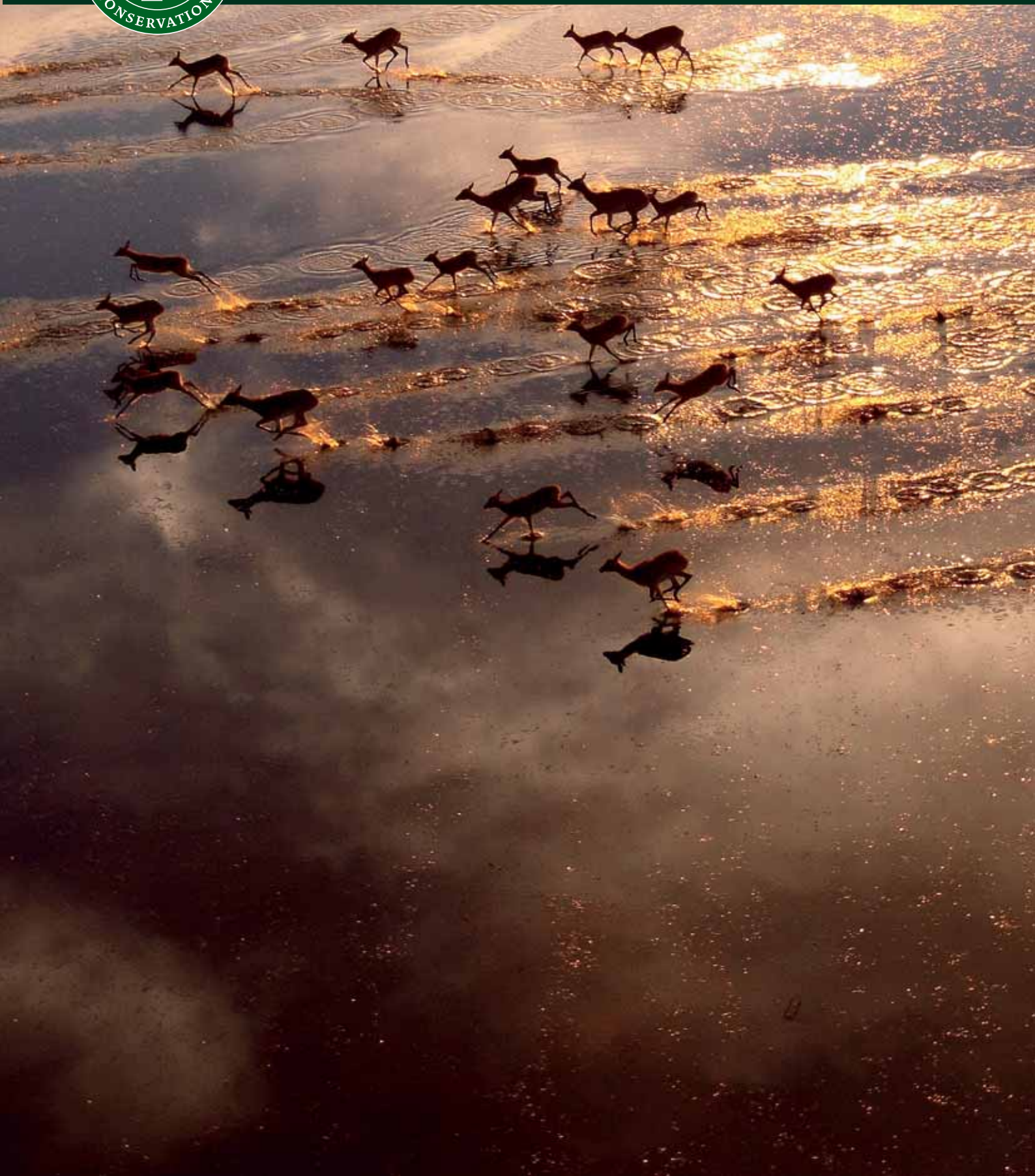




AFRICAN PARKS NETWORK : *Annual Report 2010*



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African Parks Network is a not-for-profit company that takes on total responsibility for the rehabilitation and long-term management of national parks and other protected areas, in public-private partnerships with African Governments. Our approach combines world-class sustainable conservation practices with business expertise.

We place emphasis on achieving the financial sustainability of the parks, principally through tourism and associated private enterprise which also serve as a foundation for economic development and poverty reduction. It is our belief that making parks socially and economically relevant, especially to local communities, will contribute to their survival in the face of competing forms of land use.

Success is measured by the number, size and biological diversity of protected areas that we manage. These must be well-functioning protected areas which are ecologically, socially and financially sustainable.



CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT : Robert-Jan van Ogtrop

“ It has brought me to realize even more the importance of the work African Parks does, as well as the great potential lying ahead of us. I have also come to realize and appreciate the uniqueness of our “business model” which combines and balances the ecological, social and economic aspects of each project. ”

Even though this is my second Chairman's statement for African Parks, this is my first full year as Chairman of this wonderful organization. And an interesting one at that in many ways.

It has brought me to realize even more the importance of the work African Parks does, as well as the great potential lying ahead of us. I have also come to realize and appreciate the uniqueness of our "business model" which combines and balances the ecological, social and economic aspects of each project. The introduction of a more business minded approach in the conservation world is something that should improve the long-term sustainability of conservation initiatives.

My decision to join African Parks over a year ago was not one taken lightly. The past year has cemented my commitment to this most innovative and business minded organization, that looks after an ever growing portfolio of protected areas. These parks are often at the epicenter of sustaining the very ecosystem which local people are dependent upon for survival. In Africa, properly managed protected areas are not just important for preserving biological diversity; they are also potentially the continent's greatest economic assets.

My greatest realization about the importance of the African Parks model for management over the last year has been that we are not simply carrying out a holding action in an attempt to stem the tide of mankind's destruction of the continent's precious parks. In every park in our portfolio there is evidence of concrete restoration efforts, measurable results and most importantly, evidence of momentum building towards long term social, political and financial sustainability. This annual report is evidence of this bold statement.

The year 2010 was again a year of growth with Zakouma National Park in Chad and Odzala-Kokoua National Park in Congo being added to the African Parks portfolio. I was very fortunate to be able to visit both projects and countries this year as part of our final due diligence. These additions bring the African Parks footprint on the continent to over 4 million hectares. Importantly, these parks represent a wide diversity of habitats many of which play a critical role in the provision of ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, flood attenuation, food and water production as well as important cultural opportunities. As an organization with a business approach to conservation we can compare our park portfolio to a portfolio of stock holdings, where diversification minimizes the risk of the investment, or in this case, the risk of instability of the continent's broader ecosystem. This is a truly important consideration in these times of mass ecological destruction. However, when adding parks with a higher financial risk profile to our portfolio we have to assure ourselves upfront of their adequate funding. African Parks Network is therefore extremely grateful to all the funding partners, without whose tremendous efforts and assistance, we would not be able to work on restoring and conserving the gems of Africa for which we have the privilege of being the custodians.

Looking ahead I see three key focus areas for 2011:

At first focusing on the proper consolidation of our existing park portfolio and ensuring that we do everything necessary to make these parks successful before taking new parks on board. Secondly implementing a well developed fundraising strategy by our newly recruited Fundraising Director at Headquarters and Campaign Manager in the Netherlands, and thirdly giving relatively more importance and attention to the social component i.e. the further inclusion of local communities in our projects. This also means upgrading our own organizational skills and focus in this very important area.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board members for their support and dedication to the strategic development and guidance of the organization and to compliment the management and all the staff at the coal face who operate in often dangerous, difficult and challenging circumstances, for their commitment, passion and skilled management. Perhaps the greatest recognition of this collective achievement comes from Alicia and Tanetta van Vlissingen, the daughters of African Parks' founding father Paul van Vlissingen, who in the course of the year committed €25m to the African Parks Endowment Fund in accordance with their father's final wishes, solidifying forever the foundation on which African Parks will be built.

African Parks is an organization that I am proud to serve. Our quest is to make a tangible and sustainable difference, through innovation and local solutions, to the conservation of the ecological heritage for current and future generations of Africa's people.

Robert-Jan van Ogtrop

CHAIRMAN: AFRICAN PARKS NETWORK



African Parks Board
members in the field

From the top:
Robert-Jan van Ogtrop
Valentine Chitalu
Hon. James Lembeli
Mavuso Msimang

“ It is these pinnacle experiences that help to reconnect the ‘what we do’ to the ‘why we do it’ ”

This past year had many memorable moments for me. Drifting in silence through the dawn mist on the Mambili River in the heart of the Congo jungle surprising troops of De Brazza's monkeys and forest buffalo. Looking for the tell-tale signal of a dust cloud clinging to the treetops of Zakouma and then locating its source - a herd of 500 elephants. Following the seemingly endless tracks left in the grasslands of Liuwa and being rewarded by the sight of a herd of several thousand wildebeest. Participating in the capture and translocation of several hundred impala and sable antelope as part of the ongoing restocking exercise that continues in Malawi. It is these pinnacle experiences that help to reconnect the "what we do" to the "why we do it." The everyday combating of challenges to threatened but globally important ecosystems - pristine rainforests of over a million hectares with their resident forest elephant and gorilla populations; wetlands which are the headwaters of the Zambezi, Congo and Nile – three of Africa's four great rivers; species which are threatened by poaching; natural resources on which the livelihoods of tens of thousands of people depend. On further reflection it is then more difficult to understand, "Why is it necessary to have to protect such valuable ecosystems in the first place?" and, "Why is it so difficult to get the necessary support to do so?"

Another memorable moment was attending a function hosted by one of our funding partners at a famous museum in The Netherlands where portraits of Erasmus, the great Dutch philosopher were on display. The curator mentioned that the principal picture, painted by Hans Holbein in 1523 was valued at €50 million. Two early replicas of the original were valued at €35 million each and then more paintings at lesser amounts. How is it that a painting, and two paintings of that painting, are valued by society and insured for a combined value of €120 million when there is seemingly so little value placed on the earth's original ecosystems, on which mankind's very existence depends?

Perhaps understanding this paradox is an important part of solving the problem of how to conserve Africa's unique biodiversity and landscapes. The answer cannot lie in beauty alone, however much one may appreciate the looks of Erasmus, or the technical ability of the artist to produce a great painting. Perhaps it lies in scarcity as we know that a great masterpiece cannot be recreated. But then neither can the functioning of a natural system like Liuwa once the game is gone and the landscape is transformed by man forever. Perhaps part of the answer lies deep in the human psyche – the dominating power of self interest over societal interest which when left unchecked can have devastating consequences on the natural masterpieces of the world. It is our objective, together with our Government and financial partners to not only save some of Africa's great museums of nature, but also to ensure that they are appreciated and valued by mankind and therefore conserved. This report explains what African Parks achieved in the course of 2010 to contribute to this objective. It is structured in accordance with the three strategic thrusts of the organisation:

- Management excellence
- Project Development, and
- Funding

Management Excellence

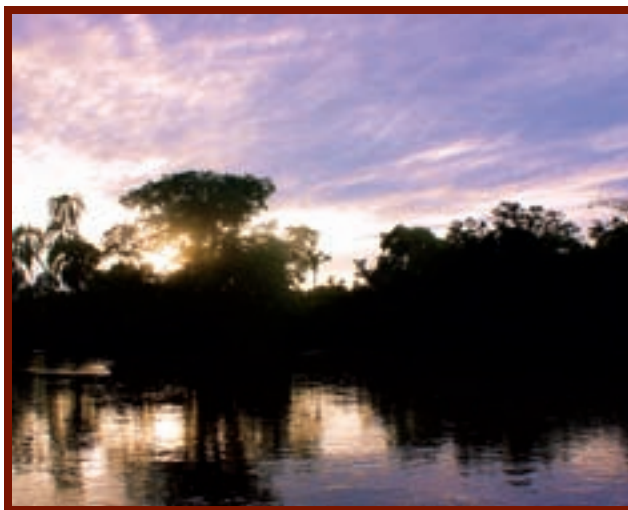
This refers to the ongoing drive to improve the quality of management of each of the parks in the portfolio in pursuit of the objective that each park is a well functioning protected area that is ecologically, socially and financially sustainable. Solid progress was made in this regard the detail of which is reported in the individual park reports. The boards of the various parks are all functioning well with one exception where we have a skills problem. An advisory board was implemented in Garamba for the first time and will begin to function in 2011. Various new Park Managers and Financial Controllers have also been recruited,





Pinnacle Experience: part of a herd of several thousand wildebeest, Liuwa Plain National Park

Peter Fearnhead



Pinnacle Experience: Drifting down the Mambili River, Odzala-Kokoua National Park

Peter Fearnhead

bolstering the quality of the African Parks management pool. Significant improvements were made in the tools and reports used for budgeting, forecasting, cash flow management and monthly reporting all of which are essential for managing projects scattered across the continent. All financial reporting is now standardised and consolidated profit and loss figures are compiled monthly.

Majete Wildlife Reserve enjoyed another positive year with ongoing focus on income generation and cost containment. The lodge being built by Robin Pope Safaris made good progress and is on track to open for business in mid 2011. This will significantly enhance income generation as well as the socio-economic impact of the overall project with its benefits for employment generation and the local economy. The final phase of restocking the park, other than predators, was completed with the addition of another 517 head of sable antelope, waterbuck and impala.

Liuwa Plain had a mixed year. At the local level the project continued to excel with wildlife numbers continuing to increase. A strategic relationship with the Zambian Carnivore Program was concluded which is doing excellent research and monitoring work on lion, cheetah, wild-dog, hyaena and wildebeest. However other progress which was dependent on Zambian Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) was thwarted as a result of institutional challenges, partially caused by its serious financial predicament. This impacted the planned supplementation of buffalo from Kafue National Park and the call for expressions of interest by lodge operators for the development of tourism facilities in the park. ZAWA also wants some changes made to the park management mandate in an attempt to improve its financial position. These issues will be addressed, and we hope resolved, during 2011.

The highlight of the year in Garamba was the completion and opening of the guest lodge – a remarkable feat given

the logistical challenges. From a management perspective the park had a tough start to the year, constrained by a cash-flow squeeze that arose as a result of a delay in phases of institutional funding support. This burden was carried to the extent possible by African Parks, but it did impact on productivity. Following resolution of this problem, management made solid progress in what remains a very remote and unstable part of Africa.

At an operational level, Bangweulu made excellent progress with construction of the headquarters, scout housing, roads and bridges and a hunting camp. Similarly the law enforcement efforts made a considerable impact on levels of illegal utilisation of wildlife. However, during the course of the year, the need for a strategic re-think of the whole project became increasingly evident. There are some serious design flaws in the project which if not corrected will render the project unable to fulfil its long term ecological, social and financial objectives. These include the scale of the project; the participation by chiefdoms that do not have land in the project area yet expect a share of the project benefits; the constitution of the Board and participation of individuals who do not have the necessary skills to operate at a Board level; absence of mechanisms to limit resource use to sustainable levels; and the non-return of project revenues by ZAWA. These challenges will all be addressed with project partners in the course of 2011 and if successful the project will remain a worthy member of the APN portfolio.

Akagera made an excellent start with quick progress on key infrastructure including housing, park headquarters, entrance gate, roads and workshop. It soon became clear that poaching levels were significantly higher than initially suspected – without the intervention it is my opinion that Akagera would not have lasted more than a few years as a functioning ecosystem. Unfortunately late in the year, two of our staff were killed and another seriously injured by



Pinnacle Experience: catching impala, the final phase of restocking Majete Wildlife Reserve

Peter Fearnhead



Pinnacle Experience: part of a herd of 500 elephant, Zakouma National Park

Peter Fearnhead

poachers — a reminder of the harsh realities of the work we do. A key issue for Akagera is the erection of the Western boundary fence which is essential to keep wildlife from straying into the adjacent communities — during 2010 a total of 5 people were killed by wildlife and a further 16 injured. African Parks will attempt to facilitate the erection of the fence during 2011 to quickly put an end to the unnecessary conflict between people and wildlife. If necessary we will construct the fence ourselves.

Project Development

A great deal of effort was invested in the expansion of the portfolio during 2010. We concluded the year with contractual commitments for a total of seven projects in six countries, covering a total area of approximately 4.1 million hectares. The salient features of our efforts included the following:

Zakouma National Park, Chad. The process of securing a satisfactory mandate for the management of Zakouma was finally accomplished after a challenging and unpredictable negotiation process. The European Union, which has been funding Zakouma for the last 20 years played a particularly helpful role as facilitator in the negotiations and has committed to funding the bulk of operating costs for the next five years. In recent years Zakouma has endured a poaching onslaught focussed on elephant which has seen the population decimated. Numbers of elephants declined from approximately 4000 in 2006 to just 550 at the beginning of 2010. Tackling this problem will be fraught with difficulties as it will mean eliminating flows of money to those responsible. Project operations commenced in earnest in October which coincided with the onset of the dry season. This is the time when the elephants congregate near the remaining water making their movements predictable, and poaching of large numbers relatively easy. Key early stage activities therefore focussed on anti-poaching work. Although the onslaught could start again at any time, thus far only

four elephants have been lost to poaching since African Parks commenced activities.

