

**APPENDIX F**

**TRIP DIARIES**

## **APPENDIX F**

Included in this appendix are trip diaries completed by Duncan Thomas, Tom Olson, Peter Vaux, and Tommy Smith for field biology surveys conducted in 1998 in Chad.

**TRIP DIARY – PETER VAUX AND LAOBEL DARA/FISHERIES SURVEY TEAM**  
**CHAD EXPORT PROJECT**  
**FISHERIES SURVEYS**

February 1998

Friday, 20th: Vaux arrived N'Djamena. Met with L. Dara (Chadian counterpart).

Saturday, 21st: In N'Djamena. Review of sampling protocols and sampling sites. Revision of socioeconomic questionnaire. Purchase of miscellaneous supplies.

Sunday, 22nd: In N'Djamena.

Monday, 23rd: 07:00 flight to Komé Base. Visited prefect in Doba and sous-prefect in Bebedjia. Equipment review and check.

Tuesday, 24th: a.m. - Set up electrofishing unit. Sampled Nya River on Komé-Galaba road.  
p.m. - Visited Bero. Located suitable sampling site on Nya River at Loule confluence. Examined fish captured by local fishers. Made arrangements for sampling following morning.

Wednesday, 25th: Sampled Nya River at Loule confluence. Provided field interview for ESSO film crew.

Thursday, 26th: Vaux visited Pendé River villages of Sindalolo and Nala, and interviewed fishermen and market women. Dara departed Komé Base by road for Bessao, en route visiting villages close to smaller watercourse pipeline crossing sites. Interviewed local inhabitants to evaluate extent of fishing activity in these watercourses.

Friday, 27th: Vaux visited various points along Nya River floodplain and conducted interviews at Donia fish market and at Bedia. Dara visited sites on Lim and Mbere rivers and made arrangements for sampling. Visited sous-prefect in Baibokoum.

Saturday, 28th: Vaux departed Komé Base by air for Bessao and rejoined Dara. Interviewed fishermen at Ouli Bangala and visited sampling site on Lim River. Conducted interview at Ngouae, near Mbere River sampling site.

March 1998

Sunday, 1st: Sampled Mbere River, approximately 2.7 km upstream of pipeline crossing site. Hiked downstream to inspect pipeline crossing site. Visited market at Mini.

Monday, 2nd: Sampled Lim River at pipeline crossing site and at bridge on Bessao-Baibokoum road.

Tuesday, 3rd: Vaux and Dara evacuated by air from Bessao to Komé Base because of deteriorating security situation in region. (Original plan called for return to Komé Base by road, visiting and sampling Mbango River en route.)

Wednesday, 4th: Vaux remained at Komé to work on fish samples. Dara sampled commercial fish harvest at Sindalolo, and visited Kaba and Bero along Loule River to conduct interviews.

Thursday, 5th: Visited Bebedjia fish market and inspected fish from market women en route from Logone Occidental River to Bebedjia. Visited Logone floodplain villages of Rogueldou, Rodoman, Robabe, Mearom and Bengala. Visited site of former Chinese irrigation project on Nya River and conducted interview at Nya River villages of Leur and Kagroué.

Friday, 6th: Departed Komé Base for N'Djamena.

Saturday, 7th: Vaux departed N'Djamena for U.S.

**TRIP DIARY - TOM OLSON/WILDLIFE SURVEY TEAM**  
**CHAD EXPORT PROJECT**  
**WILDLIFE SURVEYS**

January 1998

Wednesday, 21st: Final preparation in Dames & Moore's Santa Barbara office. Flew from SBA to SFO. Met Duncan Thomas in the SFO airport. Boarded flight to Charles deGaulle (CDG) Airport in Paris. Worked on daily schedule.

Thursday, 22nd: Arrived at CDG in Paris at 10:00 a.m. (local time). Checked into the Sheraton and slept between flights. Met Tommy Smith and Jean Paul Ledant at the Sheraton prior to boarding the flight to N'Djamena. Boarded flight to N'Djamena, Chad.

