



# African Parks Network

ANNUAL REPORT 2009



**African Parks** 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 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.





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## Chairman's Statement

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As I only took over as Chairman in December 2009, I would first like to thank Piet Klaver for stepping back in as Chairman after the unfortunate death of Huib Boumeester, and to compliment him in leading African Parks through an important transition phase after the death of Paul Fentener van Vlissingen, who in his own right, was very instrumental in the development of African Parks. I am honoured to be part of a board, consisting of such highly regarded fellow board members that have such a clear sense of purpose and unequivocal commitment to their continent.

Having travelled Africa extensively and been involved with a number of nature and conservation organisations, I have always been impressed with the "no-nonsense" approach of African Parks and the effectiveness of getting things done on the ground. The fact that we try to safeguard vast tracts of Mother Earth's most precious pieces of nature, is in itself not unique, but doing this in a way that makes it sustainable in the long term, makes African Parks stand out. The combination of effective wildlife management, the real involvement of local communities and the introduction of a viable business model creates the basis for long-term, sustainable solutions. At a time when our planet is facing so many financial, ecological and social crises, it is clear that African Parks has a crucial role to play in developing local solutions to safeguard these important parts of the African continent for future generations.

In 2009 we added another ecologically important area to the portfolio – Akagera National Park in Rwanda, one of the few intact ecosystems of the Great Lakes Region. Considerable progress was also made on the investigation into a number of other key conservation areas which are currently being considered for incorporation. This means that the total footprint is now greater than 2,5 million hectares. To enable African Parks to achieve its full potential going forward, which we believe to be considerable, the Board has asked our CEO, Peter Fearnhead to drive the development and implementation of a new fundraising strategy that will be capable of supporting this growth potential. While funding is essential, the execution of the conservation mandate is entirely dependent on the quality and commitment of management - in this regard African Parks is blessed with very motivated, dedicated and skilled management at all the necessary levels in the organisation, even though we always strive for improvement.

This must surely be the time in human history when we are most aware of the fragility of our planet, of our dependence on its climate and resources, and the often unintended consequences of our own actions. It is also a time, however, when we are most able to do something about repairing the damage that humankind has wrought on the planet. Reversing the negative effects of climate change and global deforestation is a matter for the Governments of the world and their international institutions. Repairing the damage done to a few individual protected areas in Africa is the business of African Parks and its supporters. By applying our resources and skills to those areas that African Parks manages we can set practical, achievable, examples of resource rehabilitation, lead the way, and make a difference - the African Parks difference.

Robert-Jan van Ogtrop  
Chairman: African Parks Network



Daniel Dolpire

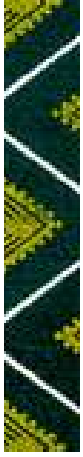


Dr. José Kalpers



Daniel Dolpire





## CEO's Report

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The story of "Lady Liuwa", the affectionate name given to the last lioness in Liuwa Plain National Park, is both intriguing and poignant. When African Parks first took on the management of Liuwa Plain National Park in Zambia in 2003, Lady Liuwa was no more than an unanswered roar, breaking the early dawn over the plains; never seen. She remained totally elusive until the first sighting of her in November 2005. Since that day Lady Liuwa almost sensed that African Parks was there for her, protecting and rehabilitating her threatened environment. She became progressively comfortable with the presence of our management team and a resident film crew from National Geographic which was exploring this remote and wild area. Lady Liuwa lived in the management camp, deep in the park, often lying just meters away from the camp fire, following closely behind us on our way to the tents, and lying on the verandas whilst we slept. With a deep resonant purr she would also communicate with us and roll on her back with her paws in the air in a display of trust and loneliness. Despite the fact that she remained a proficient hunter, she never threatened anyone, and all of us who know her were completely comfortable with her close presence.