Odzala-Kokoua National Park, Republic of Congo. African Parks' involvement in this project has been under discussion for nearly two years. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between us and the Ministry of Environment in February 2010 which paved the way for the drafting of a formal agreement that was concluded in November 2010. However, African Parks is only able to execute the mandate entrusted to it when the funding is secure. Therefore the agreement included a provision that operations would only commence once this had been achieved. The Board of African Parks Network stipulated that three years of funding should be secured before formally commencing operations which means securing €4.5 million. Whilst we endeavour to find this amount, an emergency budget has been provided to keep the operation ticking over with a minimum of personnel. The European Union has indicated a funding commitment of €2.5 million and a number of organisations have been approached, some of which are showing interest, so the prospect of achieving the goal appears to be realistic.

Extension of the Liuwa Plain National Park project mandate, Zambia. The inclusion of the Upper West Zambezi Game Management Area (GMA), a hunting zone that surrounds Liuwa Plain National Park, has been on the agenda for some time. This area forms an essential part of the migration route for wildebeest, the seasonal habitat of lechwe, and part of the home range of both lion and wild dog. Discussions with ZAWA and the Barotse Royal Establishment (BRE) have begun on the necessary changes to the Liuwa Agreement that would be required for the incorporation of the GMA. This has also provided an opportunity to address other concerns with the Liuwa Agreement that have been raised by ZAWA. However progress has been very slow as ZAWA has been without a



Black-backed jackal fighting over a carcass

Daniel Dolpire

Director General since late 2009.

The Mara Project, Kenya. Despite huge initial promise, this project investigations were formally terminated in July 2010. The project involved the leasing of approximately 30,000 hectares of Maasai owned land and then the establishment of a Board with equal representation of landowners, tourism operators and African Parks. The Board would hold the leases on the land making up the project. Unfortunately the tourism operators decided that they wanted to hold all the leases themselves and thereby control the entire project. Given that African Parks is an organisation that commits philanthropic money to worthy conservation projects for the benefit of local people, this structure could not be supported and therefore the discussions were terminated.

Funding

The work of African Parks is only possible with the generous support of a small number of institutions and individuals and hence there remained a strong focus on this component of the strategy during 2010. As a result some significant successes were recorded. The most important of these was the conclusion of the African Parks Collaboration and Endowment Agreement which binds the existing African Parks entities in South Africa, The Netherlands and the USA to a common purpose and which simultaneously gave rise to the creation of an African Parks Endowment Fund. This is an essential component of the long term financial sustainability strategy of both African Parks as an institution as well as those parks that despite being globally important ecosystems have little prospect of ever generating sufficient operational income to cover their annual operating costs. More exciting than the establishment of the mechanism itself was the commitment to the endowment of €25 million by Alicia and Tannetta van Vlissingen, the two daughters of the late Paul van Vlissingen, who contributed so much during his life to

African Parks and to conservation in Africa. This contribution has been earmarked for the funding of the overhead cost, which allows African Parks to retain its commitment that all partner funding is exclusively for in-park expenditure. Other major successes during the course of 2010 included:

- The strengthening of the strategic relationship with the European Union through the conclusion of a second tranche of funding for Garamba worth €5 million over a four year period. Although these funds were committed in principle in 2009, the support was only formalised in May 2010. African Parks also received a written commitment from the European Union to fund Zakouma National Park for an amount of €7 million commencing in 2011 and an in-principle commitment of €1.8 million for Odzala-Kokoua National Park also commencing in 2011.
- The Adessium Foundation agreed to renew its support to Liuwa Plain National Park for a further three years with a contribution of €900,000. This is in addition to their ongoing institutional support to African Parks, designed to offer African Parks flexibility in allocating funds to worthy projects at short notice.
- Agreement with WWF Netherlands to reallocate €1.1 million of funding that was initially earmarked for West Lunga and a possible third project, to operating expenditure at Liuwa Plain and Bangweulu. Various special projects in Liuwa including the buffalo relocation, the Zambian Carnivore Programme, and the extension of the park mandate will also be supported. In the Bangweulu Wetlands special projects will include fisheries research, research on the ecology of the shoebill, and cheetah reintroduction which will also be funded by WWF the Netherlands.
- In late 2010 African Parks applied to become a direct



A warm welcome in Rwanda



Peter Fearnhead

beneficiary of the Dutch National Postcode Lottery. Stichting DOEN and WWF the Netherlands, both major beneficiaries of the Lottery, assisted and supported our application and in early February of 2011 it was announced that African Parks was one of just seven new organisations to be successful, out of over 400 applicants. African Parks will receive €500,000 per annum for the next five years. This funding is "institutional" which means that APN can decide how to use it, applying it to those parks with funding shortfalls.

- In addition, a number of other commitments were received, which although smaller in amount and not possible to mention by name, are essential to our overall operations.

In order to give fundraising the necessary strategic impetus it requires, the Board of African Parks has approved the appointment of a new Director of Fundraising in the senior management team. She will work closely with the Boards of Stichting African Parks Foundation in the Netherlands, African Parks USA and African Parks UK to support and guide them in their fundraising efforts. Finally, African Parks undertook an investigation into the potential for carbon based funding at both a project level and at a Network level the results of which were sufficiently positive to warrant further investigation.

Outlook for 2011

The three strategic thrusts of African Parks will remain the same in 2011, however the weighting of effort and resources committed to each will shift in favour of management excellence and fundraising. African Parks will not actively solicit new parks for inclusion in the portfolio and new parks will only be considered if African Parks is specifically requested to take on a management function and if the park in question is considered to be an exceptional

opportunity. Priorities in regard to management excellence and fundraising include the following:

- 'Bedding down' both Odzala and Zakouma in terms of staff appointments, establishing the institutional structures, registration of the project entities, sourcing long term funding and developing and implementing work plans.
- Resolving the impasse with ZAWA that is affecting Liuwa (both the expansion of the park to include the Upper West Zambezi GMA, and the roll-out of the commercial plan for the park) and Bangweulu (issuing of hunting quotas and retention of revenue).
- Undertaking the strategic rethink of Bangweulu to address critical issues and secure buy-in from key partners in order to ensure that the project design gives it a good chance of long term success.
- Driving a solution with the Rwanda Development Board to ensure that the western boundary fence is erected.
- Reintroduce leopard into Majete as the first step of the predator reintroduction, itself the final phase of the rehabilitation and restoration of this once severely depleted park.
- Renew the park management agreement for Garamba and institutionalise the advisory board.
- Settle in the Director of Fundraising, refine the necessary fundraising tools and mechanisms, and develop a long term strategy for the capitalisation of the African Parks Endowment Fund.
- Support Stichting African Parks Foundation, African



Predators form the final phase of reintroduction into Majete with plans to reintroduce leopard and lion in the coming years

Daniel Dolpire

Parks US and African Parks UK in building their own capacities to develop and implement their own fundraising programs.

In conclusion I would like once again to express my gratitude to the three groupings of people that collectively make the work of African Parks possible: firstly our Government partners who have entrusted parts of their national natural heritage to our management, especially those Governments that actively help us to help them; the institutions and individuals that value and support the parks that we manage; and all our staff who remain some of the most committed and hard working individuals that I know. The appreciation of the African protected areas in our portfolio must begin with these three groups of people. If it does, and we can nurture such appreciation and commitments, then I believe that we will be on the true path to sustainability- ethically, ecologically, financially, socially and politically. Then there will be no need to ask the question "why are we doing what we do?" Then the support of Africa's natural treasures will be as unquestioned as the support of the world's great works of art and culture. Furthermore, they will be valued not only for their own sake, or for the benefits that they provide to local people, but for the benefit of all mankind.

Peter Fearnhead

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER : AFRICAN PARKS NETWORK

INDIVIDUAL PARK REPORTS

MAJETE WILDLIFE RESERVE

LIUWA PLAIN NATIONAL PARK

GARAMBA NATIONAL PARK

BANGWEULU WETLANDS

AKAGERA NATIONAL PARK

ZAKOUMA NATIONAL PARK

ODZALA-KOKOUA NATIONAL PARK

MAJETE WILDLIFE RESERVE : *Malawi*

APN Project since: 2003
Size: 700 km²
Key Wildlife Species: Black rhinoceros, elephant, buffalo and sable antelope
Landscape: Rugged hills with Miombo woodland and savannah

Memorable in 2010 Renovations and construction of the day visitor facility, education centre and heritage centre, introduction of a further 517 sable antelope, waterbuck and impala

GENERAL PARK INFORMATION

The Majete Wildlife Reserve (MWR) was African Parks' first project. The agreement with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) for the rehabilitation, development and management of Majete was concluded on 28 March 2003. Majete was a "depleted park," with virtually no large animals, restless neighbours - who had been utilising the area unsustainably for years - and no tourism. The only path through the Reserve was the track used for taking cattle to their grazing grounds, or sheep and goats on the trade route to Mwanza, far to the west. The challenge of Majete was to implement the African Parks model, to see if such a wasted area could be rehabilitated.

The Majete project has been successful, attested to by growing numbers of animals of all species, by a thriving tourism business with steadily increasing income and by the commitment of a financial partner to building an upmarket lodge, which will open its doors in 2011. Institutional sustainability has been built with a Board that meets regularly, and only one non-Malawian member of staff, with satisfied international auditors, and with Majete playing an important role in the lives of its neighbours and their economy.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES IN 2010

Park Management and Infrastructure

A duplex house that was built at Phwadzi to accommodate two new officers and the Pende Scout Camp received a solar power installation giving lights to each house and power to the office. In October, construction of the new Day Visitor's and Environmental Education Centres and renovation of the Heritage Centre began. These buildings form an interlinked complex that will provide a park information service, curio shop and cultural museum. It will be a place for tourists to relax over a drink and a meal and watch animals as they come to the waterhole that the complex will overlook. The Environmental Education Centre

will cater for both tourists and local school children.

More than 80km of management roads were completed in 2010, including 55km along the boundary fence to give maintenance team vehicles easier access. Two roads were also constructed in previously inaccessible areas in the south and west of the reserve, allowing for greater patrol coverage. Four concrete river crossings were constructed.

The workshop was kept busy with the rehabilitation of an old Land Cruiser that was converted into a game-viewing vehicle at the Majete workshop. The project vehicles and motorcycles were systematically maintained and kept in excellent working order.

A tragedy struck Majete during the year when one of the scouts, Mr. Andrew Kamwana, was attacked by an elephant and trampled to death.

Majete was a "depleted park," with virtually no large animals, restless neighbours - who had been utilising the area unsustainably for years - and no tourism

Law Enforcement

Activities have continued in a professional manner and poaching incidents are sporadic occurrences. There were 17 arrests resulting in seven imprisonments, five fines and three counts of bail. Fourteen snares and traps were found, while two fishing nets and four muzzle loading guns were confiscated. Efforts to control problem animals centred on one particular elephant, which unfortunately had to be destroyed in August. Two younger bulls, however, have learnt to break the fence and their forays into community land increased as the year drew to a close.



A breeding herd of elephants on the bank of the Shire River

Peter Fearnhead



The view from the new Mkulumadzi Lodge,
which will open in 2011

Peter Fearnhead



Transporting the sable antelope

Dorian Tilbury



Checking on the sable antelope

Robert Gesink

A refresher prosecution training course was conducted by two senior members of staff, Fyson Suwedi and Tizola Moyo, with assistance from local police and magistrates. Funding for this course was sourced through The African Management Services Company (AMSCO). A rhino trackers training course was conducted in October by two specialist trackers from Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya. Eight scouts underwent the training and at the end of the course they were rated as extremely competent, well equipped, and well organised by their instructors. A bird identification course was also held for four scouts as well as a follow up to their normal GIS training.

Biodiversity Conservation

The rhino monitoring team were very effective during the dry season of 2010 with all the rhinos being tracked and monitored on a weekly basis. All five females calved during 2010 but one lost her calf in October. There are now 11 black rhino in Majete. A moonlight monitoring vigil at a waterhole revealed one of the bulls "Lundu" mating three females during one night. The arrival of a further crop of calves towards the end of 2011 is, therefore, anticipated. Negotiations are underway with the Black Rhino Range Expansion Programme in South Africa to acquire more rhino for Majete in 2012/2013. Further scout training will be held in 2011 to prepare for this and a formal black rhino management plan for Malawi, including Majete, is being produced.

In August, a capture operation saw the transfer of 517 animals (sable antelope, impala and waterbuck) from the Liwonde and Lengwe National Parks into the Pende area. This operation completed the reintroduction programme of plains game for Majete during which 2550 animals of 12 different species were introduced over a period of eight years (2003-2010). Most of these animals were provided by the DNPW who has been a strong and supportive partner of the Majete project. The 2010 game translocation had an

accompanying tourism guest participation programme that raised over US\$4,000.

Planning for the introduction of leopard in 2011 and lions in 2012/2013 has been done. The necessary predator proofing of the boundary fence is a prerequisite and the search for funding to complete this upgrade has begun. Many runaway fires marked the year and during much of September and October fire teams were burning firebreaks to contain fires as well as fighting them. More than half of the Reserve was affected and scouts, maintenance staff and local villagers fought fires day and night for more than three weeks.

Community

Activities focussed on maintaining the support and participation of communities and key stakeholders through awareness meetings, conservation education and enterprise development programmes. The regular Community Campsite, Majete Wildlife Reserve Association (MWRA), and Joint Liaison Committee (JLC) and annual stakeholders meetings were held as planned and there is continued cooperation and support for the development of the reserve.

Sixty secondary school students, including 31 new recruits, were enrolled in the 2010 Majete Scholarship Fund. Blessing Lyton and Charles Makwiza from Blantyre Secondary School passed the 2010 MSCE exams with top honours. Various teaching materials including English dictionaries, textbooks, footballs, netballs, and blackboard paint were distributed to 18 schools under the Gift for Gift programme. Environmental Education Outreach programmes intensified with a total of 36 visits to wildlife clubs during which 4705 students were sensitised on conservation issues. A total of 484 students from seven schools were hosted by Majete.

Twenty six traditional leaders and Chiefs, including four Majete Wildlife Reserve Association leaders, visited Majete



Release of the impala

Mark Jones



Impala looking relaxed after their ordeal

Bently Palmer

to enhance awareness of the local leadership to wildlife conservation and the activities of African Parks. The Majete Environmental Education Resource Book was completed.

Enterprise development programmes included a medium sized egg production business, which raised US\$1,597 from sales of eggs alone. Two mushroom clubs with 15 farmers were trained in the cultivation of oyster mushrooms. Over 200 beekeepers received technical support and training from extension staff to improve the quality and quantity of honey produced around Majete. Ninety beekeepers were trained in making quality beeswax candles. A monthly average of US\$820 was recorded from the Income Generating Activities (IGAs) of the Majete community outreach programme. The Community Campsite near the entrance gate at Mathithi generated a net profit of US\$8,820 from camping fees and tuck-shop sales.

An HIV/AIDS Prevalence Survey was conducted among staff and two neighbouring communities to obtain baseline information for the HIV/AIDS work place policy that is being developed. Seven Majete staff (Peer Educators) were trained by the Malawi BRIDGE project in use of the hope kit.

Tourism

A total of 4,526 guests visited Majete during 2010, up from 4,053 paying visitors in the previous year. This resulted in an increase in income from US\$101,678 in 2009, to US\$120,618 (an 18.62% increase) in 2010.

This increase is due to continued marketing activities. Elephant tracking, game drives, bush walks and community visits were some of the activities that attracted visitors to Majete. Promotional activities included a discounted stay at Thawale in April and production of 5000 brochures and posters. These materials were distributed in the main tourist areas of Blantyre, Lilongwe, Thyolo and Mulanje.

Majete Wildlife Reserve appeared in several articles of local and international magazines including the 'Lifestyle Magazine', a Malawian publication. Information in the local tourism trade directories "The Eye" and "CITI" was updated and two newsletters were produced. Sam Evans produced an informational DVD for the international and local tourism market and Majete renewed its membership of national tourism promotional bodies. Contact was maintained with all the leading operators in the Malawi adventure tourism industry. Construction of the Robin Pope Safaris / Molecaten Africa Lodge began in February and is making tremendous progress.

