari Game Reserve to establish partnerships that will gather local intelligence on the IWT trade, work with the rangers to address poaching and to develop alternative livelihoods
- Gather intelligence on the illegal wildlife trade crossing the border between Adamawa State in Nigeria and the Northern Province of Cameroon and strengthen the capacity of the law enforcement agencies on both sides of the border to work together.



ANI has also partnered with the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) on a US Government funded project to revise Nigeria's laws regarding IWT and to strengthen the various law enforcement agencies, getting them to work together more effectively. We are excited to report that we have just completed an analysis of the gaps between all the relevant laws of Nigeria regarding the Illegal Wildlife Trade in consultation with Customs, the police, National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA), National Park Service, Ministry of Environment, EFCC and others. The next step is now to agree how to draft new laws to address these weaknesses.





PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMING YEAR

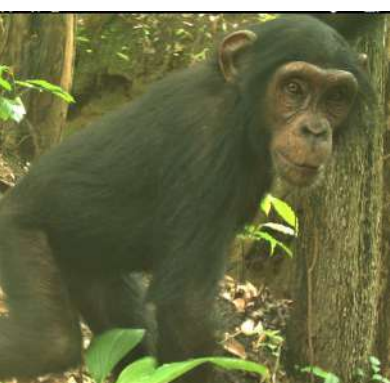
ANI working with the Park authorities, has made a solid start over the last year in Gashaka in terms of establishing a functional project base, deploying well equipped and trained rangers across the Park and engaging the communities. It is important to note that our strong working relationship with the National Park Service has been critical to this success. In the coming year we plan to build upon this foundation.



1 Park protection (infrastructure and ranger deployment)

We have established regular systematic patrols across the southern third (1/3rd) of the park.

- Over the coming year we plan to establish a new outpost in the highlands of the park from which we will deploy a new ranger force across another 3rd of the park. This is incredibly exciting since the new Highland Ranger Team Outpost will protect the park's unique montane forests and grasslands that have come under considerable pressure in the past 20 years. This habitat incredibly special for the African continent and is one of the best examples in West Africa.
- This will be made possible by the deployment of a helicopter to move rangers from the lowland part of the park to the highland outpost.
- We will also train and equip 40 more rangers hired from the communities living around the park.



2 Animals and research

Having secured a good portion of the park we can begin research to establish an ecological baseline.

- We plan to gain a better understanding of Gashaka's important Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee population. The population around the central rainforests in the park are relatively well known. Very little is known about a second population up in the mountains – so our highland outpost should give us access to the chimpanzees in this little-known part of the park.
- Using camera traps, we also hope to obtain population information on the park's large mammals including leopard, golden cat, pangolins, buffalo, and a wide range of antelope species.



3 Community Engagement & Participation

We have just completed a comprehensive survey of all the communities living inside the park and a sample of those living around the perimeter. We plan to:

- Employ rangers from neighbouring communities
- Upgrade schools and access to clean water in the park's neighbouring communities

- Provide secondary and tertiary education bursaries and access to primary education to communities living in the park enclaves
- Implement development projects in partnership with the communities that will focus on education and village enterprises (such as shea nut harvesting and processing and honey production).
- Discuss and sign partnership agreements with communities and develop a strategy for engagement with the nomadic pastoralists who visit the park seasonally.

4 **Private sector investment (Eco-tourism, shea butter and forest carbon)**

Sustainable finance is a key aspect of our vision for the medium to long protection of Gashaka Gumti National Park. Right from the outset, we have planned for private sector enterprises whose profits can contribute towards the annual running costs of the park.

- **Eco-tourism:** we plan to develop tented accommodation for tourists in some locations in the park.
- **Shea butter:** we will work with the women in some selected communities to start harvesting, processing, and exporting shea butter.
- **Forest carbon:** the forests and grasslands of the park hold a huge amount of carbon and are of strategic importance to Nigeria. We have started to explore the potential of this landscape as a carbon offset which would also help Nigeria to meet its international climate change commitments.





ANI

Africa Nature Investors (ANI) Foundation

St Nicholas House (10th Floor)

Catholic Mission Street, Lagos, Nigeria

Tel: +234 907 732 7123

Email: tm@ani-nigeria.org; qr@ani-nigeria.org

Website: www.africanatureinvestors.org

Instagram: [ani_foundation](https://www.instagram.com/ani_foundation)

Twitter: [@ANI_Foundation](https://twitter.com/ANI_Foundation)

Facebook: [ANI_Foundation](https://www.facebook.com/ANI_Foundation)