

Garamba National Park – Monthly report – November 2008

Targets for November

- Participation to the APN management meeting in Majete. Done
- Writing of the operational plan for 2009. Done
- Finish the fourth borehole in Gangala na Bodio. Delayed
- Finish the incorporation of new rangers in the ICCN. This process will take some months.
- Hold the hand-over and the transfer of the finance department. Done

General administration & logistics

- The AECID has already published on their official website their decision to fund the purchase of the grader. The APN board has approved to advance the money and to finance the difference due to the degrading exchange rate EUR-USD. Thanks to this advance, we will be able to take advantage of the dry season to open the roads.
- A new medical doctor has been recruited and works in Nagero since November, 1st. The former doctor, Jean Marie Mafuko, has been awarded the Abraham prize for his outstanding contribution to conservation during his time in Garamba.
- The Goma office has been officially closed. The equipment still needs to be transferred to Nagero. As of now, everything will be centralized in Nagero. The new financial administrator, along with the park director, has received training in accounting during the APN management meeting held in Majete.
- A new volunteer has come to work for 6 months in Garamba. He is going to help us to try to locate the old roads which were in the park and to identify some new ones that will be very important for monitoring, anti-poaching and tourism activities.
- The wings of the Park's Tetras micro-light, previously damaged by a storm in March, have now arrived in Nagero and will be assembled shortly to the frame.

Infrastructures

- The rainy season is coming to an end, and we have been able to resume the extraction of sand and gravel for the construction works, and to make the hydraform building blocks.
- The rehabilitation of the road to Faradje has begun. The roadside ditches have been opened to drain all water from the potholes, and the trees have been cut to enable the sun to dry the road. Even with these first steps, the driving time to Faradje has already considerably reduced and we have started renegotiating the costs with our transporters.

Law enforcement

- Two new boats equipped with outboard engines have arrived at the park. This will facilitate the patrolling mainly during the rainy season.
- All the senior staff in charge of the anti-poaching department have been changed and the intelligence service reinforced. Since then, the performance of the department has considerably improved.
- Regarding the local poaching, we received intelligence about the presence in the region of three AK 47 and several hunting arms. One poacher was arrested and admitted that he had killed two hippos. Based on his indications, our rangers managed to recover the weapon (AK47). Another AK 47 and six hunting guns have been also confiscated, and their users arrested (generally, the weapon's owner ask other people to hunt.)
- The rangers have made a total of 1.240 man-day patrols

Conservation

- The rhino trackers have worked all the month in the park and the reserves. A total of 780 man-days of monitoring patrols have been performed. No rhino sighting has been recorded during the month.

Community programmes

- The elephants have started their seasonal movements back to the Park and on their way through the villages along the boundary they have caused some crop damages. This means a lot of issues to deal with the population and many awareness meetings.
- The community team has collaborated with the rehabilitation of the road to Faradje which is done completely with the local population. This employment has helped us in some way to compensate the damages caused by the elephants.

Tourism

- A Spanish television crew has visited the park during 5 days. They came on a recce mission and will return in March for the actual documentary filming, which will focus on the rehabilitation of the park.

Targets for December

- Holiday for the Director, and the infrastructure manager of the Park
- Beginning of the stone and gravel extraction to fill the road to Faradje
- Final report on the rhino search mission.
- First mission to Mondo Missa Game reserve to try to locate the chimpanzees.
- Participation in a seminary about management plans in Kisangani

Work on the road to Faradje



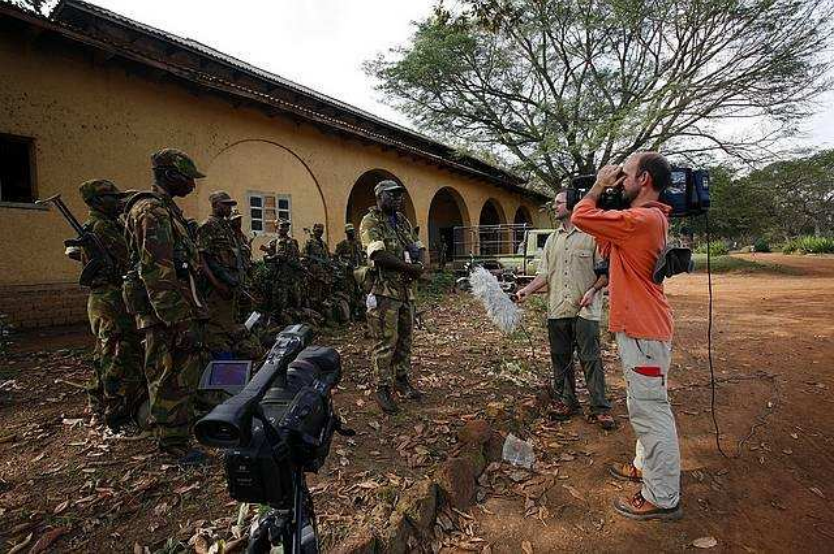
Weapons confiscated by our rangers



New doctor



The Spanish television crew



Elephants in very tall grass



Buffalos in the grass