Financial Partners

The total budget for Majete for 2010 was US\$1,128,046 contributed by the Stichting African Parks Foundation, Stichting DOEN and tourism income received. Ms. Anne Hoijer provided funds for the Day Visitor Centre.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2011

Park Management and Infrastructure

Management will coordinate at a policy level to benefit from opportunities provided by public and other private sector institutions in Malawi. As Majete strives for sustainability it will be essential to achieve greater operational cost effectiveness. The technical section will continue with the road system and strengthening of the boundary fence in areas where elephants regularly challenge it as well as the fence on the east bank of the Shire River. One of the prominent projects for the year will be the predator proofing of the boundary fence.

Law Enforcement

The current high security standards at Majete must be maintained and therefore all the scouts will attend refresher training on law enforcement and tactics. It is also a priority to purchase more firearms for patrol purposes and two heavy calibre 458 rifles for problem animal control.



Specialist rhino trackers from Kenya training Majete scouts

Dorian Tilbury



Foundations of the Day Visitor Centre

Dorian Tilbury

Biodiversity Conservation

The priority for 2011 is the introduction of at least four leopards as the first step in predator reintroduction. The black rhino management strategy must be completed, as this is essential for future introductions. Some basic research on black rhinoceros habitat requirements will be done to confirm the suitability of the Pende area for this species, and to make an assessment of carrying capacity. An assessment will be undertaken on the merits of taking down the sanctuary fence, allowing for the free dispersal of animals throughout the park.

Community

The community outreach at Majete is functioning well and most of the activities will be continued. However, some of the income generating activities are maturing and no longer need to be driven by the Majete team. They can confidently be left in the hands of the community. The community scholarship fund has been an outstanding success and will continue.

Tourism

The priority will be to complete the upgrade of Thawale Tented Camp to improve the product and to grow visitor occupancy and income. The improvements to the Heritage Centre complex will be completed. The increased capacity of African Parks' own facilities will complement the Mkulumadzi Lodge being built in an exclusive use concession area in the north of Majete that will be operational by July 2011. The increased capacity in Majete will require an increase in marketing activities to keep pace with the new opportunities.

Patricio Ndadzela

PARK MANAGER: MAJETE WILDLIFE RESERVE



LIUWA PLAIN NATIONAL PARK : Zambia

APN Project since: 2003
Size: 3 660 km²
Key Wildlife Species: Wildebeest, zebra, oribi, African wild dog, hyaena, lion, wattled and crowned cranes and abundant birdlife
Landscape: Seasonally flooded grasslands and wooded islands

Memorable in 2010 Conclusion of a monitoring and research agreement with the *Zambian Carnivore Programme*, the successful breeding of wild dog, hosting the Board of WWF The Netherlands, and construction of Liuwa's first airstrip

GENERAL PARK INFORMATION

The Liuwa Plain National Park and surrounding Game Management Area is situated in the Upper Zambezi River Catchment. The park was proclaimed in 1972 and has been managed by African Parks since 2003. This seasonally flooded grassland system protects populations of key species such as African wild dog, cheetah, lion, oribi, wattled and crowned crane as well as the second largest wildebeest migration in Africa. It also has populations of zebra, tsessebe and red lechwe. The system supports abundant birdlife and it is classified as an Important Bird Area of Zambia. It also supports large fish populations that are of great economic importance to local communities. The park is part of a vast ecological system stretching across the border into Angola that still allows for important large scale ecological processes to persist.

The Liuwa project is governed by African Parks (Zambia) (APZ) which is a partnership between African Parks, the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) and the Barotse Royal Establishment - the traditional government of the Lozi people that established a protected area on the Liuwa Plain in the late 19th Century.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES IN 2010

Park Management & Infrastructure

A highlight of the year was the Five Year Project Performance review that was done by The Nature Conservancy, Africa Program. This was a valuable process that gave all partners direction on areas for improvement whilst recognising the tremendous progress of the project. This was followed by a further review by WWF Netherlands which focused on the project's potential sustainability. These reviews show that despite the very challenging environment, the project continues to grow from strength to strength.

A new Park Manager took over the management of the

project towards the end of the year and there was also a turnover in the Field Operations Manager position. Approval for construction of the airstrip at Matamanene was secured and planning was completed. As expected construction was delayed by countless challenges, however, within the reporting period the airstrip area was fenced, an irrigation system installed and levelling started.

Renovation of additional office space in Kalabo was also completed to improve management staff working conditions. The Field Operations Manager undertook additional bush pilot training to improve the safety of our flying operations. A staff member was also trained in human wildlife conflict management. As a motivational initiative the Labour Day celebrations were held in Kalabo which included the awarding of bonuses to deserving employees. Negotiations on staff conditions of service were concluded and new three year contracts were signed with all staff. A delegation, consisting of the Minister of Tourism and the Minister of Finance and others, was also hosted in the park in order to share our successes and challenges.

The radio system was upgraded to improve its efficiency as well as to allow for the later extension over the Upper West Zambezi Game Management Area. The park now has the best communication in years covering the entire management area and beyond.

Law Enforcement

Twenty five scouts completed their training at Nyamaluma, the ZAWA training centre in South Luangwa. In addition, one scout has been trained in prosecution to bolster the prosecution team. This focus on training has resulted in a well disciplined scout force that is motivated and effective. Patrol man-days increased again, to a total of 9,318 man-days being achieved. The scouts' patrol coverage as well as aerial monitoring is mapped and managed through the GPS patrol system.



Zebra herd at the edge of the plains



Cheetah

Daniel Dolpire



Hyaena in spring flowers

Peter Fearnhead

The aircraft and amphibious vehicles have worked well in tandem to ensure multiple arrests during the floods - a period where the park has historically been vulnerable. A total of 32 arrests were achieved during the year. The district finally received a Resident Magistrate and 31 suspects were convicted. All outstanding cases on the roll due to the absence of a magistrate have now been cleared and the prosecutions system is now working well.

The weapons amnesty program yielded only one AK47 rifle and 268 rounds of automatic rifle ammunition, as well as one muzzle loading gun. The reduction of illegal firearms in the local community is a testament to the success of this programme that impacts both park and social security. Regional law enforcement efforts were encouraged through patrol support for the ZAWA office in Mongu. This action is aimed at spreading the impact of our law enforcement success further afield.

These reviews show that despite the very challenging environment, the project continues to grow from strength to strength

Biodiversity Conservation

An agreement with the Zambian Carnivore Programme (ZCP) has been concluded and is now operational with some very useful findings in the areas of carnivore abundance, movements and interactions recorded. The natural formation of a new pack of wild dogs was observed when animals split off from the two known groups of dogs. This is significant in terms of the viability of the population of these endangered animals in Liuwa. The project also successfully inoculated 150 domestic dogs in and around the park in a bid to reduce the transmission of canine diseases from domestic to wild carnivores. Wild dog packs were monitored

and one den site located. The subsequent successful breeding was recorded and movements of collared dogs followed. Radio collars were fitted on hyaenas from five separate clans. Wild dog and two lion collar batteries were replaced. The radio collars on the buffalo were changed, a new collar was fitted to one of the eland groups and four wildebeest were collared with state of the art, remote download GPS collars. With these devices we are able to get fine scale information on their movements.

The eland herd is doing very well with fifteen calves recorded this year. Ongoing monitoring of the herd of roan antelope to the north west of the park has shown that it now numbers at least 15 animals, which is an increase from just seven observed in 2009. This is likely to be partly due to the immigration from the surrounding areas, an indication of the importance of protecting the broader ecosystem.

The buffalo herd is in good health although unfortunately the young bull from Luangwa died of unknown causes. One male and one female calf were born, making the total 21. All animals were de-wormed and inoculated with the intention of improving their overall health and their productivity. The planned supplementation of the Liuwa buffalo herd with animals from Kafue National Park was suspended and later postponed to 2011 after ZAWA received objections to the capture and translocation, from the donors that support Kafue.

The oil prospecting in the Liuwa area, for which a licence has been issued by the Government, poses a potential threat to the park. The specific threats are still unclear but management is engaging with the company to establish what impacts, if any, their prospecting will have on the park. Human wildlife conflict continues to be a challenge in the communities around the park. One person died and one was injured in an incident adjacent to the park when a boat was overturned by a hippo. There were numerous



The Luanginga River is a major tributary of the Zambezi

Peter Fearnhead



African spoonbill

Peter Fearnhead

reports of human wildlife conflict and, where possible, mitigation measures were put in place.

The disappointing news for the year was that Lady Liuwa, the park's sole lioness failed to fall pregnant and so alternative steps to bolster the lion population are now being considered.

Community

The Environmental Education programme with local schools in and around Liuwa was continued. Ongoing community interaction was maintained through quarterly Silalo Induna meetings. A stand profiling the project was set up at the Kalabo Agricultural Show and other local community initiatives were supported. The local community and the project's broader support base were also kept informed through the production of quarterly newsletters and regular, direct interaction.

The implementation of the Land Use Plan commenced in the course of the year. Solar cookers and "Rocket Stoves" were procured and distributed in the communities to reduce the heavy usage of firewood by communities resident in the park. Two classroom blocks, toilets and teachers' accommodation at Lumei Basic School were completed. These initiatives are in line with those defined through the Land Use Plan which is now being implemented after exhaustive consultation and sensitization. The project has continued to support the Kalabo High School computer laboratory.

The community leadership decided on the projects to be implemented with their 2009 Community Development Fund dividend. One of these was an additional community campsite situated at Kayala, across the river from Kalabo. This will service campers who arrive in Kalabo too late to enter the park whilst generating additional benefits for the community. This campsite is already open for business. The

fact that communities are willing to invest their own funds in local tourism speaks volumes of the faith they place in the success of the project.

In an effort to further support traditional roles in conserving the park, six traditional scouts have been trained locally. These scouts will play an important role in reinforcing traditional conservation responsibilities whilst assisting the contemporary law enforcement effort. They will report through the local Silalo Induna to the Park Ranger.

Tourism and Other Revenue Generation

This year a total of 556 tourists visited Liuwa, a 41.5% increase over 2009. This was due to the leasing of Matamanene Camp to Robin Pope Safaris for conducting commercial operations as well as to the Participation Safaris (during which predators were collared) which were run by management. The numbers of self-drive tourists are also on the increase. The Participation Safaris were well run with favourable reports being received. A donation of US\$30,000 was raised and considerable additional support was garnered for the broader project from two of the participants. The process of identifying and selecting appropriately qualified lodge developers commenced with a call for Expressions of Interest. However this process was suspended, at the request of ZAWA, until the revision of the contract has been completed.

The upgrade of Matamanene Camp continued with the replacement of the tents which were at the end of their useful lives. The best of these old tents have been used for the Carnivore Programme Research Camp at the Matamanene node.

The Liuwa Project has been extremely well profiled over the year and the result has been a considerable increase in interest in the park. Articles have been written by freelance journalists and published in prominent wildlife



The Board of WWF Netherlands in Liuwa Plain National Park

Frans Schepers



Local fishermen demonstrate their fishing skills

Frans Schepers

and travel magazines. The APN website's Liuwa section is successfully disseminating information to our stakeholders and interested parties. This is supported through the publishing of quarterly newsletters. The National Geographic story of the Last Lioness has continued to generate a great deal of interest in Liuwa and the plight of Lady Liuwa in particular.

Financial Partners

All of the progress we have made would not have been possible without the generous support of our financial partners, namely the Adessium Foundation, Stichting DOEN, WWF Netherlands, The Koornzaayer Foundation, Stichting African Parks Foundation all of whom contributed to the core Liuwa budget and the Anna McWane Foundation who sponsored the construction of the airfield at Matamanene.

Unfortunately, 2010 was the last year of the 5 year agreement with The Koornzaayer Foundation. African Parks is extremely grateful for their support to community initiatives and core park costs over the past few years.

The Board of WWF Netherlands was hosted in Liuwa during their tour of projects in Zambia. This engendered considerable support for current projects as well as future cooperation with African Parks Network. All reporting to donors and partners was done timeously and accurately.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2011

General Park Management and Infrastructure

In light of the project review conducted in 2010, we will focus on addressing some outstanding contractual issues with ZAWA and securing the management mandate for the Upper West Zambezi Game Management Area.

Law Enforcement

Efforts will be directed towards maximizing efficiency. The law enforcement operation will be restructured to make

the best use of the different categories of scouts. The traditional scout programme, which is an initiative of the local community, will be strengthened with better and closer supervision by our senior scout team. We will also look at the best use of technology to maximize results of this team.

Biodiversity Conservation

In 2011, management intends to introduce two young lionesses into the Liuwa ecosystem to augment the lion population. Management will also supplement the buffalo population in the park by either bringing in a large group of calves or a smaller group of breeding females.

Community

With the support of traditional scouts, management will focus on strengthening the implementation of the park land use regulations agreed by APZ and community leaders. The Liuwa Environmental Education Programme (LEEP) will continue its successful implementation in the schools' conservation clubs and a group of children will, once again, benefit from our school sponsorship programme. The Community Development Board will open its own bank account while APZ will continue providing administrative and financial oversight for its operations. This is a slow but constructive process of empowering traditional community structures in Liuwa.

Tourism

In 2011, the objective is to secure at least one contract with a commercial lodge investor. A concise tourism development plan will be developed which will summarize how the park will cater for the different types of tourists that come to experience it.

Raquel Filgueiras Seybert

PARK MANAGER: LIUWA PLAIN NATIONAL PARK



GARAMBA NATIONAL PARK : Democratic Republic of Congo

APN Project since: 2005
Size: 4 900 km² National Park and 7 527 km² Domaines de Chasse
Key Wildlife Species: Elephant, Congo giraffe, Nile buffalo
Landscape: Grassland, savannah, woodland and forest

Memorable in 2010 Completion and opening of the Garamba Guest Lodge and installation of the new radio system

GENERAL PARK INFORMATION

Garamba National Park (GNP) is situated in the north-eastern corner of the Democratic Republic of Congo, on the border with Sudan. Garamba is surrounded by three hunting blocks – Azande in the west, Gangala na Bodio in the south and Mondo Missa in the east. The total area of the Garamba complex which is under APN management is 12,427 km², of which 4,900km² is the national park itself. African Parks officially assumed management responsibility for Garamba National Park on 12 November 2005, in partnership with the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN).