Friday, 23rd: Arrived in N'Djamena with Duncan Thomas, Tommy Smith, and Jean Paul Ledant. Joseph and Sayeed of Esso assisted in getting through customs. Driven by Sayeed, along with our luggage to the Novotel Hotel. Met briefly with Joel Pastor of Esso. He is responsible for socioeconomic and public relations efforts. We will be in competition with him for field vehicles. In the hotel conference room, we met Honimadji Hoinathy (HH), Kadioum Amidou (KA), and Rombom Ouigabet (RO). HH is an independent consultant, KA is a Chad government counterpart, and RO appears also to be a consultant (although this is somewhat in dispute). Drafted up contracts with HH, RO (French translation by Jean Paul Ledant). Spread out maps in the conference room and set up a preliminary field schedule. Met Greg Skov of Esso at lunch. Dinner at the hotel.

Saturday, 24th: Breakfast with Smith, Thomas, Ledant. Then met in the conference room with HH, KA, and RO. Drafted data sheets, interview forms. Set up preliminary wildlife database. Sayeed drove us to the market to buy miscellaneous items. Finished contract with RO.

Sunday, 25th: Checked out of the hotel at 7:00 a.m. At the airport at 7:30 a.m. Two-hour flight to Komé Base Airstrip. Overflight of Oil Field Development Area (OFDA) at 10:30 a.m. Later, drove to the Loule River where we stopped and walked around to view wildlife and habitats. This was in the OFDA. At dinner, met with the supervisor of Boig (French company working on roads) to discuss condition of roads. Earlier, checked into accommodations at Komé Base Camp.

Monday, 26th: Met with anthropologist, Ellen Brown, at Komé Base Camp. Discussed protocols for contacting prefects, subprefects, etc., and for scheduling vehicles and security. Also interviewed her about wildlife. At noon, started overflight of the pipeline route. Stopped at Bessao for lunch.

Tuesday, 27th: Drove to Doba with Ellen Brown and RO. I presented our study to the prefect. Also interviewed Beningar Rando, Head of Environmental Studies for the Logone Orientale District (Ministry of Forestry). Bought tea and sugar at the market. Made arrangements for flights to Bessao, vehicles, radios.

Wednesday, 28th: Flew to Bessao with TS, HH, KA. In Bessao, met with Chef du PA. Chef du Canton not available. Interviewed villagers. About 100 in attendance, including 83 adults (78 men, 3 women). Conducted interview at Mandog (=Madoc). 40 individuals, but only 12 were adults.

Thursday, 29th: Flew to Bessao with TS, HH, TO, KA, DT, LPL, and Bernard Doumngar (BD). Drove to Baibokoum and met with sous-prefect. Then drove to Mbassaye, where we met the Chef du Canton and conducted an interview. A total of 95 individuals, including 65 adults (64 were men). Ground survey along tributary to the Lim River.

Friday, 30th: Flew to Bessao with TS, HH, KA, DT, RO, BD, JPL. Drove to the vicinity of Mandog. Spent the day along the Lim River. Hired a guide from Mandog. Found elephant sign in sorghum field. Specifically looked at proposed pipeline crossing of the Lim River. Setup e-mail capability.

Saturday, 31st: Left Komé Base Camp by vehicle at 6:00 a.m. with TS, JPL. Ground survey at Nya River and associated marshlands. Conducted interview in Mokassa. 40 adults, 25-30 children. More children attended during school recess. Conducted interview in Kagopal. Sparsely attended by villagers because it was market day. Later in afternoon, conducted interview at Kagroué. About 80 adults (75 were men), 50-60 children. Earlier watched hunters situated at edge of fire.

February 1998

Sunday, 1st: Flew to Bessao at 6:30 a.m. Drove from there past Mandog. Conducted interview at Koko. 40 adults (all men), 20-30 children. After interview, drove to vicinity of Jamy, a virtually uninhabited village. At 3:00 p.m., conducted interview at Dotogou. 20 adults (about one-half were men), 30 children. Observed elephant sign nearby. Talked to Ulrich Sellier by phone in Novotel Hotel. Main discussion topics: accommodations, vehicles, flights to Bessao.

