

## Garamba National Park – Monthly report – September 2008

### Targets for September

- Transboundary meeting in Nagero, between the Congolese and South Sudanese wildlife authorities. Done
- Participation to the cross border conference on security in Arua, Uganda. Beginning of October
- Preparation and presentation of a new project to the AECID (Spanish Cooperation Agency), with request for more funds. Done
- To finalise the contract with GRASP project and receive the funds from the Spanish Environmental Ministry. In progress
- Intensify the rhino search with the assistance of 2 Kenyan expert trackers. Delayed to October

### General administration & infrastructures.

- Rain has been disturbing lots of activities this month. The Dungu river has overflowed.
- Meeting held between the conservation authorities of DRC and South Sudan and the managers of Garamba NP and Lantoto NP. Contacts have been established and a list of recommendations has been signed.
- IUCN has informed us that they have already received the funds from the Spanish cooperation. We have now to submit a project document and sign the contract

### Logistics

- The borehole team has arrived at the Park after 17 days of travelling. Three out of the four planned boreholes have already been drilled.
- We are in contact with a Dutch volunteer who is keen to come and work with the infrastructure department during a period of six months.

### Law enforcement

- The Kenyan instructor continues the ranger training in the field. This month they have spent 1590 man-days on patrol.
- According to the information received a poacher in the Sambia area sold bush meat to the miners who work there. A ranger patrol has been able to stop him and confiscate his weapon.
- This month no fresh carcasses were located but we found a poacher camp between the Park and the DC Mondo Misa.

### Conservation

- A doctor in Biology from the University of Prague has arrived in Garamba to work for one year as a volunteer with the department of Monitoring.
- We have started recovering books and old documents which were at the Park to create a library and a database.
- A review of the studies done before and what must be done has been established. It is now necessary to prioritize the research and monitoring themes and to look at ways to implement them.
- The monitoring rangers have continued the rhino search (total of 580 man-days), but no sighting has been recorded.

### Community programmes

- The team has continued working with the population in searching rhinos in the "hunting sectors".
- All the materials that were missing to finish the ongoing micro projects have now been distributed to the local populations. All projects have now come to an end.
- Meeting with the community conservation department to review the performance strategy. Until now, it had programmed too many activities of which practically no one was finished. In accordance with time and budget, a new work programme has been set up until July 2009.

### Tourism.

- On 22 September, the national Spanish television broadcasted a 30-minute programme about Garamba and the work that we are doing there.

### Targets for October

- Participation to the IUCN world conservation congress in Barcelona (Spain)
- Participation to the cross border conference on security in Arua, Uganda.
- Participation to a workshop on management plans in Beni
- Participation to the regional technical meeting of ECOFAC in Bangui, Central African Republic
- Finish the fourth borehole in Gangala na Bodio
- Training for the brick-making machine (Hydraform)
- Intensify the rhino search with the assistance of 2 Kenyan expert trackers



*Transboundary meeting*



*Difficult to work ...*



*Waterhole construction*



*Rescue of old documents*