The vegetation of the southern part of the park is predominantly tall grassland with scattered trees. Along the Dungu and Garamba rivers, there are mosaics of riverine galleries, forests and thickets. Further north, the vegetation is mainly mixed woodland, dense dry forests, riverine and small swamp forests. The hunting blocks are generally more densely wooded and also support patches of semi-evergreen forest. Garamba is an excellent habitat for elephants. Although the forest and savannah elephants are now scientifically recognised as two separate species, the Garamba elephants are regarded as an inter-grade between the savannah species (*Loxodonta africana*) and the forest species (*Loxodonta cyclotis*). The complex also hosts important populations of Nile buffalo, hippopotamus, Uganda kob, Lelwel hartebeest and lions. The park is the last place where northern white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum cottoni*) was reported in the wild, though there have been no recent confirmed reports. Garamba is the last refuge of the Congo giraffe. The hunting blocks, being more forested, also harbor bongo, chimpanzee, giant forest hog and sitatunga.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES IN 2010

Park Administration and Infrastructure

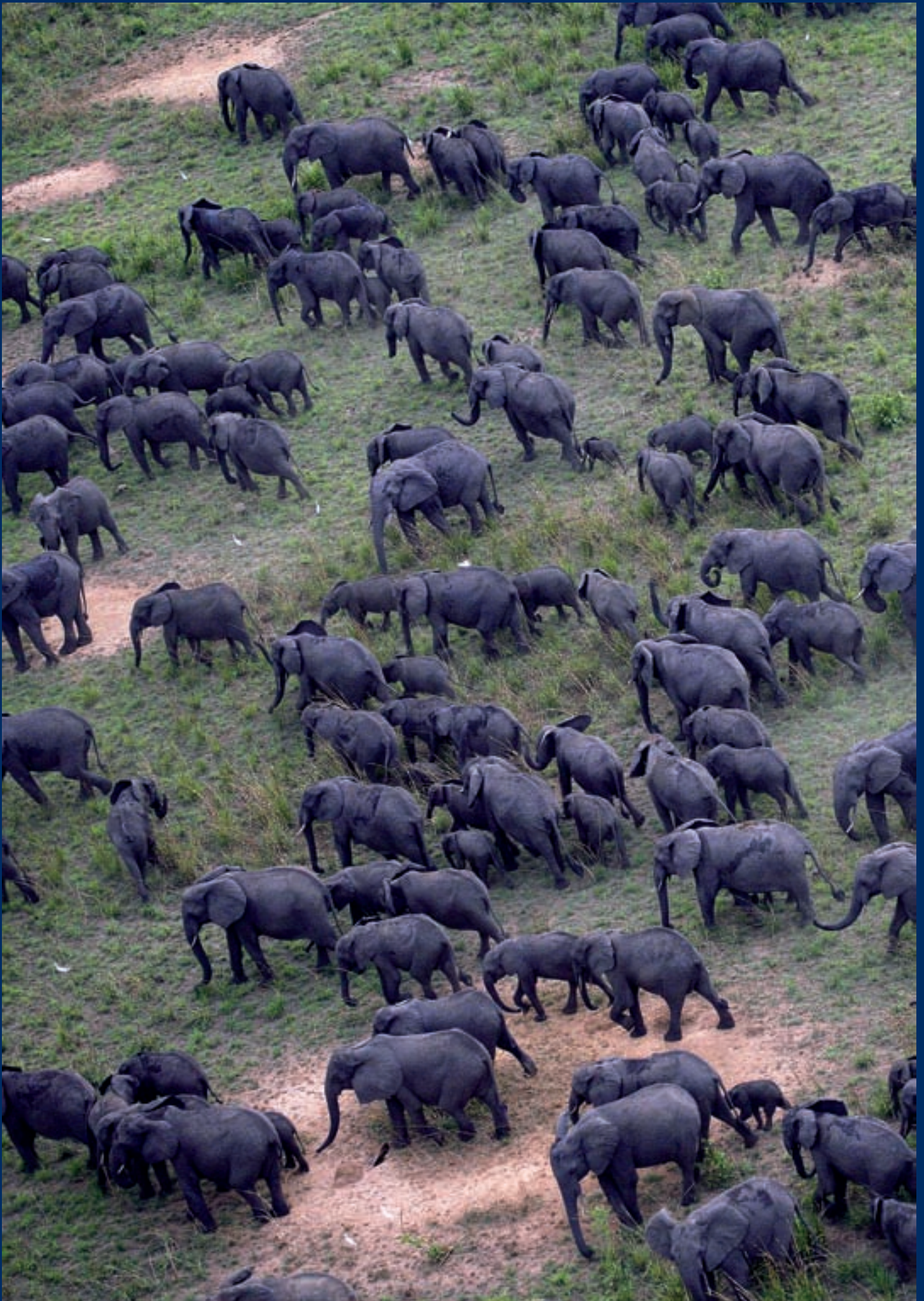
The first quarter of operations at Garamba in 2010 was disrupted by the unexpected delay in concluding the

renewed EU funding agreement for the project. The African Parks Foundation provided interim funding to keep the core project running until the difficulties were overcome, however this cash flow squeeze did have an impact on progress. The project was adequately funded for the latter part of the year.

The management agreement between APN and the ICCN officially ended in September. An assessment was made, by the ICCN, of African Parks' performance in Garamba and both ICCN and APN have expressed a willingness to renew the agreement.

One of the biggest problems in managing GNP is the poor condition of roads in the region. Trucks carrying fuel and other supplies can take up to two weeks to travel 300km. With the help of the United Nations and private mining companies the worst sections of the road were repaired leaving only 60km still to receive attention. The Garamba project rehabilitated the access road to Nagero (the park headquarters) and some strategically important internal roads. The largest infrastructure project undertaken was building the lodge for official visitors and tourists. The costs were covered by earmarked funds provided by the AECID (Spanish Cooperation). It was completed during May and was officially opened by the Deputy Director General of ICCN. During September, a VHF radio network was installed, programmed and tested. All sections of management are now able to stay in touch with headquarters in Nagero. In November work began on opening roads in the park.

In 2010, three of the Garamba scouts - Lyomi Lyatshi, Atakuru Surandi and Langotsi Pipili - received awards from the Abraham Foundation for their work in conservation. The three had been wounded when they defended Nagero against an attack by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) militia in January 2009. The widows of the rangers, Mayumbu Pela,



Elephant herd in Garamba National Park



Aerial view of the Garamba Guest Lodge

Stephen Cunliffe



Luis Arranz with the key financial supporters of Garamba at the official opening of the Guest Lodge

Peter Fearnhead

Atolobako Vukoyo and Takipi Mamvotama who were killed in that attack were also acknowledged.

Law Enforcement

In 2010, a total of 256 law enforcement patrols were conducted by the scouts and rangers of GNP. Some of these patrols were executed in collaboration with elements of the National Army of the DRC. Ten poached elephants were found during the course of the year. The park informer service has also passed on information about the illegal trade in ivory in the area.

The Ultra Light aircraft arrived from Europe in June and has been used for regular aerial surveillance, having done more than 120 hours of flight time since its arrival. Surveillance in the north of the park, which was not possible for the past ten years for security reasons, is now possible. Flights were undertaken to the far north of the park bordering Sudan. The Azande hunting block (where the LRA headquarters was located before the combined military force of the DRC, Uganda and Sudan pushed them out of the area) was also covered to monitor human settlements and animal distribution.

Biodiversity Conservation

Throughout the year all data on animal distribution has been regularly updated on our geographic information system (GIS). We were able to produce maps of the patrol routes as well as observations of animals along these routes. A report of a white rhino in the Azande hunting block was investigated but the existence of the animal could not be confirmed.

Various research and monitoring programs have been carried out throughout the year including studies on the ecology and movement of elephants, giraffe and chimpanzee and the study of the density and distribution of lions and hyaenas. A vegetation map of the park was produced. A

survey of the fishes of Garamba was undertaken by a team from the Museum of Natural Sciences of Madrid and a meteorological study was completed.

Community Conservation

Discussions were held with the local community about training programmes and other projects which unfortunately could not be implemented because of the cash flow problems faced by the project in the early part of 2010. Community outreach efforts were concentrated on the rehabilitation of small-scale infrastructure in the villages. The project also purchased a truck that could be used for, among other purposes, taking school children on educational visits to the park, as many children are unaware of the wildlife that exists in the park.

Tourism and Other Revenue Generation

The new guest Lodge at Nagero, consisting of 10 bungalows and a restaurant was completed. Among the first guests to stay there after its official opening were representatives of the Environment Ministry and ICCN, several ambassadors from the EU and a representative of Spanish Cooperation. A meeting of all the European Ambassadors based in DRC was held in the lodge as well as the annual management meeting of African Parks' project staff.

Hospitality training for lodge staff took place at Nagero. Several tour operators from DRC, South Africa and Europe are booked to visit the park and will stay in the Lodge in March 2011.

A documentary about Garamba was commissioned by National Geographic Channel for viewers in Australia and New Zealand. Various articles about Garamba have been published in travel and conservation magazines. A new Logo for Garamba National Park has been designed.



Dungu River at dusk

Peter Fearnhead



Aerial perspective of forest in south Garamba

Peter Fearnhead

In late 2009, African Parks signed an agreement with the European Union (EU) which provided €5 million, spread over a period of four years starting in 2010, to the core operating costs of Garamba National Park. These funds could, therefore, be used for salaries, equipment, fuel and other expendable items. The contract required that African Parks Network would contribute €550,000 which would be used for the same purposes. The EU later granted an additional €1 million, also available over four years, for community development and outreach activities and for tourism development.

A sum of €51,000 was received from the Fundacion Biodiversidad for the setting up of a programme that would bring members of the local communities, and in particular children, on visits to the park. The OAPN of Spain contributed US\$250,000 for the purchase of vehicles, including the truck that was used for the transport of local people to the park as part of the community outreach programme. Some of these funds were earmarked for the building of a local school as well as support for the elephant research programme.

The Spanish Ministry of the Environment (Lifeweb programme) donated an amount of US\$460,000 for the purchase of a vehicle, building of a local health clinic and for road repairs. Another department of the Ministry (GRASP programme) donated €110,000 to be used largely on the chimpanzee conservation and monitoring programme.

The Ultra Light aircraft arrived from Europe in June and has been used for regular aerial surveillance, having done more than 120 hours of flight time since its arrival

OBJECTIVES FOR 2011

Park Management and Infrastructure

The priority is to sign the new contract for the management of GNP between ICCN and APN. This agreement makes provision for setting up a governing Board for the project, thus bringing Garamba into line with other APN projects with regard to governance. Another objective is to secure the approval by the Congolese authorities of the park management plan for the next five years.

APN will recruit a new Financial Controller for the project. It is proposed to reorganize the procurement and transport system so as to be able to obtain and hold enough fuel and spare parts at Nagero to last through the rains when the roads will once again be in poor condition. The project is also planning to repair at least 500 kilometers of road inside the park.

There is a need to build new houses for the scouts and other staff as well as a patrol base at Tkadje in the area where the chimpanzees are found. The office and the health centre at Gangala na Bodio will be renovated and a hangar at the airfield needs to be constructed.

Law Enforcement

The first objective for this year is to recruit, train and equip 30 new scouts. This will allow for the manning of the new post that is being built at Tkadje near Dodo whilst continuing to control the area south of the park.

Despite the highly militarised environment in which the project operates, it still remains difficult to secure adequate supplies of ammunition for security personnel. The procurement procedures will need to be streamlined in 2011.



Scouts on parade

Peter Fearnhead



Young warthog

Stephen Cunliffe

Biodiversity Conservation

The research and monitoring projects currently underway will be continued. During 2011, batteries in the elephant tracking collars will need to be replaced. This procedure involves immobilising the animals and changing their collars. It is also planned to fit new collars on lions and giraffe. The integration of all data and production of maps using GIS will continue.

Community Conservation

The first priority in 2011 will be to hold a series of meetings with local communities and schedule the activities with them for the rest of the year. It will be suggested that the priority projects for implementation are the building of a new school and a clinic as well as continuing renovations of access roads.

Tourism

The team will assemble sufficient marketing material to provide tourists with all the necessary information about Garamba and to market the Garamba Guest Lodge to visitors. Brochures will be printed in English and French. An approach will be made to air charter companies in DRC and Uganda to address the difficulties of getting prospective visitors to Garamba.

Luis Arranz

PARK MANAGER: GARAMBA NATIONAL PARK



BANGWEULU WETLANDS : Zambia

APN Project since: 2008
Size: 6 000 km²
Key Wildlife Species: Black lechwe, tsessebe, wattled crane and shoebill
Landscape: Wetlands, seasonally flooded grasslands, termitaria woodlands

Memorable in 2010 *Intensive training of all law enforcement personnel and the renovation of staff housing and offices*

GENERAL PARK INFORMATION

The Bangweulu Wetlands of north-eastern Zambia are the only place in Africa where the black lechwe (*Kobus leche smithemani*) still occurs in significant numbers. The population is estimated to be a minimum of 60,000 and it is thus one of the major large mammal assemblages left on earth. Conservationists have tried for many years, without success, to create a national park in the area. Now a new concept of a "Partnership Park" that belongs to the community rather than to the State is being pioneered.

In the past a diverse variety of large mammals occurred in large numbers in the Bangweulu Wetlands and surrounds. Heavy poaching pressure over a long period resulted in most species being reduced to remnant populations and some species (lion, cheetah, black rhino) wiped out altogether. The black lechwe is the only species that survived in large numbers together with healthy populations of sitatunga and tsessebe. Bangweulu is an internationally important habitat for water birds and is a proclaimed Ramsar Site. Bangweulu is best known for its population of the rare shoebill (*Balaeniceps rex*) and holds over 10% of the world's population of wattled crane. The Bangweulu Wetlands are classified as an Important Bird Area by Birdlife International.

The project covers an area of 6 000 km² which includes the Chikuni Partnership Park as well as the adjoining Game Management Area (GMA) and encompasses the territories of six Chiefdoms. As with any GMA in Zambia the land belongs to the community and the Chiefs hold it in trust on behalf of their subjects. It was the decision of the communities, expressed through their Chiefs and advisors, to invite African Parks to be their private sector management partner for the Bangweulu Wetlands Project.

In late August 2008, an agreement was signed between the six Bangweulu communities, the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) and African Parks Network. The vision

for the project is to restore and manage the Bangweulu ecosystem, as an important conservation area in a manner that supports a range of ecosystem services which contribute to the livelihoods of its inhabitants.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES IN 2010

Park Management and Infrastructure

During 2010, the number of permanent employees of the project grew to 111. This, combined with up to 160 casual staff at any one time, makes the project one of the largest employers in the region.

Following the development of an Environmental Impact Brief, the site for the new Park Headquarters was approved by the Zambian Environmental Council. A site foreman was recruited and in August the construction of the new headquarters commenced. The initial focus has been on the workshop and stores area and a visitors camp, which will accommodate the management team while permanent houses are being built. In addition, 17km of new road was opened and graded providing all season access to the site. The renovation of 18 scout houses and an office at Chiunda Ponde was completed, where an additional five new scout houses and a storeroom were also constructed. The construction of six more scout houses in Kopa commenced towards the end of 2010. Two bridges and a series of culverts were constructed between Chiunda Ponde and Chikuni and the upgrading of the causeway (13 km) that crosses the flood plains to Chikuni commenced. The Makanga Hunting Camp was opened and a temporary bridge across the Lukulu River was constructed which allows access to the camp and hunting area.

The vision for the project is to restore and manage the Bangweulu ecosystem, as an important conservation area



Local fisherman who's livelihood is dependent on the Bangweulu ecosystem



African spoonbill

Lorenz Fischer



Shoebill

Lorenz Fischer

General mobility in the project has been greatly improved with the addition of a light 4WD truck, additional motorbikes and quad bikes. Communications were also improved with the installation of a Vsat (satellite internet system) link to the new headquarters.

The project Board, despite strong leadership by the Chairman, did not function at the required level and frustrated project progress. The make-up of the Board will have to be revised in 2011 to ensure the right level of expertise is available to the project.

Law Enforcement

As poaching levels were high, law enforcement efforts were a priority in 2010. The efficiency of scouts has been improved through intensive training and refresher courses. These focused on parade ground drills, physical training, musketry, navigation, tactical patrols, emergency first aid, law, communication systems, report writing and data collection. Mobility was improved by the addition of a large aluminium boat and outboard motor to move larger teams and their equipment. All teams are now well equipped with radios, GPS's, data loggers (to monitor patrol movements and effectiveness), cameras, binoculars, first aid kits, uniforms and patrol kits.

Lack of leadership skills and disciplinary problems have been identified as areas needing attention and this is being addressed. Efforts are underway to concentrate all law enforcement personnel at two sites where suitable management and leadership is already in place. The law enforcement team consists of 86 personnel including 58 village scouts, 24 ZAWA scouts, two drivers and a radio operator. In 2010 the team performed well with over 8,600 patrol man-days conducted. Seventy-five suspects were arrested and over 5 tonnes of bush meat, 16 firearms and other equipment confiscated. Additional firearms were supplied to the project through ZAWA, however there is still

a shortfall, which remains a constraint on patrolling activities. Despite the efforts and successes of the law enforcement team, poaching remains at worrying levels.

Biodiversity Conservation

A priority has been to establish baseline data to obtain an overview of the area for future zonation, planning and management. A dry season aerial survey was completed in early 2010 which provided vital information on the distribution and densities of wildlife and human activity. A wet season survey is scheduled for April 2011. This information combined with field data, and input from ZAWA, Community Resource Boards (CRBs) and hunting operators, has greatly assisted in more reliable hunting quota recommendations. Three planning meetings with stakeholders were held to draft a General Management Plan for the Bangweulu GMA, which has now been ratified by the ZAWA Board. This will allow the enforcement of regulations in the proposed Chikuni Partnership Park.

Research projects on the artisanal fishery and ecology of the shoebill is needed for improved management and protection of these high value threatened resources. A proposal for shoebill research in collaboration with the Percy FitzPatrick Institute, University of Cape Town, was finalised. It is aimed at the optimal protection of the Bangweulu population by gathering data on size, ecology and threats while improving community perception and valuing of the species. A proposal for partner fisheries research was accepted by Rhodes University, South Africa. This project aims to promote the conservation and sustainable utilization of the freshwater fishes of the Bangweulu Wetlands, based on a quantitative assessment of the diversity and utilization of freshwater fishes in the park, including an assessment of the potential impact of current harvesting practices.

In a collaborative effort between the Zambian Carnivore



Bangweulu means "where water meets the sky"

Stephen Cunliffe

Programme (ZCP), Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF), and ZAWA, the project proposes to establish a viable cheetah population in Bangweulu. This process is underway, a proposal has been drafted and a site visit has been conducted. The reintroduction is scheduled for May 2012.