Monday, 2nd: Flew to Bessao with TS, JPL, HH, KA, DT, RO, BD. Conducted interview at Bitoi I. 50 adults (40 men), 20-30 children. Earlier - surveyed vicinity of road crossing over the Lim River. Conducted interviews at Bindoya. Stopped in Baibakoum to inform local police of our activities. Looked at proposed pipeline and new road crossings of the Mbere River.

Tuesday, 3rd: Conducted interviews at Mbidoya (18 adults, 10 children) and Kouloulou (35 adults, 20-25 children). TS left for N'Djamena.

Wednesday, 4th: Drove to Timberi. Ground survey in vicinity. Conducted interview at Timberi. 30 men, 1 woman. Ground survey in gallery forest nearby. Also at Makas River.

Thursday, 5th: Ground survey at Loule River. Conducted interview at Sindalolo. 25 adult men, 15-20 adult women, 30-35 children. Ground survey near the village - along the Logone River. Conducted interview at Dildio. 35 adult men, 30 children. Ground survey at Logone River nearby. Repacked equipment with DT. Prepared to leave Komé Base Camp tomorrow. Paid HH with personal check.

Friday, 6th: Returned radios, batteries, and chargers to Eric Phillipe. Discussed Peter Vaux's upcoming field schedule with Eric. Disconnected and packed laptop computer. Flew from Komé Base Camp airstrip to N'Djamena. Checked into Novotel Hotel for several hours. Took taxi to Esso office and inquired about a crate of equipment that had not been received. Evidently, it was still in customs. Dinner in N'Djamena. Flew to Paris at 12:25 a.m. (February 7th).

Saturday, 7th: Flew N'Djamena to Paris. Five-hour layover in Paris, then flew to SFO. About a 2-hour layover in SFO, then flew to SBA.

**TRIP DIARY – DUNCAN THOMAS/BOTANICAL SURVEY TEAM**  
**CHAD EXPORT PROJECT**  
**BOTANICAL SURVEYS**

January 1998

Tuesday, 20th: Trip preparation and packing.

Wednesday, 21st: Drive to Eugene (80 miles @ 0.28), flight to San Francisco, met Tom Olson, flight SF to Paris Charles de Gaulle.

Thursday, 22nd: Arrive CDG, checked into Sheraton at terminal 2, slept mostly. Hotel bill 897.50, overcharged 90FF: 987.50. Met Tommy Smith and Jean-Paul Ledant.

Friday, 23rd: Flight from CDG to N'Djamena, arrived 5 am, cleared immigration and customs with the help of Joseph & Sayeed, went to Novotel room 206 (524312, 523311), Tom 209, Tommy 212, Ledant 210. Met Joel Pastor (coordinator of the socio-economic teams). Held a meeting at Novotel with Honimadji Hoinathy (wildlife dept., acting as an independent consultant) and Kadioum Amidou, representing the forestry department. Tom drew up a contract for HH. Went over basic plan. Rombon arrived, went to forestry department, obtained Ordre de Mission. Back at hotel, finished up, went to Esso office, checked equipment list, got radio, completed visa applications. Met Greg Skov at lunch. Went over the alignment sheets in the afternoon, fell asleep early.

Expenses: Taxi, 10,000.

Saturday, 24th: Woke up 3 am, worked on Rombon contract, data sheets, checked GPS unit (does not have UTM). Met Smith, Olson, Ledant at breakfast, afterwards met at hotel conference room. Hoinathy and Kadioum arrived, Rombon came later. Rombon signed contract for \$100 per day. Studied alignment sheets for habitat areas, matched alignment sheets to 1:200,000 maps, discussed equipment with Rombon, started work on plant databases, assisted animal databases, arranged flights with Sayeed, went to the market, came back, had lunch, set up Excel on Tom's computer. Went to bed early.

Expenses: batteries 5,000 cfa, parking 500 cfa.

Sunday, 25th: Up at 3 am, working on program.

