

both expertise in gorilla behaviour and full-time presence with the gorillas over several months. C. Aveling identified suitable families of gorillas ranging near the edge of the park and started the habituation work, which was continued by a field assistant. The movements (ranging) of three families of gorillas were monitored for several months and these groups will form the basis of the tourism programme.

A small cabin to lodge six visitors is being built at Djomba guard post, together with a second cabin for the guards. Work has begun on improving the access roads to the park, which are in a very poor state of repair. A vehicle has been provided, and the whole guard force of the park has been re-equipped with waterproof clothing, rucksacks and sleeping bags.

Efforts to control poaching (especially elephant poaching) are not yet completely successful.

Future plans include extending operations into the Kahuzi-Biega National Park where another race of gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla graueri*) live, and launching an environmental education programme to foster an understanding of the economic benefits from maintaining an intact park.

### **Project 1954**

#### **Garamba National Park Rehabilitation**

WWF Expenditure 1984/85 — \$244,910

(Total since 1982 — \$318,666)

**Project Executant:** C. Mackie.

**Participating Organizations:** Institute Zairoise pour la Conservation de la Nature, Frankfurt Zoological Society, Unesco (World Heritage Fund), FFPS.

**Objectives:** To restore the infrastructure of Garamba National Park to its former level, supply equipment and technical expertise necessary to train staff in order to control poaching.

Garamba National Park, in northeastern Zaïre on the border with Sudan, is a remarkable ecosystem with representative areas of both Sudanese savannah and gallery forest. Its position between two biogeographical realms — the Guinean and the Sudanese — makes it an area of particular biological and scientific interest. The importance of the Garamba ecosystem, in a global as well as Zaïrean context, was recognized in 1980 when the Park was elected a World Heritage Site.

However, Garamba is now listed as a World Heritage Site in danger because the Park's infrastructure has collapsed and poaching has become a severe problem.

Large ungulates are represented by a population of about 53,000 buffalo, 8000 elephants, 1300 hippopotamus and 175 giraffe. A small number of the northern white rhinoceros remain, probably not more than 17. The latter subspecies is

especially significant because it has been eliminated in all of its former range and is the last remaining wild population. (A few others exist in zoos.)

A consortium of donors under the auspices of IUCN have provided funds. They are in order of financial importance: WWF, Frankfurt Zoological Society, Unesco (World Heritage Fund).

Two expatriate specialists, C. Mackie (Project Leader) and F. Smith (Technical Specialist) have been on site since April 1984 to undertake the project, with Dr Kes Hillman Smith as an additional expert.

The initial phase of the project was centred around the ordering and delivery of equipment. This was a major undertaking, the equipment having been shipped from UK to Kenya and then trucked to Zaïre via Uganda. The most important items of equipment were four Land Rovers, one tractor and trailer, a Cessna 185 aircraft, heavy truck, radios, solar panels and batteries, workshop equipment, spares, fuel and guards' uniforms. It was also necessary to renovate and build living quarters.

Once all was on site, work became possible and opening of roads began so that the outlying guard posts could be visited and VHF radio base stations set up.

Aerial reconnaissance was conducted with particular reference to the rhinos. An intensive search was mounted in which a minimum of 11 individuals were ac-



*One of the last 17 northern white rhinos left in the wild. This subspecies has been eliminated, mostly by poaching, from all of its former range except Garamba National Park, Zaïre. An intensive effort is underway to protect the remaining rhinos.*

*Photo: WWF/Kes and Fraser Smith*

counted for. Regular localizations have been made since then, giving a better understanding of their distribution and numbers. There have been three births this year and there are now 17 individuals accounted for, so there are hopeful signs that the population is beginning to recover. A patrol post was established at the Garamba River near the rhino concentration area. The post is manned continuously by guards of IZCN who are deployed, rationed and paid allowances by the project.

Regular reconnaissance flights have been made to locate poachers' camps and the information passed to respective patrol posts. All information is charted and a picture of the poaching pattern is being developed. The presence of an aircraft is also a deterrent to poachers, and poaching of rhino and elephant has been significantly reduced. An aerial sample strip count survey was conducted with particular reference to large ungulate distribution. Routine maintenance on vehicles is an ongoing exercise and refurbishment of the Park workshops is well advanced.

The second phase from January 1986 onwards is the implementation and continuation of routine park management practices, training of personnel and refurbishment of the remaining park infrastructure.

An associated extension project is being proposed and it is hoped that the elephant domestication centre will be redeveloped by capture of young elephant. A plan to improve on the anti-poaching system is in process of development and would be a logical continuation of the project.

Development of tourism would help provide greater long-term security for Garamba National Park and the rhinos by enabling the Park to earn some revenue. There is already a good campsite which was improved by FAO, and a ten-year agreement has been made with a tourism group to invest in further development for tourists such as river excursions.

In January 1985, WWF supported a high-level IUCN delegation visit to President Mobutu to draw attention to the plight of the northern white rhino. The President pledged his personal support to the work of the WWF project.

## Zambia

### **Project 1757**

#### **Save the Rhino Trust**

WWF Expenditure 1984/85 — \$50,931

(Total since 1980 — \$488,822)

**Project Executants:** Government of Zambia, Save the Rhino Trust Ltd.

**Participating Organizations:** Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD); Department of National Parks and Wildlife Service.