Community

The community owns the land and hosts the project. It is, therefore, important that the 90,000 people living in and around the area understand what the project hopes to achieve and how they will benefit from project activities and conservation of the natural resources. In order to reduce the pressure on the fisheries resource, on which their livelihoods depend, it is vital to link with specialist partner organisations to develop alternative livelihood projects. An understanding was therefore reached with Netherlands Development Organisation (SNV) for capacity building and the development of a strategy for community based tourism. Community Based Organisations were formed and registered, with an emphasis on women's groups and gender equality. Proposals were submitted for the 2010 Community Development Fund. The allocated money was used for developing a maternity wing at a clinic, teachers housing, clinic officer housing, grinding mills, bee keeping, a market building and an incinerator and water pump at a health post. Stakeholder meetings have been conducted for planning, to share information and to address fishing issues. Financial and volunteer assistance was provided to the Nsobe Community Campsite with income generated through the campsite remaining with the community. Gender and HIV/AIDS awareness were also added to the community component of the project in 2010.

In the course of the year some fundamental project design problems became evident. The project includes six Chiefdoms when in fact only three contribute significantly to the area. However, all six expect equal benefits and decision making is sometimes driven by parochial interests

rather than project interests. This will need to be addressed in 2011.

Tourism and Other Revenue Generation

Tourists have not yet discovered the Bangweulu Wetlands in large numbers. In 2010 the project registered only 400 visitors. The recently appointed Marketing and Tourism Development Manager is working on a tourism strategy to sell Bangweulu as an attractive and competitive tourism destination. Due to the new category of protected area, Zambian laws need to be altered to include the "Partnership Park" thus enabling it to charge park entrance fees and generate income. There have been discussions with a high-end horseback safari operator who is interested in Bangweulu. The geography of the area is ideal for this activity and will add a new dimension to the tourism product. For Bangweulu to attract tourists it must be able to offer suitable facilities and therefore the development of Nsobe Community Camp was supported by the project and an area to establish a three-star lodge has been identified.

Another important source of income generation for the project is hunting. This is especially true while the photographic tourism is still in its developmental stage. While hunting remains a sensitive issue amongst elements of the international public, most conservation and donor institutions that support conservation initiatives in Africa are familiar with, and support, ethical hunting as a justifiable conservation practice. APN is aware of the sensitivity around hunting, but in Bangweulu's case it was an existing form of land use and it is necessary for the sustainability of the project. The hunting quotas set since the project commenced have been much reduced from recent historical quotas and stronger regulating mechanisms were introduced to clear up the implementation of the practice. In 2010 hunting generated over US\$100,000. However, the project has not been allocated its contractual share by ZAWA for the second year running. The year 2010 was also the first year that the



Roadworks in progress

Ian Stevenson



Setting a traditional fish trap

Lorenz Fischer

project managed the hunting camp, which generated over US\$10,000 for the project and the neighbouring communities.

Bangweulu received good publicity in 2010 with several positive magazine articles published and two film companies visiting to shoot footage for documentaries, which focused mainly on the enigmatic shoebill. Filming fees generated over US\$4,000.

Financial Partners

The bulk of the Bangweulu budget was provided by WWF Netherlands and Stichting African Parks Foundation. The UNDP/GEF (REMNPAS) project also contributed to Bangweulu but their funds did not pass through the accounts of APN or the Bangweulu Wetlands Management Board. AMSCO provided a training grant, which was used for upgrading the capacity and skills of law enforcement staff.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2011

During the first 18 months of the Bangweulu project, some of the problems with managing this important ecosystem have become increasingly clear. Initially African Parks' response was to tackle each problem in isolation, but with time the need for a strategic re-think of the whole project became evident. Key problems include the participation by six Chieftoms when only three contribute meaningfully to the project area and the consequent dilution of benefits; the scale of the project; the appointment to the Board of individuals that have no experience of Board functions and duties; the non-proclamation of the community partnership park by the REMNPAS project as originally committed; the non payment of hunting revenues by ZAWA to the project, preventing contractual payments to be made to the community resource boards and traditional leaders and the lack of respect for regulatory mechanisms to control over fishing. All of these need to be corrected in the course of 2011 so that this project has a good chance of fulfilling its long term ecological, social and financial

objectives. This process will be undertaken with the full participation of the relevant Chieftoms, community resource boards, ZAWA and the UNDP/REMNPAS project that was responsible for its original design. Whilst these issues are being addressed the project will be scaled back allowing for proper focus on the critical issues. Essential law enforcement and infrastructure projects will continue. We expect the strategic rethink to be completed towards the end of 2011 allowing for the full roll-out of the project.

Ian Stevenson

PARK MANAGER: BANGWEULU WETLANDS



Black lechwe are endemic to Bangweulu

AKAGERA NATIONAL PARK : Rwanda

APN Project since: 2010
Size: 1 122 km²
Key Wildlife Species: *Sitatunga, shoebill, large plains game species, prolific birdlife*
Landscape: *Savannah, grassy highlands, papyrus swamps and fresh water lakes*

Memorable in 2010 *Energetic start to the project, strong focus on law enforcement, improved roads and infrastructure*

GENERAL PARK INFORMATION

Akagera was first gazetted as a national park in 1934 and is now 77 years old. In 1997, the park was downsized by two thirds to its current size of 1,122 km². Even on a reduced scale, Akagera National Park has high biodiversity values. This is due to its position at the confluence of different vegetation zones and because its extensive papyrus swamp and freshwater lake system is the largest protected wetland in Central Africa. Sitatunga, an antelope which requires very specific wetland habitat, finds refuge in Akagera's swamps as does the shoebill, one of Africa's prime avian attractions. On a national scale, the Akagera area is the only refuge for plants and animals of the savannah region in a densely populated country where the loss of biodiversity is in the order of 90-95%. It is also the only area in Rwanda where animals like savannah elephant, buffalo, topi, zebra, eland, roan antelope and hippo are still present. Akagera has the potential to become the flagship of Rwanda for its unique savannah "Big Five" experience, coupled with unrivalled scenic beauty and a large protected wetland system with all its special attributes.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES IN 2010

Park Management and Infrastructure

African Parks' involvement in Akagera only formally started in April 2010. Nevertheless a great deal was achieved. The Akagera Management Company (AMC), the legal entity that gives effect to the partnership between the Rwanda Development Board and African Parks Network, was formally registered. This company will manage the Akagera National Park.

The infrastructure of Akagera National Park was in a rundown state when APN started with the project. The staff live in a small village, called Kiyonza, on top of a hill next to the Akagera Game Lodge. A duplex house was renovated to provide temporary accommodation for the senior management team. Due to strict environmental laws the

initial phase of work concentrated on the renovation of existing structures while environmental approvals were sought for new structures. A derelict community centre was resurrected for the staff at Kiyonza; functional storerooms were built, the office complex was renovated and extended and some of the middle management housing complexes were revamped.

The entire road network was in a bad state and needed grading and gravelling. Vegetation, that had overgrown the road, was cut back. New stone cairn signs were built and loop roads opened up to give tourists more scope for game drives. Three new Land Cruisers, three new aluminium motor boats and a 4x4 tractor with accessories were all procured this year.

The Government of Rwanda has committed to paying for an electrified fence on the western and southern boundary of the park. Due to various delays this project has still not started and this is having a knock-on effect on other progress that is dependent on the fence.

Law Enforcement

When the project commenced the law enforcement team was severely challenged by a lack of resources and training and poaching was at a very high level. In 9 months, over 1,600 snares were removed and 151 poachers arrested. More than 120 animals were killed by poachers during the year which included hippopotamus, buffalo, roan antelope, topi, warthog and oribi, all of which go to feed the bushmeat trade. As Akagera National Park is on the international boundary between Rwanda and Tanzania, many smuggling routes criss-cross the park. Hundreds of litres of illegally brewed liquor and hundreds of kilograms of cannabis were also confiscated.

During an anti-poaching operation in December 2010 three of the park scouts were ambushed by poachers. Silas





Zebra, topi and buffalo on the Kilala Plain

Stephen Cunliffe

Gapolisi and Jean de Dieu Musabyimana were both tragically killed and Faustin Mwiruvaneza was wounded. These scouts are "biodiversity conservation heroes" and this incident is a stark reminder of the important role that the "Thin Green Line" of scouts plays in protecting parks across Africa. Joint operations have since been undertaken with the Rwanda Police and the Rwanda Defence Force.

Biodiversity Conservation

Biodiversity is the foundation for all aspects of the Akagera National Park and is also the core tourism product. In a partnership with the Government, two of almost twenty lakes in the park, Lake Shakane and Lake Mihindi, were cleared of water hyacinth (*Eichornia crassipes*), an invasive alien plant. A large area of the western plains which is prime game habitat was cleared of an indigenous sickle bush (*Dichrostachys cinerea*) infestation. This species encroached in areas which had been subjected to heavy overgrazing by cattle in the recent past. Its spread can also be assisted by a poor fire management regime. The first aerial census since 2002 was undertaken in Akagera National Park in August and the results are in line with what was expected.

After much searching, it has been concluded that there are no lion or black rhinoceros left in the park. The relocation of these two key species will be undertaken once the integrity of the park is secured by having a game-proof electrified fence on the western boundary as well as better control over poaching. The roan antelope population appears to be larger than was envisaged, but it appears to be a prime target species for poachers. During the month of October 2010 alone, five of these animals were snared. It seems likely, therefore, that better protection will result in an increase in the roan antelope population.

The commercial fishing operation in the park, based at Lake Ihema, is undesirable for optimum biodiversity

conservation and negotiations are underway to try and remove this business.

Community

Many community members on the park boundaries have negative connotations of the park due to the ongoing human-wildlife conflict. Sixteen people were injured by wild animals, mainly buffalo and hippo, and five people were tragically killed this past year. Numerous meetings were held with the various local leaders to address these and other issues relating to the park and in particular the importance of the fence for eliminating conflict.

Various projects that were initiated by Akagera National Park for the benefit of neighbouring communities are doing well – these include beekeeping, dairies, schools, craft markets, cultural dance groups, health centres, co-ops and crop guarding. Akagera National Park is committed to give up to 10% of its revenue generated by tourism income to the National Community Sharing Fund, which is funded by all three parks in Rwanda. The outcomes and target conservation projects are decided by a joint committee of local leaders and park representatives. Environmental education is also seen as key and numerous lectures were held at adjacent community schools. Large numbers of community members were employed as builders, labourers and road workers. Others were employed in the alien plant and bush encroachment eradication team. The money generated by all these jobs help to boost the local economy and has a positive effect on all the families.

Tourism and Other Revenue Generation

The Akagera Game Lodge, an existing private concession inside the park, has huge potential to deliver more than its current product, so several meetings were held with its owners to enhance its contribution. Akagera National Park received more than 15,000 visitors in 2010 which generated US\$241,310. One of the shortfalls currently is the lack of



Boat safaris, introduced during the course of the year, are proving popular with tourists

Sarah Hall



Giraffe

Stephen Cunliffe

different kinds of accommodation catering for the different tourism niche markets. The existing accommodation is provided by Akagera Game Lodge and three campsites with only basic facilities. A comprehensive tourism development plan was developed and has identified a low volume, high income section of the park as well as a high volume, low income section. This will allow for a range of accommodation that will be outsourced through concession agreements ranging from a "Five Star" lodge at the upper end of the market through to a tented camp with basic facilities that will be more affordable for lower income visitors. Boat trips for visitors have been introduced and have been very popular. Night drives are also offered and there are plans for a day visitor centre and coffee shop.

Financial Partners

The Walton Family Foundation has committed US\$2.5 million over a five year period for Akagera National Park making a highly appreciated contribution. The Stichting African Parks Foundation, Stichting DOEN, the Rwanda Development Board and African Parks Network have all made significant contributions to help ensure the success of the Akagera National Park project. Though they are not financial partners, the Rwanda Police and Rwanda Defence Force made significant contributions to Akagera by providing dozens of men to help with burning firebreaks and fighting runaway bush fires.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2011

As the Akagera project enters its second year there will be an ongoing focus on infrastructure development, essential conservation activities, continuing improvements to law enforcement, planning for game relocations and the roll out of the tourism development plan.

This will be 'kick started' by the construction of a three-star tented camp to offer better accommodation options, in addition to engaging with interested tourism investors

to build and operate higher end facilities.

Park Management and Infrastructure

The AMC will do all it can to facilitate the construction of the western boundary fence including taking responsibility for its actual erection if negotiations between the Rwandan Development Board and contractors collapse. The fence will require a new entrance gate near Kiyonza while the existing entrance buildings will be converted into a visitor reception centre, catering for day visitors. Other priorities will be finishing the office complex, and commence construction of the workshop, management housing, ranger's offices, a new entrance gate at Mutumba and other key infrastructure. The upgrade of existing roads will be completed and loop roads and new roads will be built.

Akagera has the potential to become the flagship of Rwanda for its unique savannah "Big Five" experience, coupled with unrivalled scenic beauty and a large protected wetland system

Law Enforcement

More effective anti-poaching patrols throughout the park will be implemented with particular emphasis on the wetlands and the international border. An effective intelligence and informer network will be created to augment law enforcement activities and attention will be given to scout training.

Biodiversity Conservation

AMC plans to host a habitat management workshop and develop a habitat management strategy that incorporates a fire management plan. Further work will be done on the planning and fundraising for game introductions and the implementation of a GIS system. It is hoped that the



African fish eagle

Daniel Dolpire



Lilac breasted roller

Daniel Dolpire

commercial fishery in the park will be closed.

Community

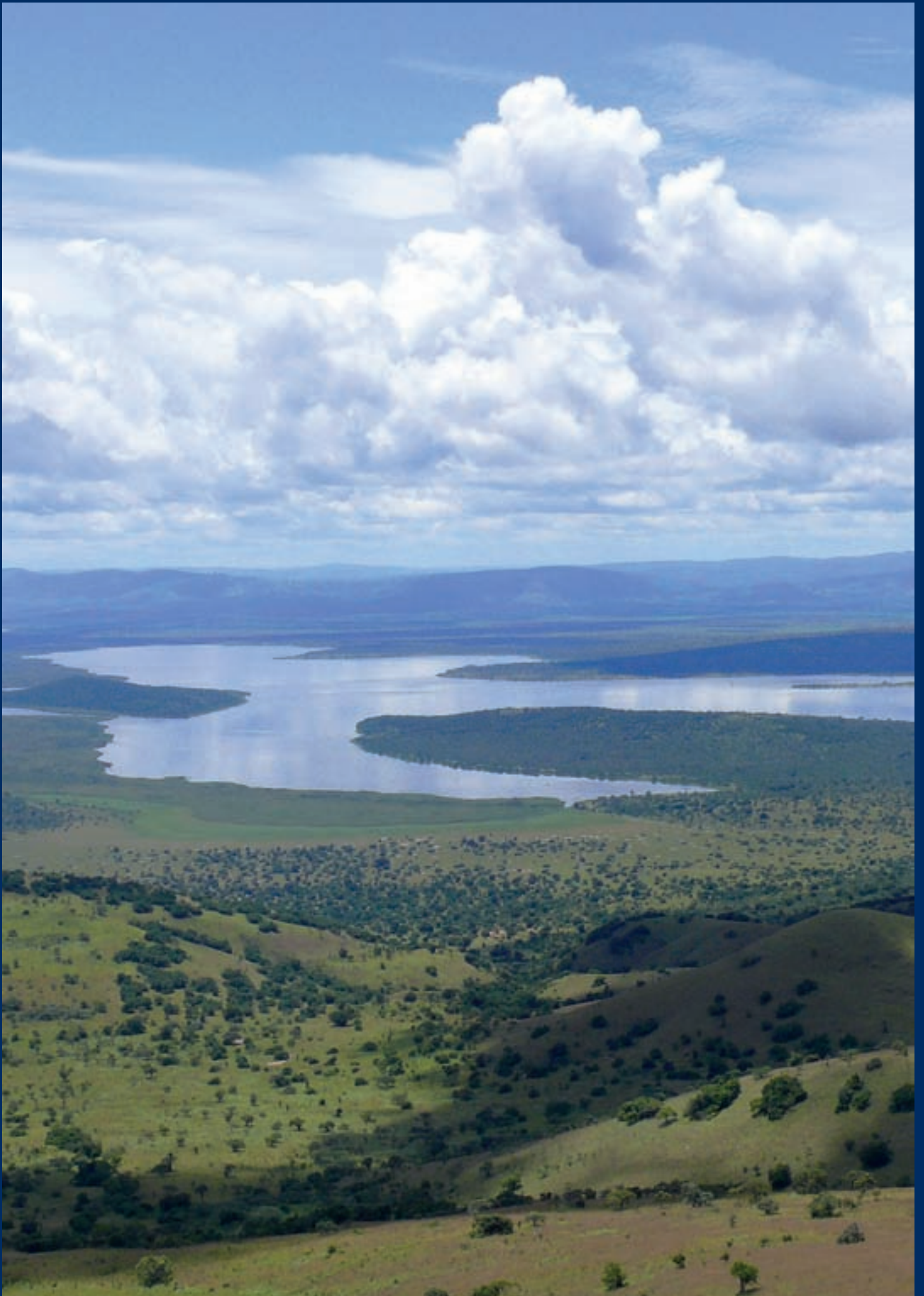
On the community front the first priority is to negotiate, develop and implement an updated community strategy for the park. This will lead to a streamlining of all community related initiatives and build the solid interaction that is required between park and neighbours.