Monday, 26th: Around Kome base, setting up airplane schedule and vehicles.

Tuesday, 27th: Around Kome base. Checked the equipment (1 box still in N'Djamena), made an equipment list, moved equipment into the warehouse, withdrew items needed for our surveys. Talked to John Cantrell, got the email set up using an external modem. Held meetings arranging the future program, worked with Tom on problems with transportation – aircraft, vehicles, etc.

Wednesday, 28th: Went into the field with Bernard Doumngar, Rombon Ougabet, Jean-Paul Ledant. Visited woodland sites in the Kagopal area, did one 0.5 ha transect in *Isobertina* woodland, 0.5 ha in gallery forest.

Thursday, 29th: Flew to Bessao village, then drove west, past Baibokoum. Visited sub-prefect, went on, climbed a hill and did a tree transect of 0.5 ha. Came back and went down towards river, did 0.5 ha transect along the edge of a thin-soil iron pan area. Flew back.

Friday, 30th: Flew to Bessao, spent the day in the area of Mandog village and the Lim River, signs of elephant. Did 0.5 ha transect along the river bank, saw lots of *Irvingia smithii*.

Saturday, 31st: Flew to Bessao with Rombon, Doumngar. Went along road south through Mandog (tried to get in the east end of it, but it was blocked). Continued south to Koko, came back and did a transect along pipeline route. Returned to Bessao.

February 1998

Sunday, 1st: In oil field area. Visited Sunday markets at Doba, Gore, saw *Zizyphus* and *Balanites* fruits for sale, along with karite nuts and bottled oil (for cooking). Did transect in Timberi Forest Reserve, then another along the pipeline route between Timberi and Kagopal. Saw elephant signs in Timberi FR.

Monday, 2nd: Flew to Bessao, drove to Mbere River at Bitoi with Rombon, Doumngar, did 2 0.5 ha transects.

Tuesday, 3rd: Flew to Bessai, drove back to Kome Base. Did transects in Garbidjian area.

Wednesday, 4th: 3 transects of 0.5 ha in the pipeline area between Bebe and Kagopal. Data entry in evening.

Thursday, 5th: 2 transects in Bolobo area, am, with Rombon, Doumngar; PM, data entry, packing. Checked local names with Rombon.

Expenses: paid Bernard Doumngar, 9 days @ 5,000 p.d. = 45,000

Friday, 6th: Back to N'Djamena, data entry, packing, flight to Paris, pm.

Saturday, 7th: Flight home. To London.

Sunday, 8th: (in London)

Monday, 9th: Flight to USA.

**TRIP DIARY – TOMMY SMITH/WILDLIFE SURVEY TEAM**  
**CHAD EXPORT PROJECT**  
**WILDLIFE SURVEYS**

January 1998

Thursday, 22nd: 1800 hr. Depart Brussels with JP Ledant for Esso Survey in Chad.

Friday, 23rd and Saturday, 24th: Arrived in N'Djaména at about 6 AM and continued to Novotel with Jean-Paul, Tom Olson and Duncan Thomas – met later with 2 Chadian representatives of the 'Direction des Parcs Nationaux et Reserves Naturelles' (Hoinathy Honimadji and Kadiom Amidou) who will participate in the survey. Spent some time discussing the details of their collaboration. Hoinathy will be paid but Kadiom will not be. I don't really understand why. Went over objectives of survey and scope (types) of work involved (aerial and ground reconnaissance and interviews) and rough schedule. Spent the afternoon of 23rd and all day the 24th studying alignment sheets to identify potential survey sites and developing interview and other survey data forms, including a checklist of mammals and a few other large species (e.g., crocodiles) to be covered in interviews.

