

Garamba National Park – Monthly report – October 2008

Targets for October

- Participation to the IUCN world conservation congress in Barcelona (Spain). Done
- Participation to a cross border conference on security in Arua, Uganda. Done
- Participation to a workshop on management plans in Beni. Postponed due to insecurity in North Kivu
- Participation to the regional technical meeting of ECOFAC in Bangui, CAR. Done
- Finish the fourth borehole in Gangala na Bodio. Impossible due to the rains
- Training for the brick-making machine (Hydraform). Done
- Intensify the rhino search with the assistance of two Kenyan expert trackers. Done

General administration & infrastructures.

- Approval by the committee of ECOFAC of the budget amendment for 2008. 500,000 euros of the Salonga NP component have been allocated to the eastern-DRC component (EUR 300,000 for Garamba and EUR 200,000 for ACF). The ECOFAC Programme and the EU have requested us to try to give some assistance to the Salonga component next year, for instance by providing technical advising on park management.
- Along the IUCN world conservation congress held in Barcelona, a meeting was organised between the ICCN authorities, the Spanish Cooperation (AECID) and the Environment Ministry top officials with the purpose of streamlining the Spanish partnership for the next years.
- Meeting with the AECID and the UICN in Barcelona. Despite the 14% overhead that IUCN is going to take on these initial AECID funds, it was made clear that the grant will be entirely managed by AP.
- Another Spanish grant of 165,000 euros has already been authorized to buy a motor grader, this time without any overhead.
- We have decided to close the office in Goma, partly because of its added cost but also because of the distance from the field activities. The new financial team will settle back in Garamba.

Logistics

- The fourth borehole in Gangala na Bodio has not been done, because the trucks could not reach their destination due to the poor conditions of the road. The borehole team has gone back to Uganda but left the machinery in Garamba. They will come back after the end of the rainy season.
- All the bricklayers who work in the Park have followed the training in brick manufacturing organised by Hydraform.
- We have started the water adduction works.

Law enforcement

- This month the anti-poaching team has spent 990 man-days on patrol. They have not been able to carry out normal patrols due to recent LRA attacks in the region and the presence of the Congolese army. This month one fresh elephant carcass was located in Mondo Misa DC.

Conservation

- The expert rhino trackers have arrived from Kenya and began to work in the park and the reserves. The monitoring patrols have also been disturbed by the insecurity, and the rhino search strategy had to be adjusted accordingly. A total of 480 man-days of monitoring patrols have been performed.

Community programmes

- We have started to clean the road to Faradje in agreement with the populations
- The team has continued working with the population in searching the rhinos in the "hunting sectors".
- As a result of the LRA attack and the installation of refugees in Dungu, the community programme has shifted its focus towards the assistance to these refugees. .
- An infrastructure expert volunteer from Holland is going to join the project in early November.

Tourism.

- A new expert has been recruited and will be in charge of tourism development, marketing and public relations in and outside the park.
- A new, totally independent accounting system has been established for the guest house

Targets for November

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



Brick factory



Bungalow



Tall grass in Garamba NP



Departure of rangers



The colour of the park is changing



Speckled mousebird (*colius striatus leucophthalmus*)