Tourism and Other Revenue Generation

The starting point will be the formal ratification of the Tourism Development Plan by the AMC board and then to implement the plan with an emphasis on securing lodge investors. It is also intended to build a three-star tented camp to be operated by Akagera Management Company. Activities, pricing and park entry fees will be revised and a fresh concession agreement with Akagera Game Lodge will be pursued.

Bryan Havemann

PARK MANAGER: AKAGERA NATIONAL PARK



ZAKOUMA NATIONAL PARK : Chad

APN Project since: 2010
Size: 3 054 km²
Key Wildlife Species: Savannah elephant, roan antelope, buffalo and greater kudu
Landscape: Savannah, woodlands and seasonally flooded grasslands

Memorable in 2010 *Signing of management partnership and loss of only 4 elephants to poaching since project inception*

GENERAL PARK INFORMATION

Although Zakouma National Park, in south-eastern Chad, only covers an area of 3,054 km² (305,000 ha) it forms a crucial part of a greater ecosystem of 25,000 km² (2,5 million ha). It falls within the Sudano-Sahelian vegetation zone and preserves the last remaining migratory herds of savannah elephants and plains game, including Lelwel hartebeest, tiang, Buffon's kob, buffalo and giraffe in the region. Zakouma has a growing population of over 700 roan antelope, which is important for the survival of a species subjected to habitat loss and poaching in much of its range. Zakouma has a small population of greater kudu, at the western limit of the species' range. Most populations of animals have recently increased except for elephant whose numbers plummeted between 2006 and 2010 from over 4000 to about 550 due to poaching. Almost the entire park is inundated during the rains between June and September which results in a mass exodus of animals into the greater ecosystem. As the outlying areas start drying out the herds return to Zakouma, which maintains water and grazing throughout the dry season. This results in exceptional game viewing and bird watching from March to June.

The European Union has funded Zakouma since 1989, with about € 20 million having been injected into the management of the park. Although fairly good infrastructure, equipment and administration was in place the elephant poaching has continued. The European Union and the Government of Chad agreed that the management of Zakouma National Park would be undertaken by African Parks through the establishment of a Public Private Partnership. The agreement between the Chadian Government and African Parks was signed in June 2010 and the management by African Parks started in October 2010.

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) has carried out aerial monitoring of the elephants and has been assisting with anti-poaching since 2007. WCS also managed the

surveillance system during the transition period between the closure of the EU project in July 2010 and the start of the African Parks project. Zakouma National Park has been nominated by the Chadian Government as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES IN 2010

General Park Management & Infrastructure

Late rains kept the park inundated late into the season and the roads were only ready for grading in early November. The dry season airstrip was cleared, graded and lengthened by 100m and was ready for use by mid-November. A new management airstrip was opened up at Ibir in the south-west of the park. A VHF radio repeater was installed on the top of a hill at Bon, the highest point in the otherwise flat park. Coverage was not as extensive as hoped, but it did improve the situation.

Law Enforcement

Top priority was to get the anti-poaching patrols into the field at full capacity following the wet season and lull in activities between projects. By November the reorganisation of the scouts had been completed and all 65 scouts moved to their new posts. A constraint was a shortage of horses for mounted patrols, so 45 new horses were purchased together with saddles and bridles. A person dedicated to the care of the horses was employed.

Four elephants were poached in mid-December, with the tusks from three of the animals taken by the poachers and the fourth pair found during the subsequent investigation. A fifth elephant was also found dead but from uncertain causes. The park management staff closely monitored the ongoing case against four suspects accused of killing 26 elephants in May 2010. A court hearing is set for January 2011.



Elephant herd drinking in front of Tinga Camp in Zakouma



Elephant numbers plummeted between 2006 and 2010 from over 4000 to about 550



Nuria Ortega

Biodiversity Conservation

Aerial patrols by the WCS aircraft continued with all data being entered into a database and a map produced on a monthly basis showing flight paths and elephant locations. From October to December, 82 hours of monitoring flights were made throughout the park to monitor wildlife movements and to provide a presence in the area.

Community Initiatives

During the transition period information campaigns were organised to inform the local communities, authorities and concerned NGOs about the new partnership between African Parks and the Ministry of Environment for the management of Zakouma National Park. Three meetings were held with the Andouma nomadic community to develop a partnership agreement to support the anti-poaching efforts. Further meetings were held with the Kiéké, Goz Djerat and Bôn communities to discuss the local development plan.

Tourism

Tinga Camp was reopened following the rains and hosted a delegation from African Parks, the EU and the Government. The camp also received 163 other visitors, mainly over the Christmas period, generating an income of US\$33,000. The staff did an amazing job of rehabilitating the camp after the annual flooding.

Financial Partners

In order to prevent further poaching of elephant during the dry season, when the elephant herds return to the park, interim funding was solicited from various donors. Financial contributions were received from the Adessium Foundation (US\$100,000), the Rapid Response Facility Program of UNESCO (US\$29,786) and the Alexander Abraham Foundation (US\$25,000).

The contribution of WCS, by maintaining their support

(special aerial patrol) throughout the transition period, has played a key role in the elephants' protection.

The Ministry of Planning and the EU have also agreed to support the Tourism operation by giving the balance of the tourism revenues accumulated from previous years, for the running costs of Tinga Camp (€30,000).

OBJECTIVES FOR 2011

General Park Management & Infrastructure

The new Park Manager will take over the management of the park in January 2011. An assessment will be made of existing systems, maintenance, infrastructure and equipment and improvements will be made where necessary. Critical issues that have already been identified are: 1) the need for two separate VHF radio channels for use of park management and anti-poaching patrols, 2) proper procedures for acquisition, transport, storage and control of diesel fuel and 3) the lack of operational vehicles and maintenance systems.

A small all-weather airstrip will be opened up at headquarters for the two aircraft that will be stationed in the park. All efforts will be made to open up the roads as soon as possible after the rains to allow for movement in the park, both by management and tourists.

Biodiversity Conservation

Plans are already underway to collar up to ten elephants before the wet season in order to get a better idea of their movements, especially when outside the park. Collars will also be fitted to at least five Lelwel's hartebeest and five tiang to study their movements and assess their impact on the land use of the nomadic and sedentary communities on the park periphery. Tiang numbers have declined drastically throughout their Northern (Sudano-Sahelian) range over the past decade with no understanding as to why. Eradication of invasive exotic trees at headquarters



Consulting with traditional leaders about elephant poaching

Peter Fearnhead



Zakouma scouts with their new horses and saddlery

Peter Fearnhead

will begin. The annual aerial census done by WCS in conjunction with APN will take place in March. We will continue to work closely with the "Guard Nomad", a mobile police unit that protects the elephant herds while outside the park.

Law Enforcement

The efficiency and coverage of the anti-poaching patrols will be improved upon to ensure the safety of the elephant during the dry season when they are concentrated around remaining water. A Law Enforcement Monitoring database will be installed to monitor all illegal activities in the park and GIS will be used for management purposes. The equestrian program will be improved with an expert spending time with the project to identify problem areas and train staff in proper horse management. Stables will be built at Gos Djerat, feed stockpiled for the wet season, and one of the trucks will be converted to transport a fully equipped patrol of 6 guards and their horses in order to improve patrol deployment. The annual aerial census done by WCS in conjunction with APN will take place in March. We will continue to work closely with the "Guard Nomad." A temporary anti-poaching base will be set up on the elephant migration route to the north of the park. A new anti-poaching plan of action will be developed for the wet season when the elephants move within an area of over 2 million hectares. The two aircraft will be crucial for this. During the year, management will endeavour to gather information on the past movement of ivory out of the park and Chad, in order to better understand what and who drives the trade and to develop a plan of action.

Community Initiatives

The short-term challenge will be to engage with the neighbouring nomadic groups who settle on the periphery of the park during the dry months. This communication will need to be maintained when the nomads move north during the wet season - a time when the elephants also leave the

park and follow a very similar migration route. Many of these nomadic communities have in the past either been involved in poaching or harboured poachers and it is therefore critical that we find an effective way of opening up meaningful dialogue. For the neighbouring resident communities our aim will be to utilise our limited resources to establish an educational programme on the importance of conserving Zakouma.

The long-term challenge is to put in place, in consultation with the communities, a Land Use Plan for the greater Zakouma ecosystem, which will consider the conservation and management of all natural resources. This work will be done in collaboration with local NGOs (Islamic Relief and ACRA). A trans-border conservation initiative (in this case Chad-CAR) taking into consideration the relationship between livestock and wildlife, will be developed together with the ECOFAC V programme.

From October to December, 82 hours of monitoring flights were made throughout the park to monitor wildlife movements and to provide a presence in the area

Tourism

A basic evaluation of Tinga Camp (built in the 1970's and upgraded 10 years ago) will be done immediately in order to try and improve the guest experience, at a low cost, for the remainder of the season. New equipment will be procured, and existing facilities improved, for the start of the next season in November. Due to the political problems in neighbouring Sudan and Central African Republic (CAR), and the unlikely increase in international tourists to Chad, management will commit time to marketing Tinga Camp in N'Djaména among the Chadians and local expatriate community. As a priority a more regular air link, especially



Nomad groups and their large livestock herds on the periphery of Zakouma

Marc Dethier



Elephant herd

Nuria Ortega

over weekends, between N'Djaména and Zakouma will be investigated with a local NGO and/or a private charter company.

The possibility of developing exclusive tourism in and around Zakouma, which can benefit local communities as well as the park, and provide a new tourism experience in Chad, will be explored (camel or horse safaris, community tourism, etc.). The trickle of Chadian visitors over weekends from the local town of Am Timan will be encouraged. Tinga Camp already has a reputation as being one of the top accommodations available outside of N'Djaména. Management will investigate the possibility of linking Zakouma with the world famous rock paintings and arches on the Ennedi Plateau in the Sahara Desert to create an exclusive package for Chad – from the Sahara to the extensive Zakouma Ecosystem passing through the nomadic pastoralist communities en route.

Rian Labuschagne

PARK MANAGER: ZAKOUMA NATIONAL PARK



Giraffe drinking in the Salamat River

ODZALA-KOKOUA NATIONAL PARK : Congo

APN Project since: *Agreement concluded November 2010, subject to funding*
Size: *13 500 km²*
Key Wildlife Species: *Western lowland gorilla, chimpanzee, forest elephant and forest buffalo*
Landscape: *Evergreen forest and forest/savannah mosaic*

Memorable in 2010 *Signing of agreement on setting up partnership for management of OKNP*

GENERAL PARK INFORMATION

The Odzala-Kokoua National Park (OKNP or Odzala) is situated in the north-west of the Republic of Congo, on the border with Gabon just north of the Equator. The core area of the park was established in 1935 but it was greatly extended in 2001. Odzala has been a Man and the Biosphere site since 1977 and was nominated in 2008 to become a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The OKNP is located within the heart of the Congo basin. It is a 'frontier forest' with some of the last extensive unexploited blocks of Guineo-Congolian forest in Africa. The park is a part of the Dja-Odzala-Minkebé landscape which is an enormous trans-boundary mosaic of protected areas, logging concessions, community forests and hunting blocks covering 191 541 km². This trans-boundary initiative, known as the Tridom project, is funded by various organisations including WWF and USAID. The three signature areas are located in Cameroon (Dja), Congo (Odzala) and Gabon (Minkebe). Tridom is designed to maintain ecological links and corridors between the three protected areas as the forests between them become increasingly developed (roads, logging, mining, hydro-electric dams and agriculture) and settled.

The southern part of Odzala, and particularly the Bateke Plateau, is a moist savannah/forest mosaic with open areas of grasslands and gallery forest along watercourses. The centre of the park is predominantly Marantacea semi-evergreen forest which is a phase in the colonisation of the savannah by true forest. It is characterised by a very dense understory, usually up to 2m high, of herbaceous and climbing plants with scattered trees. The understory, which can only be accessed by following elephant paths, is dominated by Marantaceae (Arrow root), Wild ginger, Dragon tree and thistles on which gorillas and elephants feed, resulting in high concentrations of these species. Further north, the park is covered by untouched mature rain forest

which has taller trees and a more open understory. Wetter areas are characterised by evergreen swamp forest that includes *Raphia* palms. The drainage of the park is largely via the Mambili River to the Congo River.

A striking feature of the Odzala landscape is the large number of saltlicks, fountains and seeps, which are located in natural clearings in the forest. These areas are known as "bai" and attract elephant, buffalo, gorilla, bongo, sitatunga and many other species. The bai areas provide a unique opportunity for tourism in a habitat where it is otherwise difficult to observe animals because of the dense understory and poor visibility inside the forest. The biological diversity of Odzala is exceptional. Even though no comprehensive biological survey has ever been undertaken we can already account for about 1,500 species of plants, 440 birds, and 114 mammal species. Among the large mammals there are 16 primates including western lowland gorilla, chimpanzee and many species of monkey including De Brazza, crowned, putty-nosed and moustached monkey. There are 18 species of herbivores including forest elephant, forest buffalo, bongo, western sitatunga, eight species of forest duiker, hippopotamus, giant forest hog and red river hog, and three species of pangolins. It is particularly difficult to estimate the numbers of large mammals but it is known that elephant still number several thousand and the buffalo are common in the south of the park. As recently as 2001 there was still a population of lions in the south of Odzala.

The OKNP is recognised as an Important Bird Area by Birdlife International. There is pressure on the fauna by the local communities on the periphery of the park made up of 75 villages. The total population, however, is estimated at only 6000 people as they are spread over a large area at a low density. Hunting, fishing and gathering represent important sources of food and income for these people. The outstanding value of the OKNP are, however, increasingly being threatened by both commercial and



Odzala is a strong-hold for western lowland gorillas

Peter Fearnhead



One of over 100 bais (clearings) in the Odzala forest

Peter Fearnhead



Signing the Agreement

Ladis Ndahiliwe



The banks of the Lekoli River at sunrise

Peter Fearnhead

subsistence hunting for bushmeat, as well as poaching of elephants for ivory. The construction of roads near the periphery of the park is another threat, as this allows access to previously isolated forest. Outbreaks of the Ebola virus from 2001 to 2004 reduced not only the great ape populations but also other species, and this threat is still present. Ebola and other wildlife diseases in the region are monitored by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). From its creation in 1935, up until the 1990's when the tropical forest began to attract international attention, the park received very little support. Since 1992, the OKNP has benefited from the financial and technical assistance of the European Union through four phases of the 'Ecosystèmes Forestiers en Afrique Centrale' programme (ECOFAC). The last phase came to an end in October 2010.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES IN 2010

The year has been devoted to negotiating and setting up the partnership between APN and the Congolese Government which was signed in November, and attempting to secure funding for the project. In terms of this agreement a Foundation will be created to manage the OKNP. The Government, African Parks Network, RAPAC (the EU funded Protected Area Network in Central Africa), Leadership for Conservation in Africa (LCA) and local communities have seats on the Board. APN is responsible for the appointment of the management team and standard African Parks operation procedures apply. In October 2010, an interim committee of Government, African Parks and LCA representatives was created to ensure the smooth handover of essential assets from the ECOFAC programme to the Foundation and to ensure the continuation of management operations during the transition phase.

Implementation of the management agreement is dependant on African Parks being able to secure the necessary funding, a condition which was included in the partnership agreement. By the end of 2010, despite a number

of hopeful prospects, funding remains uncertain.