Sunday, 25th: Depart N'Djaména in Otter. Arrived at Doma (oil dev. area) at about 9:30. Did an overflight of the oil dev. area – took notes in general on area. Had lunch and settled into porta-cabins. Met with Neil Daetwyler and went into field – gallery forest near the airstrip. Didn't see any mammals – some canid tracks (med. and small) could be dogs of villagers. Saw some tracks I didn't recognize – size of small opossum and similarly elongated digits and asymmetrical form – only 4 toes seen but track not especially clear. Took photos of both types. No scats, scrapes, or other sign. Probably a number of small carnivores occur in the area. Also got a report from the Nigerian pilot that a 'gazelle' was seen between the camp and airstrip this AM (0600) – red – no horns – obviously Cephalophus rufilatus or c. grimmia (Sylvicapra). East side of Pendé S of Dora not badly disturbed. Still lots of cattle on Nya-Loulé west of Doba heavy agric. So-called "relatively undisturbed savanna" is small and isolated – northern extremity indistinct. ±100-200 m borders of marsh along Nya.

Area around Miandoam heavily used – large village. Lots of livestock in Nya in vicinity of Kagroue. Area in immediate vicinity of Bero heavily used [?] N to river.

Notes on aerial survey of oil dev. area

Way Points:	1.	8°26'34/100" N	Wetland (Nya R)
		16°32'65/100" E	W of Bélabo
	2.	8°34 49	? E of Pendé/E of Bero

	16°52 39		
4.	8°31 40	?	Nya River SW of
	16°40 24		Béla.
5.	8°26 53	?	Oxbow W of Pendé
	16°50 48		

Flew S out of (temporary) airstrip then W, then E-W transects @ ± 5 km intervals = 5 passes; then S from S of Bébédjia to Nya River, then up Nya River to W of Bom, then E to Pendé River, then S along W side of Pendé River to ± 5 km S of airfield, then back to airfield.

### Notes

Site 1 – Lots of agriculture N of it – small village to South

Site 5 – Oxbow in Pendé NE of airstrip looks interesting. Forest along Loulé is not wide – lots of agriculture on both sides of river. Area N of Banga heavily used. Small ± interesting savanna NW of Bonga and NE of Bela. Wetland associated with Nya N of Bela is interesting.

Tel: 8-8- outside  
Fax: 8-9- access via Houston

Monday, 26th: 6AM – Went to Nya with JPL. Birded for ± 2 hours in wetland habitat along Nya River on South side of road. Had experiences with squirrel and spotted carnivore. The latter I saw running from the site but can't make an ID. It was cat-like, yellowish (light) with dark spots on back and tail, didn't appear long like greater civet and it was not tall like serval. It seemed rather stocky and not too tall [?] hair – didn't see head. It was at the base of a tree where we were looking @ a squirrel, probably. Returned to camp @ 0830 but flight did not happen till 11AM. Overflew pipeline. Area @ western end is very interesting and least 'spoiled' by human activity. Returned to camp @ ± 1430 and later walked in burned and fallow savanna S of road to airfield. Saw one western (striped) ground squirrel Euxerus erythropus. Driver says he saw 2 duikers on road. Later after meeting of team re: interviews and upcoming schedule, Ellen Brown told me she had seen a patas monkey last Jan in the old field dev. area.

Tuesday, 27th: Went to oxbow lake and grassland savanna on W side of Pendé River with JPL east of Mogram village. I walked around N side of oxbow, over to river, then back to the village (that sits on the W side of the oxbow) on the south side of the oxbow 8°30'20" N, 16°46'08" E. Grassland savanna is unique and probably covers 2-5 km<sup>2</sup> – no large mammals observed – no ungulate tracks – see JPL for birds, which included an unidentified eagle, crocodile bird, hammerkop, and several other "new" species – at 1530 went back to Nya to site where I saw squirrel and "genette" (cat?) but found no new sign.

Then walked ±45 min. in unburned savanna on N side of rd ±1 km NE of Nya – looks pretty good, is very dry – no large mammal sign.

Coordinates of last site:       8°29'54"N  
  16°41'12"E.

Tom Olson, Ellen Brown and Chadian counterparts interviewed someone today in Doba and obtained some useful information for entire area of pipeline.

Wednesday, 28th: 6 AM – walked in savanna in front (SE) of base camp with JPL until ±0800 – saw a few prints of a small ungulate, probably Cephalophus grimmia, lot of squirrel tracks, and an unidentified small carnivore track – cat? civet? mongoose, perhaps.

