

ONE HEALTH COMMUNITY-BASED WILDLIFE MORTALITY SURVEILLANCE FOR EBOLA

linking the public health
and conservation sectors



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Ebolavirus (EBOV) has caused disease outbreaks taking thousands of lives, threatening great ape populations and costing billions of dollars in control efforts. Central Africa remains a high-risk EBOV, but the Republic of Congo (RoC), has not had an epidemic since 2005. **EBOV** Ecology is not fully understood but infected wildlife and consumption of animal carcasses have been linked to human outbreaks, especially in the Congo Basin.

OUR ACTIONS



1

Community Surveillance

Partnering with the Congolese Ministry of Health, since 2008 we have delivered educational messages to a total of 8,503 hunters, and to thousands of women and children who frequently visit the forest to gather food, including teaching them the right attitudes towards a carcass found in the forest.



2

Early Warning System

Designed for EBOV detection and to alert public health authorities, we established a low-cost community-based wildlife mortality reporting network covering 50 000 km², relying on communities made aware of the risks posed by carcasses found in the forest.



3



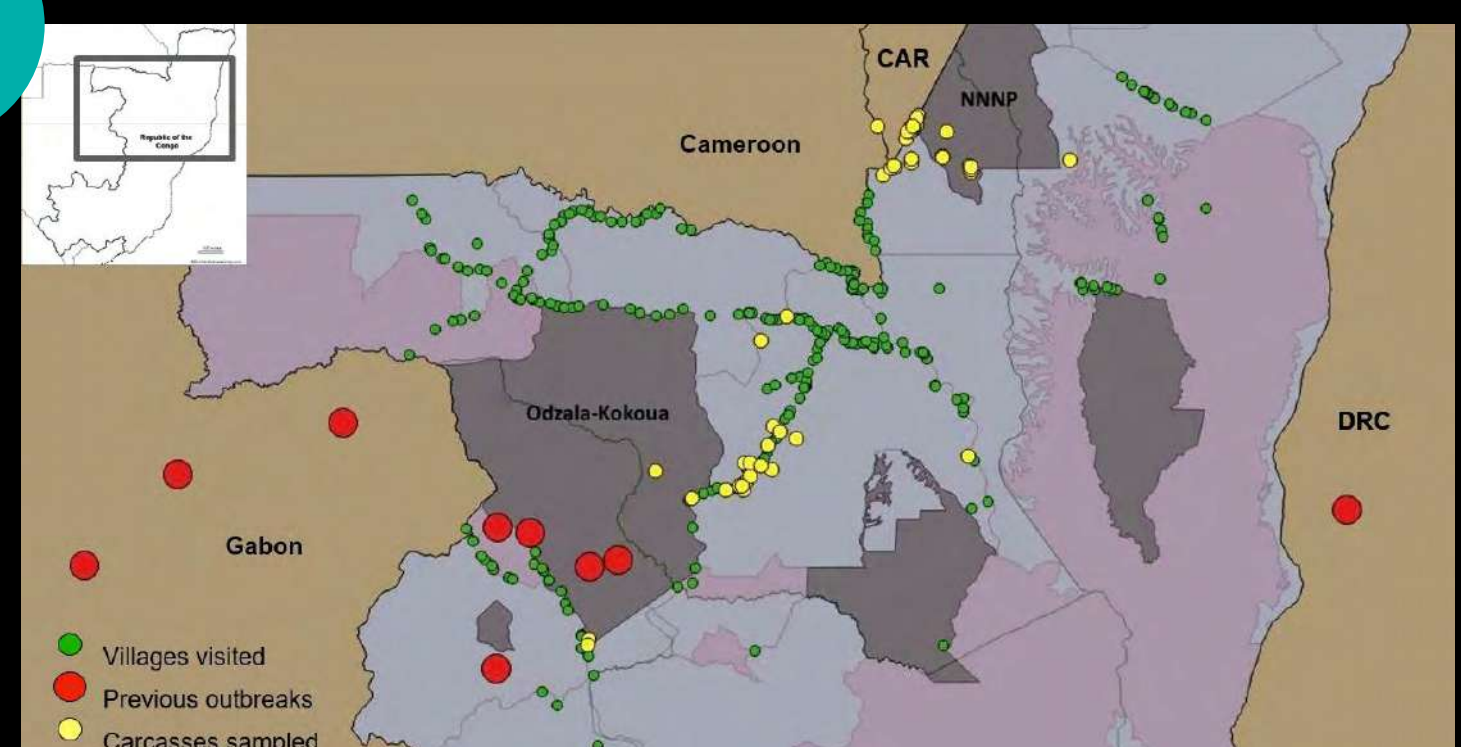
4

Sampling and Training

We achieved specimen collection by training project staff on a safe sampling protocol and equipping geographically distributed bases with sampling kits. Over 50 people in 5 different sites have been trained in carcass sampling.

Samples diagnostics

We established in-country diagnostics for EBOV testing, reducing diagnostic turnaround time to 3 days and demonstrated the absence of EBOV in 80 carcasses and are piloting field-based diagnostics with the Biomeme platform.



1. Figueroa, D. M. et al. One Heal. Outlook 3, 9 (2021);
2. Kuisma, E. et al. Philos. Trans. R. Soc. B Biol. Sci. 374, 20180339 (2019).