OBJECTIVES FOR 2011

Park Management and Infrastructure

The next priority is to appoint the management staff for the park. This includes the Park Manager and associated staff at the park headquarters at Mbomo, as well as at a financial and procurement office in Brazzaville. During the first quarter of 2011 the rehabilitation of the main security bases in the park will commence. These are at Mbomo, Mboko, Lobo, Miele and Kouka. Assuming funding is secured, the proposed new base at Yengo will be built and the rehabilitation of the road network in the south of the park will begin. The priority for the project is to secure a minimum of three years of funding to cover the core operating costs of the park. The European Union has expressed support for some funding, but the amount is yet to be determined. The Plattner Foundation has committed to funding part of the transition period from early 2011 until June 2011 when it is hoped that the funding will have been secured.

Law Enforcement

A review will be undertaken of all the available information on the park, the distribution of clearings (bais) and the wildlife associated with them. A plan for their protection will then be drawn up. The scouts and other personnel will be evaluated and their equipment, transport and training needs established. A basic law enforcement training course has already been arranged and an experienced French speaking trainer from Tanzania will be conducting the first refresher course for the scouts. A simple GIS system will be commissioned.

Major access routes linking the Tridom area to Brazzaville have recently been opened and these will give easier access to the park for illegal activities. A major bridge being built on the Mambili River at Yengo is an obvious point to establish a control point for river traffic into the park.



Bongo

Ladis Ndahiliwe



Western lowland gorilla

Ladis Ndahiliwe

Biodiversity Conservation

A system to record information and monitor the wildlife of the clearings, and human activities in the forest will be an integral part of the management strategy. APN will also be looking for research partners who can undertake an inventory of plants, mammals and birds of Odzala. This inventory process will also draw on the cultural and traditional ecological knowledge of the local people who undoubtedly have an intimate understanding of the forest and its denizens.

The bai areas provide a unique opportunity for tourism in a habitat where it is otherwise difficult to observe animals because of the dense understory and poor visibility inside the forest

Community

The traditional subsistence links (hunting, fishing, gathering); the generation of income from forest products (ivory, fish, bushmeat, skin trade) and the new roads that will open new markets for the forest products will have an impact on OKNP and will be a challenge to management. Formal communication channels and links to the local communities will have to be set up. The challenges will be to ensure that any use of forest products is sustainable, and to develop alternative livelihoods where current activities are damaging the forest. The concept of a 'formal association's network' representing the 75 communities living on the periphery of the park will be implemented to ensure participative and sustainable management of the development zones where the people live.

This work will be done in consultation with Leadership for Conservation in Africa (LCA) and the management unit will support various projects, among them access to potable

water, gorilla tracking and habituation by local people, and community tourism. In this regard it is useful to note that the first habituation of western lowland gorillas was achieved in the nearby Lossi Gorilla Sanctuary.

As the project becomes established other priorities and programmes will undoubtedly be developed, but all will have in mind the needs of the people balanced against the needs of the park and its wildlife.

Tourism and Other Revenue Generation

Tourism in the rainforest environment is challenging and depends on exploiting unique products. APN will pursue the development of a holistic tourism development plan as a high priority. Sabine Plattner and Wilderness Safaris are committed to initiating tourism operations and building a lodge in the park which will generate the first income for the project and employment for local people. Wildlife tourism will largely concentrate on the animals to be seen in the clearings (as has already been widely publicised in documentary films by National Geographic, the BBC and others), the birds, and in the future on habituated gorilla and chimpanzee groups. The experiences in the Virunga volcanoes in Rwanda and elsewhere have clearly demonstrated that this form of tourism can be practiced to generate significant revenue without unduly impacting on the lives and welfare of the apes.

There is also a limited market in cultural tourism at the village level as the predominantly Baka people still know their forest environment intimately. With sensitive guides and interpreters it should be possible to create a village ecotourism product that foreign visitors would find fascinating.

Ladis Ndahiliwe

INTERIM PARK MANAGER: ODZALA KOKOUA NATIONAL PARK

SPECIAL REPORTS

THROUGH THE EYES OF...

A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PARTNER

A LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNER

AN INSTITUTIONAL FUNDING PARTNER

A RESEARCH AND MONITORING PARTNER

A COMMERCIAL TOURISM PARTNER

A CHARITY FUNDING PARTNER

THROUGH THE EYES Of A National Government Partner : Leonard D. Sefu

Name: **Leonard D. Sefu**
Director of National Parks and Wildlife, Malawi

Collaboration *In the year 2003, African Parks Network (APN) and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) concluded a partnership arrangement over the conservation, management and utilization of Majete Wildlife Reserve (MWR). In March of that year, an agreement was signed transferring MWR management rights and obligations to African Parks for 25 years*

“ **Sound habitat management coupled with first-rate law enforcement has enabled the animals to breed and repopulate the reserve faster than anticipated** ”



Leonard D. Sefu together with
Dr. Anthony Hall-Martin and Patricio Ndadzela

In the past seven years, African Parks has conscientiously carried out its responsibilities. Animals were re-introduced; roads, staff housing and water systems built. Three visitor facilities (Thawale, Heritage Centre and the Robin Pope Safaris Lodge) were also constructed. In an attempt to mitigate the human-wildlife conflict and illegal entry, African Parks has erected a 130km electric fence along the entire Majete boundary. These establishments have facilitated proper reserve management, visitation and containment of wildlife within the protected area. Sound habitat management coupled with first-rate law enforcement has enabled the animals to breed and repopulate the reserve faster than anticipated. Many of the species brought there have doubled or tripled their original numbers.

Majete was rehabilitated for the benefit of Malawians. The reserve has not, therefore, existed in isolation. Apart from the growing employment, ecotourism and local access to resources, APN supports many community development projects. For example: beekeeping, water supplies (boreholes) and building schools, clinics and libraries. Majete has also acted as a catalyst for non-governmental organisations (NGO's) and community-based organisations

(CBO's) participation in conservation for the benefit of surrounding communities. Among the NGO participants, the Evangelical Lutheran Development Service (ELDS) has played a major role in the neighbouring area.

The Department of National Parks and Wildlife is very pleased with the work that has so far taken place in MWR. In this regard, it continues to whole-heartedly support African Parks' additional endeavors in the ecotourism aspects. Having successfully developed the conservation base, it is now time to drive ecotourism in order to generate incremental revenue to sustain park development, management and operations in line with African Parks' objective of achieving sustainability.

Leonard D. Sefu

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE, MALAWI

THROUGH THE EYES Of A Local Government Partner : Jeff M. Nalishuwa

Name: **Jeff M. Nalishuwa**
Kalabo District Commissioner

Collaboration *The District Commissioners Office represents the Government of Zambia at the local level and is responsible for all its administration within the district boundaries. African Parks partnered with the Zambia Wildlife Authority and the Barotse Royal Establishment in the management of Liuwa Plain National Park. During the years prior to African Parks' involvement, the park degenerated due to inadequate investment. Poaching was rife in the park and some species became extinct*

**“ The Liuwa Plain National Park is now the pride of the province
and is slowly being recognized for its prestigious status ”**



Jeff M. Nalishuwa

The Liuwa Plain National Park is now the pride of the province and is slowly being recognized for its prestigious status. This status was confirmed by the visit of the Republican President, His Excellency Mr. Rupiah Bwezani Banda, in 2009 and a follow up visit by a delegation of Cabinet Ministers in 2010.

We are pleased to announce that populations of many indigenous species have increased. Wildebeest - which were dwindling at a fast rate due to poaching - has increased from 15,000 in 2003 to over 36,000 in 2009; zebra from 2,000 to 5,000 and tsessebe from 400 to 1,200. Species that had once disappeared such as lion, eland and buffalo have been reintroduced.

The number of international and local tourists visiting the park is increasing every year from nearly zero, when the partnership began, to about 556 in 2010.

The resource investment in Liuwa Plain National Park is not only turning the park into a preferred wildlife viewing destination, but there are a number of benefits accruing to the local community. In particular, those who live in and

around the park have benefitted from a number of community projects implemented under the programme using part of the revenue generated in the park. All user fees from the campsites are given back to the community. Schools have been constructed; health institutions rehabilitated and selected school children have been sponsored.

Liuwa Plain has a bright future ahead of it. At the rate the park is going, future generations will live to see wildebeest and other species indigenous to Liuwa Plain National Park in their natural habitat.

Jeff M. Nalishuwa
KALABO DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

THROUGH THE EYES *Of An Institutional Funding Partner : Enrico Pironio*

Name: **Enrico Pironio**
*European Union. Chief Administrator, General Director for Development and Cooperation (EuropAid)
at the European Commission*

Collaboration *Collaboration between the European Union and African Parks was initiated in 2005 in Garamba National Park, DRC. This collaboration has recently grown with the proposed funding by the European Union of Zakouma National Park in Chad and Odzala-Kokoua National Park in the Republic of Congo*

“ **The most notable experience is African Parks Network, which is an innovative solution to these conservation challenges** ”



Enrico Pironio

The European Union (EU) recognizes that the Protected Areas Network is the cornerstone of the global strategy to protect nature and wildlife. Comprehensive and effectively managed interconnected networks of protected areas have proven to be a key tool in slowing biodiversity loss. Often protected areas are the epicentre for sustaining the very ecosystem services on which mankind is dependent for its own survival.

For many years, all the donors including the EU have tried to support the State institutions in charge of the management of protected areas but with limited success. Only a few projects have been able to either effectively halt the loss of biodiversity or to establish the institutional mechanisms that are required to realize this. Development co-operation projects with limited duration are unable to provide the long-term, predictable support to protected areas that is needed to preserve biodiversity as well as the institutional mechanisms that are necessary to ensure proper management of the biodiversity heritage.

Governments have begun to realize their limited ability to finance and manage their protected areas, allowing non-governmental agencies to fill this vacuum to an extent.

The most notable experience is African Parks Network, which is an innovative solution to these conservation challenges. It is an organization that enters into long term public-private partnership agreements (25 years). Of specific interest to the European Union are those parks managed by APN which are the key, large parks (Garamba, Zakouma and Odzala National Parks) located in Central Africa, which have a long history of EU support but also which have little chance to survive without funding support.

This institutional arrangement implemented by APN has numerous advantages:

- i) A partnership between the Government, the local communities, NGOs and private organizations that, with a legal recognition, becomes an actor in the long term in the region where the park is located.
- 2) This structure has the possibility to look for and to generate its own financings and to develop other partnerships, which means to progressively establish different financial mechanisms to ensure its viability.
- 3) It also has the opportunity to manage its human resources and consequently to build up a strong team and become a management model for biodiversity.
- 4) This structure has a clear management mandate and it is responsible to the state and its partners for the conservation of the biological heritage.

These four elements – local partner in the long term, better financial viability, management mandate and experience to establish a quality management – are the key elements to promote investments for example in the tourism industry, but also towards financial and technical partners namely for rural development and research matters.

Enrico Pironio
CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR, GENERAL DIRECTOR FOR DEVELOPMENT
AND COOPERATION (EUROPAID) AT THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

THROUGH THE EYES Of A Research & Monitoring Partner : Matt Becker

Name: **Dr. Matt Becker**
Director of the Zambian Carnivore Programme

Collaboration *The Zambian Carnivore Programme has been partnering with African Parks Zambia since late 2009. It has played a pivotal role in unlocking the secret lives of predators and other large mammals in the park*

“ With Liuwa, it is more about pushing that line forward and bringing back one of Africa’s great ecosystems that, after being on the brink, is pulsing with life again ”



Dr. Matt Becker

Dennis Mutanga and I sat in our field vehicle, surrounded by wild dogs and hyaenas, all traveling across the Liuwa Plain, hunting the thousands of wildebeest spread across the landscape and collectively comprising the only large migratory herd outside of the Serengeti. It was hard to appreciate how close we came to never seeing such sites in Liuwa again. This ecosystem was once far grander, stretching far up into Angola with an astounding diversity of wildlife. While Liuwa’s wildlife was utterly decimated over the last few decades, today through African Parks’ management, it is undergoing a renaissance rarely seen in a world besieged by conservation problems.

Putting an ecosystem back together is no easy task. The great conservationist, Aldo Leopold once said, “To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering.” And while that is sage advice, the case of Liuwa is more complicated, as the challenge is not only in keeping the parts, but also in identifying what all these parts are, and then how best to put them back together. The complexities of interactions between species of wildlife and plants, and the effects of flooding, fire, and people, to name just a few factors. This is the task before African Parks and partner organizations like the Zambian Carnivore Programme (ZCP).

We have now completed a full first season of work on the Liuwa Carnivore Project, a collaborative study between African Parks and ZCP focusing on large carnivore species such as wild dog, hyaena, lion, and cheetah, as well as their prey and habitat. Returning species that were historically present is one of the most obvious steps to ecosystem restoration. However, well-designed research and monitoring programmes implemented in concert with restoration efforts, have the potential to yield valuable insights into the dynamics of these species and the systems they inhabit for management and restoration applications within and around the region.

We continue to learn more about the dynamics of these species—primarily through the hard work of bright and eager young Zambian wildlife professionals such as the project’s field leader Jassiel M’soka. Acquiring data on these carnivore species’ populations, movements, diets, and interactions, and to study the influences of migratory prey (such as wildebeest), fire, flooding and humans. Unlike ecosystems with a different past, things in Liuwa change with every passing year. Given its transitional state and potential to eventually hold substantial numbers of large mammal species, we can expect dramatic changes in species abundance and distribution as the Liuwa system changes.

Understanding these dynamics in and around the park and realizing the vision of restoring a historically vast wildlife area is a far-reaching and lofty goal; but too often conservation is about holding the line, preventing further backsliding and loss of habitats and species. For once, with Liuwa, it is more about pushing that line forward and bringing back one of Africa’s great ecosystems.

Dr. Matt Becker

DIRECTOR OF THE ZAMBIAN CARNIVORE PROGRAMME

THROUGH THE EYES Of A Commerical Tourism Partner : Ton De Rooy

Name: **Ton de Rooy**
Managing Director of Robin Pope Safaris and Molecaten Africa

Collaboration *Robin Pope Safaris was founded in 1986 by Robin and Jo Pope, but is now majority owned by Molecaten; a family-run business in the Netherlands. Robin Pope Safaris has a chain of lodges, walking safaris and private villas in Zambia and Malawi. They offer an authentic wilderness experience with stylish accommodation, attentive service, fine dining and some of the best private guides in Africa*

“ Robin Pope Safaris is proud to be associated with African Parks and to play its part in supporting its conservation efforts ”



Ton de Rooy

Our involvement with African Parks dates back to 2008, when we commenced operation of a series of seasonal safaris in Liuwa Plain National Park, operating out of Matamanene Camp during the months of May/June and November/December. Liuwa National Park is a remote, beautiful and very compelling destination and the safaris, which continue today, have proven to be extremely popular with our clients.

In addition, Robin Pope Safaris has joined forces with African Parks in developing an increasing presence in Malawi. In particular, our Malawi offering will be greatly enhanced in July 2011 when our new Mkulumadzi Lodge opens in Majete Wildlife Reserve. Mkulumadzi will be a 20 bed lodge in a spectacular location on the confluence of the Mkulumadzi and Shire Rivers. Mkulumadzi Lodge will complement our other Malawi property - Pumulani Lodge on Lake Malawi - which was built in 2008 and allows us to offer a 'bush and beach' holiday experience.

Our relationship with African Parks is as a commercial tourism investor. We will invest in excess of €1 million in the Mkulumadzi project and have a formal 18 year concession

agreement to protect our interests. In return, we will pay a concession fee to African Parks calculated as a percentage of our revenue.

Robin Pope Safaris is proud to be associated with African Parks and to play its part in supporting its conservation efforts. Tourism investment and the associated income and employment it generates, is a key ingredient of the African Parks model. Being involved in an existing conservation project also makes a visit to either Liuwa Plain or Majete all the more meaningful for our guests.

We therefore look forward to a happy and long-term relationship with African Parks, and have already expressed our interest in future investments in other protected areas that are managed by African Parks.

Ton de Rooy

MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ROBIN POPE SAFARIS AND MOLECATEN AFRICA

THROUGH THE EYES Of A Charity Funding Partner : Jeffrey Prins

Name: **Jeffrey Prins**
Programme Manager of the DOEN Foundation

Collaboration *Stichting DOEN was one of the first institutional partners to fund African Parks, with its commitments dating back to 2005*

“ **APN has really shown courage and innovation in introducing its model of nature conservation. It combines all the things that DOEN looks for, not only courage and innovation, but also pioneering where others have failed and well-calculated risk taking to create in the end, concrete results** ”



Jeffrey Prins

DOEN Foundation is the fund of the three Dutch Charity Lotteries. DOEN's ambition is to help build a livable world in which everyone can make a contribution. To this aim DOEN promotes sustainable, cultural and social pioneers. Specifically, with a contribution from the Dutch Postcode Lottery, DOEN supports African Parks Network. DOEN has been a financial partner of the African Parks Foundation (APF) since 2005 and African Parks Network (APN) since 2008. Since 2005 DOEN has contributed a total amount of more than €3,150,000 to African Parks. This financial boost aimed generally to strengthen APN's model for nature preservation. And in particular, DOEN's funding would also be allocated to ensure that the parks in Zambia and Malawi could be successfully set-up and managed.