Flew to Bèssao with TO and two Chadian – did interview at village from ±1130 – 1330 – good information obtained.

Drove to Mandog S of Ouli Bangala and did interview in small village group – also lots of good information – elephants are in the vicinity (W end of pipeline route) these past few days and apparently come to this area during the dry season every year.

Data sheets for both interviews completed although the latter was abbreviated due to time constraints (need to meet airplane at 1600 at Bèssao).

Returned to Komé at ±1630.

After dinner had “recapitulation” meeting and made plans for tomorrow.

Thursday, 29th: Left with full vegetation and wildlife survey teams for Bèssao in twin otter.

Drove to Baibokoum to meet sous préfet, then on to Mbassaye to conduct interview – they speak a different tongue from our Chadian counterparts, so the translation was a bit slow and probably diluted (in meaning) – to my surprise, there was no mention of elephants and it appeared that wildlife in the area was not particularly common. This could have been untrue, however, because of either translation problems or the lack of hunters in the group – they were familiar with almost all the species on our checklist, however. They repeatedly referred to wildlife having moved across the river (Mbéré and Logone) and to Cameroon – it seems a unanimous opinion, so far, that this is the case. There actually are protected areas in Chad (Laramany) and Cameroon Bouba N'dijida across these rivers.

Drove on to mtn. SW of Mbassay where JPL, DT and crews were working. JPL saw a Cephalophus rufilatus on the mtn.

Drove to the Mpoum river that empties into the Lim and got  $\pm 1$  hr. of working in – little seen – 1 set of duiker tracks and a few birds – a nice but restricted gallery forest – not much water now.

Friday, 30th: At  $\pm 1100$  unidentified teardrop deer-like scats found in savanna – uncultivated recently burned undulating savanna.

0630 – Left Komé Base in twin otter for Bessao and drove to Mandog – walked with guide and full survey team to site where elephants had been a few days before – found scats in cultivated (millet) field at 590900/862725 ( $7^{\circ}48'11''/15^{\circ}49'33''$ )

Guide says 6-10 elephants had been seen there – at same site guide found antelope scat he identified as Tragelaphus scriptus – continued on the following route with associated observations.

590132/863153 – 300 m NW of here scats were found and identified by guide as Kobus, Kob – this was in grassland savanna 300 m SE of river 589800 – 863000 -  $\pm 100$  m S of this site coord. = 590131/863275.

1122 – Chadian counterpart says he saw two Kobus kob at  $\pm 589000/862069$  on S bank of river – elephant tracks  $\pm 100$  m further up river from kob observation.

1139 – I saw a Cephalophus rufilatus on treed river bank  $\pm 200$  m S of last fix.

1203 – Stopped to cool off at 588617/861606.

1354 – Finally arrived at bend in river where large (dry) stream bed enters a km or so N of crossing 590170-265/860290-320 – fresh tracks of large (male) elephants on riverbank (wooded/ trees).

Continued on to spot where pipeline will cross river 591094/859144 –  $7^{\circ}46'21''/15^{\circ}49'36''$  – site is shallow with sand bottom and  $\pm 5$  m high steep banks.

JPL gave me another distinct scat which is smaller than the other three types collected today but shaped like bushbuck.

TS saw Sylvicapra grimmia in savanna between airfield and base camp ( $\pm$  halfway) – scat of warthog found in savanna on peninsula of river – ground sq. obs. in floodplain gallery forest  $\pm 4$  km along river N of crossing – guard with JPC says he saw a gazelle ? where.

Saturday, 31st: @ 0615 left Komé Base with JPL and TO for Nya crossing W of here. Walked  $\pm 1$  km along E bank of river N of road – habitat is gallery forest with extensive grassy marsh

±100-200 m along either side – trees are patchy but generally large – one open area of marsh (±1 ha) on W side of river was being fished – several local people were cutting and collecting grass. No sign of mammals except for lots of tracks along track leading back to bridge (culverts). It's a long-toed animal and the track resembles a raccoon. I suspect it is a mongoose or possibly a genet or civet (the latter unlikely).

0830 – left with Chadian counterparts and TO to conduct interview – 1st at Mokassa, where we had a nice, informative group. 2nd at Kagopal where they were having market day and most of the men were rather drunk – we did the interview anyway but I was not pleased with the level of information nor its validity. 3rd at Kagroué, where we had a big turnout and rather animated, at times out-of-control group – information was pretty good, but the interview was overall mediocre. I like the small villages – simple seemingly trustworthy people who know about the wildlife and are not overwhelmed by the interview process and their participation in relation to other villagers. Saw a mongoose (Herpestes ichneumon) cross road in savanna between airfield and base at ±1800 hours.

February 1998

Sunday, 1st: 0620 – leave Komé Base Camp for airport and on to Bessao.

0725 – arrive Bessao and head west and up Lim R. Rd.

0840 – arrive at Koko and conduct interview – finish 1015.

Continue on to next village 590744/852133 – arrive 1130 (this village was small and new and apparently ±200 m past Jomy where everyone died, according to local information).

Left village for river on foot at 1135. Arrived at river at 1210 – river was straight for 400-500 m on E-W axis – navigable – people say elephants were on N side of river but did not cross to the south (where they have fields) coord. 588912/854260 – at W end of stretch, river turns north and at E end of stretch it turns north.

Walked back to village (which is (now) called Mberou) – coord. 589800/852598 – leave at 1341.

Return N on Lim R. Rd., cross main road and on to Dotogou (590047/870848) where we conducted a brief interview – arrived at 1500 and left at 1550.

Returned to Bessao and Komé Base at 1705. Duncan Thomas reports elephant sign (probably rather old) east of the Timbéri-Goré road at 8°01.66' 16°35.88' in the Timbéri Classified Forest.

\*On way to Dotogou we saw an area along the road where trees had been pushed down by elephants some time (several days or possibly much longer) ago.

Monday, 2nd: Leave base camp at 0615 for airport and on to Bessao, arriving at 0710. Drove W and stopped at Bindago which is now on main road, having moved from near the Lim reportedly because of elephants.

0845 – Pass through Baiboukoum.

0915 – @ base of mountain past Mbassaye 571548/844012 700 m EL – continue on through Bitoi I and to 2-house village near Mbéré River where new road and bridge will be. Land in this vicinity is cultivated but wild looking – walked down river 4-5 km to place where pipeline is projected to cross.

1040 – Bridge crossing: 559440/836453 417 m EL

1220 – Pipeline crossing:

Found considerable sign of hippo – scats and haul-out “ditches,” e.g., at 560075/836975 but several other places between bridge and pipeline crossings.

Return to cars and drive to Bitoi I to conduct interview (arrive 1400).

1515 – Terminate interview and return to Bessao.

Fly back to Komé base – arrive 1730.

Tuesday, 3rd: 0640 – Lift off from Komé airfield.

0820 – Arrived at Bindoya (Mbidoye) and conducted interview. Elephants reportedly were in the vicinity of the village last night and this morning most of the men were away, eastward towards the Lim River, “looking” for them.

0930 – Completed interview and headed back towards the east, driven by the chief of Esso’s security, who is here today to have a look at our survey procedure.

1005 – Arrive at Bessao.

1052 – Ourebi observed in burned, wooded savanna along road between Dokou and Gadjibian 620742/889240 – 686 m elevation (GPS readings) – this site was 3 km W of Gadjibian.

1237 – Arrived at Kouloulou and conducted interview and departed at 1400 hours.

1530 – Arrived back at Komé Base Camp – packed and departed for N'Djaména in otter at 1600.

1730 – Arrived N'Djaména and went to Novotal, where I waited until 2200 hours for Esso representative to take me to the airport.

Wednesday, 4th: 0100 – Departed N'Djaména.

±0800 – Arrived in Brussels (via Paris) and took train to IRSNB, where I worked until ±1500 hours.