In doing this, the three main elements making APN a success, as DOEN saw it, came together. Summarized as the three M's: Money from DOEN, the Mandate from the Government and the Management skills of APN. As such, APN was able to prove that it had a sustainable solution for nature preservation in Africa, which on paper is usually good but in practice could, at that time, make use of an innovative business-like approach. What was also interesting

for DOEN, and still is, is the co-operation APN seeks with the local inhabitants, in terms of conservation, combating poaching, and setting-up a strategy for eco-tourism. That creates another mind-set when setting up or re-establishing a park. Only when local people see that such a park becomes a real asset, also to them, will they have a direct interest in preserving it. In the end that's good for local jobs, small businesses and income from tourists. APN's work is in all of this, of course, not finished, and shows the necessary risk-taking in relation to the short-term interests. But APN should be able to generate enough revenue and local benefits to sustain its approach for the long-run.

The partnership with DOEN has officially ended.

As of February 2011 APN has become a direct recipient of the Dutch National Postcode Lottery and will receive a yearly amount of €500,000 to preserve its parks.

APN has really shown courage and innovation in introducing its model of nature conservation. It combines all the things that DOEN looks for, not only courage and innovation, but also pioneering where others have failed and well-calculated risk-taking to create in the end, concrete results.

Jeffrey Prins

PROGRAMME MANAGER OF THE DOEN FOUNDATION

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

FINANCIAL PARTNERS

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

AUDITORS' REPORT

FINANCIAL PARTNERS



Daniel Dolpire

African Parks is very grateful to all partners for their continued support, from those who have made invaluable financial contributions to the parks, to those who have donated their time as volunteers. It is just not possible to mention all of those people and institutions by name, and many have asked to remain anonymous. The following, in alphabetical order is a list of individuals and organisations that concluded agreements and/or made contributions during 2010. To be concise, only contributions in excess of €10,000 are mentioned.

Adessium Foundation

The Adessium Foundation, based in the Netherlands, provided support for operational and capital expenditure to Liuwa Plain National Park amounting to US\$402,003. Adessium has been a key partner in Liuwa since 2008.

Adessium has also committed a further €1.05 million for the period 2010-2012. This funding can be used in a flexible way at an institutional level. During 2010, €300,000 was used for new park development and early stage funding (including Zakouma and Odzala), as well as for other special projects and unanticipated expenses.

Africom

During 2010, Africom, a group of company directors from the Netherlands who pool their board fees to give to charitable causes, donated €25,000 towards the proposed predator re-introduction programme at Majete Wildlife Reserve in Malawi.

Alexander Abraham Foundation

During 2010, the Alexander Abraham Foundation donated US\$20,000 towards the start-up costs of Zakouma National Park in Chad.

Alicia and Tannetta Fentener van Vlissingen

Alicia and Tannetta Fentener van Vlissingen contributed US\$1,227,320 to cover the overhead costs of African Parks

Network. This funding allows 100% of all other donor contributions to be allocated directly to the parks.

In addition, an amount of €25 million was very generously given to the African Parks Endowment Fund. The income from this money is to be used solely for the purpose of covering the overhead costs of African Parks Network from 2011 onwards.

Anna McWane Foundation

During 2010 the Anna McWane Foundation donated US\$89,345 towards the cost of constructing an airstrip near Matamanene Camp in Liuwa Plain National Park. The donation covered construction, fencing and irrigation of a grass airstrip that will fundamentally change access to the park for park management and tourism purposes.

Anne Hoijer

During 2010, Anne Hoijer donated €50,000 to African Parks for the construction of an environmental education facility and day visitor centre at Majete Wildlife Reserve in Malawi. Both will open in April 2011 and enhance the community activities and revenue generation potential of Majete.

Clifford Chance

Clifford Chance is one of the world's leading law firms with 30 offices in 21 countries and 3,800 legal advisers. In 2010 Clifford Chance continued to provide pro bono legal advice to African Parks, particularly in relation to the establishment of the African Parks Endowment Fund.

European Union

In 2009 the European Union committed a total of €5 million from the European Development Fund for activities in Garamba National Park for the four year period 2009-2013. During 2010, US\$899,275 was utilised for Garamba's operations.

FINANCIAL PARTNERS



Daniel Dolpire

The EU's CURESS programme also contributed a residual amount of €30,000 towards the Tinga tourism camp at Zakouma National Park.

Fundación Biodiversidad

This Spanish agency provided €51,000 to Garamba National Park to cover the costs of a park visit programme, for local villagers and children, to expose them to the park and explain the reason for its existence.

Jacqueline Mars

During 2010, Jacqueline Mars donated US\$25,000 towards the relocation of 519 antelope to Majete Wildlife Reserve in Malawi, the final component of the restocking of the park, other than predators.

Koornzaayer Foundation

During 2010, the Koornzaayer Foundation provided €100,000 towards the core operating costs of Liuwa Plain National Park. In addition, the Koornzaayer Foundation provided an additional €79,971 towards projects that have a direct benefit for the communities living in and around the park.

Spanish Government

The Spanish Government, through various programmes, provided US\$612,685 of funding towards Garamba National Park in 2010. Programmes supported by this funding include a park visit programme for local villagers, road repairs, chimpanzee research and the purchase of motor vehicles.

Spencer Stuart

Spencer Stuart is one of the world's leading executive search consulting firms with 51 offices in 27 countries. During 2010, Spencer Stuart assisted with the recruitment of a Director of Fundraising for African Parks, on a pro bono basis.

Stichting African Parks Foundation

Stichting African Parks Foundation is affiliated to African Parks Network and was initially capitalised by the late Paul Fentener van Vlissingen. In 2010 a total commitment of US\$1,533,473 was made available to cover the cash requirements of the various African Parks projects that were not covered by other partners.

Stichting DOEN

Stichting DOEN is the fund of three Dutch charity lotteries: the Dutch Postcode Lottery, the BankGiro Lottery and the Sponsor Bingo Lottery. DOEN works towards the achievement of a liveable world in which everyone has a place by supporting initiatives that are sustainable, entrepreneurial and/or extraordinary. In 2010, Stichting DOEN contributed €500,000 to park operations at Majete, Liuwa Plain and Akagera National Park.

United Nations Programmes or Affiliates

The UNDP/GEF programme committed financial support to the Bangweulu Wetlands project for the period 2009 – 2011. In 2010, US\$334,000 was provided to the project, however as this funding does not flow through the project's bank accounts, it is excluded from the consolidated accounts of African Parks.

The UNESCO Rapid Response Facility provided US\$29,786 to African Parks for the early stages of its management of Zakouma National Park.

AMSCO, a skills development agency in the African SME sector, has provided various training grants to the Bangweulu Wetlands, Liuwa and Majete projects totaling in excess of US\$20,000.

Walton Family Foundation

The Walton Family Foundation committed to support the management and development of Akagera National Park with funding of US\$2.5 million over the 5 year period

FINANCIAL PARTNERS



Daniel Dolpire

2010 - 2014. In 2010, the first tranche of US\$500,000 was provided to the project.

WWF Netherlands

In 2007, WWF Netherlands entered into a formal partnership with African Parks to further develop the African Parks management model across Africa. The first phase of funding under this partnership ends on 30 June 2011, with intentions to extend for a further 3 year term.

In 2010, WWF provided €905,000 towards the costs of Bangweulu and Liuwa Plain, as well as various special projects at each park. WWF monies are also funding efforts to expand the management mandate at Liuwa to include an additional 740,000 hectares.

Other donations

African Parks also received various private donations totalling €25,865 from residents of the Netherlands or the European Union.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



Daniel Dolpire

The financial highlights for the year 2010 are set out below. This information can be derived from the audited statutory financial statements of African Parks Network for 2010. The figures are for the consolidated group which is comprised of the Johannesburg head office and all park projects. The establishment costs for Zakouma and Odzala during 2010 have however been treated as expenses of African Parks Network. Zakouma and Odzala will be treated as separate accounting entities from 2011 onwards.

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

A consolidated operating surplus for 2010 of US\$553,000 was recorded. The surplus is mainly caused by timing differences due to the capitalization of assets at various projects, and especially Akagera and Bangweulu, which are in an infrastructure development phase. Despite an apparent operating profit, net capital investments of \$513,000 were made during 2010. If this capital investment was expensed, a small surplus of US\$40,000 results – consistent with the internal procedure of running all parks on a cash neutral basis.

	2009 (US\$'000)	2010 (US\$'000)
Income		
Donations	7,386	8,452
Operating and other income	265	703
	7,651	9,155
Expenses		
Employee costs	1,884	3,156
Other operating costs	5,259	5,446
	7,143	8,602
Operating surplus	243	553

Donations Income

The operations of African Parks are entirely dependent on donor support, and donor income grew in 2010 in line with a growth in operations vis a vis 2009. Major donors during 2010 were as follows:

- Adessium Foundation
- Alicia and Tannetta Fentener van Vlissingen
- European Union
- Spanish Government
- Stichting African Parks Foundation
- Stichting DOEN
- UNDP/GEF
- Walton Family Foundation
- WWF Netherlands

Operating and Other Income

Operating income is mainly derived from tourism activities at Akagera National Park (a significant new contributor in 2010), Thawale Lodge at Majete, Matamanene Camp at Liuwa Plain, the lodge at Garamba (also new in 2010), and park entry fees. No hunting revenue share was brought to account for Bangweulu due to the uncertainty of its recovery. Other income comprises interest income, training grants and a once off recovery of value-added-tax by African Parks Network.

Employee Costs

Employee costs are the single largest cost category for African Parks. 2010 costs are significantly higher than 2009, mainly due to correct inclusion of all consulting or management fee arrangements in this cost category. Organic growth in staff numbers and costs did also occur in 2010, especially at Akagera.

Other Operating Costs

Other operating costs include the remaining running expenses of African Parks Network, Akagera National Park, the Bangweulu Wetlands Project, Garamba National Park,

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



Daniel Dolpire

Liuwa Plain National Park, Majete Wildlife Reserve, and start up expenses related to Odzala and Zakouma National Parks. These costs typically include motorised vehicle expenses, fuel and maintenance, game relocation, habitat monitoring, training, administration, and depreciation expenses. In addition, other operating costs include travel and business development costs required to investigate potential new projects.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

The consolidated balance sheet shows total assets of US\$6.43 million and a surplus of assets over liabilities (or net assets) of US\$3.708 million:

	2009 (US\$'000)	2010 (US\$'000)
Assets		
Non-current assets	2,747	3,260
Current assets	2,279	3,170
	5,026	6,430
Equity and liabilities		
Total equity	3,378	3,708
Current liabilities	1,648	2,722
	5,026	6,430

Non-Current Assets

Non-current assets include infrastructure improvements, motor vehicles, aircraft, plant and machinery, furniture and fittings, and other fixed assets. During 2010, approximately US\$1 million was invested in tangible fixed assets and a depreciation charge of US\$611,000 was recorded. Tangible fixed asset expenditure included upgrading of general infrastructure, purchase of equipment and vehicles, and capital works in progress. Some items are not capitalised, for example ongoing road improvements, so the investment made by African Parks is greater than indicated by the figures. In addition, EU funding rules for Garamba prevent the capitalisation of any assets.

Current Assets

Current assets include cash on hand and cash at bank, inventories and accounts receivable.

Current Liabilities

Current liabilities include undrawn donor funds that have been received but not yet spent on programmes, accounts payable, and provisions for expenses not yet invoiced as at 31 December 2010.

EMPLOYEES

African Parks employed 754 full-time staff as at 31 December 2010, an increase from 633 at the end of 2009. The economic impact of employment multiplies as employees spend their wages on education or with retailers and other businesses. In addition, African Parks employs casual workers on construction projects. Total employee numbers are made up as follows:

African Parks head office and business development	6
Zambian finance and accounting	1
Akagera National Park	74
Bangweulu Wetlands	80
Garamba National Park	220
Liuwa Plain National Park	95
Majete Wildlife Reserve	117
Odzala National Park	69
Zakouma National Park	92
Total	754

AUDITORS' REPORT



Daniel Dolpire

To the Board of African Parks Network

We have audited the financial statements of African Parks Network for the year ending 31 December 2010, from which the Financial Highlights were derived, in accordance with International Standards on auditing. In our report dated 08 April 2011, we expressed an unmodified opinion on the financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, from which the Financial Highlights were derived.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial highlights are consistent, in all material respects, with the financial statements from which they were derived.

For a better understanding of the financial position of African Parks, the results of its operations for the year, and the scope of our audit, the financial highlights should be read in conjunction with the financial statements from which the financial highlights have been derived, and our audit report thereon.

KPMG Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Read'.

Per D. Read

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT (SA)

REGISTERED AUDITOR

DIRECTOR

KPMG

08 April 2011

INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION



Daniel Dolpire

African Parks Network : Board

Robert-Jan van Ogtrop (*Chairman*)
Cyril Ramaphosa
Mavuso Msimang
Valentine Chitalu
Justice Richard Banda
The Honourable James Lembeli
Peter Fearnhead (CEO)

Chief Executive Officer

Peter Fearnhead

African Parks Network

Regent Hill Office Park
Leslie & Turley Roads
P.O. Box 2336 Lonehill 2062
South Africa
Tel: +27 11 465 6802
Fax: +27 11 465 9230
Email: info@african-parks.org
www.african-parks.org

Reg No : 2007/030803/08

PBO No : 930028082

Stichting African Parks Foundation : Board

Robert-Jan van Ogtrop (*Chairman*)
Piet Klaver
Frederik van Beuningen
Dick de Kat : *resigned 7 September 2010*
Laetitia Smits van Oyen
René Hooft Graafland : *from 13 April 2010*

Stichting African Parks Foundation

P.O. Box 313
3940 AH Doorn
The Netherlands
Tel: +31 343 565013
Fax: +31 343 565022

African Parks Foundation of America : Board

The Honourable Walter Kansteiner (*Chairman*)
Thomas Blount
Thomas Gibian
Anna McWane
Thomas Salley
Henry Slack
Frances Kansteiner Sec. *Treasurer (Ex Officio): resigned 30 November 2010*
Peter Fearnhead (*Ex Officio*)

African Parks Foundation of America

21980 Quaker Lane
Middleburg
Virginia 20117
U.S.A
Tel: +1 540 592 9571

African Parks (Majete) Limited : Board

Bob Renshaw (*Chairman*)
Khalid Hassen
Alfred Upindi
René Valks
Patricio Ndadzela
Leonard Sefu
Craig McIntosh
Francis Mbilizi

Bangweulu Wetlands Management : Board

Dr Jacob Mwanza (*Chairman*)
Mukate Chileshe (*Deputy Chairman*)
Jack Chulu
Lucas Mwanza
Kingford Malama
Peter Fisher : *resigned 23 February 2010*
Craig McIntosh

African Parks (Zambia) Limited : Board

The Honourable Charles Milupi MP (*Chairman*)
R.K. Muteto : *deceased September 2010*
Edwin Matokwani
Dr. Anthony Hall-Martin
Craig McIntosh
Craig Reid : *resigned 11 November 2010*
Raquel Seybert : *from 11 November 2010*

Akagera Management Company : Board

Bisa Samali (*Chairman*)
Rosette Rugamba
Zulfat Mukarubega
Robert Bayigamba
Sven Piederiet
Craig McIntosh
Dr. Anthony Hall-Martin

ARE YOU INSPIRED BY OUR WORK?
DO YOU WANT TO HELP US?

There are many ways to assist our conservation activities and we would welcome a discussion on how you may like to contribute to the parks that we manage and the local communities who surround them.

Donate:

You may wish to give a one-off donation to a specific wildlife project or contribute towards our capital fund which provides annuity income for our work.

Volunteer:

Alternatively you may wish to volunteer your services to our conservation work on the ground or provide professional services to our management team.

Invest:

As a corporate company, you may also wish to contribute to our work as part of your CSI programme or corporate sponsorship strategy.

We invite you to visit our parks and experience the wildlife. We believe in involving our donors in the work that we do and we provide opportunities to visit our projects and witness first hand the challenges and rewards involved in game relocation, habitat restoration and staff and community development. For many of our donors this on the ground involvement has been personally inspiring and motivating.

Contact:

If you would like to learn more about how you can get involved, please contact one of the following individuals:

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