With proper management, and strong support from the Barotse Royal Establishment, the park was recovering. Species such as wildebeest increased from 15,000 in 2003 to over 40,000 in 2009; zebra increased from 2,000 to 4,900, and tsessebe from 400 to 1,450. Founder populations of eland and buffalo, two species that were locally extinct, were reintroduced while African wild-dog and roan antelope returned of their own accord. However, despite the enormous size of the overall ecosystem of which Liuwa is part, no other lions ventured into Liuwa. In 2008, therefore, African Parks sought and received permission to translocate a single male lion from Kafue National Park. Darting the male and ferrying it to Liuwa was a 12 hour exercise. On release into the holding pen, the young male panicked, attacking the fence. If he were to break out in such a state he might have attacked and killed Lady Liuwa, so the decision was taken to dart him again and sedate him. This time however, he choked on regurgitated food, and died.

Undeterred by the setback our management team tried again in May 2009, this time translocating a coalition of two male lions to support each other through the exercise. This was successful and the two males have joined Lady Liuwa and formed the nucleus of a new Liuwa pride. They have been mating vigorously and it is hoped she will soon have her first litter of cubs, a symbol that the rehabilitation of Liuwa will have reached a new high point.

The progress of African Parks in 2009 tracks Lady Liuwa's own story - with both tragedy and triumph. The attack on 2nd of

January by the Lord's Resistance Army on Garamba, together with subsequent incursions, left 22 of our staff and their family members dead and the park headquarters in ruin. In June we grieved again with the sudden passing of Huibert Boumeester who had been appointed as Chairman of African Park Network less than a year earlier and who was already making a considerable contribution to the further development of the organisation.

A further disappointment was the termination of the agreement for West Lunga National Park (Zambia) in September. African Parks had signed a formal management agreement with the Zambia Wildlife Authority on 26 August 2008 and immediately set about implementing the business plan including making improvements to the headquarters, paying salaries, providing rations to the scouts, undertaking repairs and procuring the necessary equipment. In February we suspended activities at the request of ZAWA because of complaints from local businessmen who believed that they should have been given the opportunity to manage the park, believing this to be a lucrative occupation. The Minister of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources ruled that the Zambia Wildlife Act needed to be amended and a policy on public-private partnerships be developed before being able to resolve the issue. We were obviously disappointed by the decision and did not fully understand it. However, we hold that African Parks is the guest of the Government and we have to respect its will. If at a point in time Government and/or the Zambia Wildlife Authority chooses to reengage African Parks in the management of West Lunga, we will reconsider it on its merits relative to the other possibilities on the continent.

But there were also triumphs. We were extremely fortunate to welcome back Piet Klaver who stepped in as interim Chairman upon Huibert's death until the appointment of Robert-Jan van Ogtrop as Chairman in December. The team in Garamba has continued to conserve this wonderful ecosystem in extremely challenging circumstances with negligible loss to the wildlife populations. As already mentioned in Liuwa the wildlife numbers are increasing and two packs of African wild dog have recently returned to the park. As part of an important research and monitoring project, undertaken in partnership with WWF-The Netherlands and the Zambian Carnivore Programme, one animal in each pack has been collared. The Bangweulu project has got off to a slow but solid start, and anti-poaching efforts are beginning to yield the desired results. Majete continues to thrive with constantly improving tourism statistics and valuable additions of animals during the year. The famous "Phirilongwe elephants" were captured in the Mangochi district and moved to Majete, much to the relief of the Government, and the harassed people of the area. The WWF-The Netherlands funded translocation



programme was completed with numbers of eland, zebra and hartebeest moved during the year. These and other successes are all mentioned in the individual Park reports that follow.

### Project Development

At an institutional level considerable time was invested in assessing new projects. By the end of the year African Parks found itself in a position that was never expected, with requests for management agreements far exceeding our ability to take on such commitments. This is, I believe, testimony to the approach and results achieved thus far, but also an indication of how many parks are in desperate need of proper management and funding. Projects were investigated in the following countries: Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Botswana, Namibia, Angola, Tanzania, Madagascar, Kenya, Rwanda, DRC, Congo, South Africa, Uganda, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Chad and The Gambia. In addition a strategic alliance was signed with the *Reseau des Aires Protegées d'Afrique Centrale (RAPAC)*, the network of protected areas in Central Africa, which positions African Parks as a strategic management partner in the Central African countries. Projects which deserve specific mention include the following:

- Zinave National Park in Mozambique reached the stage of final due diligence, but the challenges of the park combined with an uncertain commitment from Government to the key principles necessary for effective management meant that African Parks had to suspend further negotiations.
- African Parks investigated Yankari National Park in Nigeria as well as Kiang West National Park and Baobolon Wetland Reserve in The Gambia, none of which suited our approach or satisfied our selection criteria, and the authorities were informed accordingly.
- Despite the political upheavals, significant progress was made in Madagascar with the key institutions expressing interest in partnering with African Parks in various sites. These discussions are still pending.
- For a number of years African Parks has been in discussion with the Chadian Government about partnering them in the management of Zakouma National Park. The plight of this park was highlighted by a census in March 2009 which showed that the elephant population had declined dramatically from 3,500 in 2007 to just 600 in two years! Negotiations were accelerated when President Idris Deby requested the immediate support of African Parks and as a consequence a Memorandum of Understanding was concluded between the Chadian Government, African Parks and the European Union. African

Parks will most likely take formal responsibility for Zakouma in the course of 2010.

- Initial discussions were held with the Congolese Government about the management of Odzala National Park and agreements were drafted. The key consideration is whether the Government of Congo will provide an unequivocal management mandate for African Parks. The outcome of the discussions will become clear in the first half of 2010.
- African Parks was invited to consider involvement in two projects in Southern Kenya on Maasai traditional land. Both were investigated and the one situated in South Western Kenya on the border of the Maasai Mara National Reserve has progressed well. This project will require a different approach to that normally adopted by African Parks in that it will involve the formal leasing of the land from individual Maasai landowners. The additional cost imposed as a result of the rental will be covered with reasonable certainty by a bed night levy income stream sourced from well established tourism operators in the project area.
- Solid progress was made with the extension of the Liuwa Plain mandate to include the adjoining Upper West Zambezi Game Management Area. This will ensure the year round protection within Zambia of the migratory wildebeest, zebra and tsessebe populations of Liuwa. The Peace Parks Foundation has also committed to facilitating the development of a transfrontier conservation area between Angola and Zambia (currently referred to as the Liuwa/Mussumma TFCA). This expansion will ensure the protection of migratory wildlife when they leave Liuwa and cross the international border. The Barotse Royal Establishment supports the proposal and the matter is being dealt with by the Zambia Wildlife Authority.
- Finally, the mandate for Akagera National Park was concluded in December after a two year process. In September 2007 we flew into Kigali to finalise the agreement only to find that Dubai World had concluded a US\$240m investment deal which included taking over Akagera. In April this year, after no progress, the Rwandan Government approached African Parks with a request for our assistance with the management of the park. We were happy to comply. The agreement shows a real commitment by the Rwandan Government in that from the outset they cede all existing park income, make an additional contribution to the annual running costs, and they will pay most of the costs of fencing the Western boundary of the park. This sets a new standard in park management agreements.



Peter Fearnhead



Daniel Dolpire

### Funding

Equally important to investigating and concluding proper management mandates is securing funding to implement the mandates, in which African Parks also had a reasonably successful year. In addition to the ongoing support provided by the van Vlissingen family and the contribution from Stichting African Parks Foundation (Holland), the key relationships secured during 2009 include the following:

- The formal conclusion of the relationship with WWF The Netherlands which makes a funding commitment of €2m over 2.5 years with the possibility of further funding if a third project is identified.
- The in-principle conclusion of a second tranche of EU funding for Garamba worth €5m over a four year period.
- The commitment by Adessium Foundation to an institutional relationship with African Parks amounting to €1.05m over the period 2010-2012.
- The contractual commitment by Stichting DOEN to an additional grant of €150,000 for emergency requirements after the attack in Garamba.
- A written commitment by the EU to fund Zakouma National Park for an amount of €7m over a 4-5 year period.
- A commitment by the Walton Family Foundation of US\$500,000 per annum for five years for Akagera National Park.
- Two confirmed grants from two Spanish Government agencies for special projects in Garamba, amounting to €310,000, with two potential additional grants.

Furthermore, a number of potentially strategic relationships were consolidated in the course of the year with some of the large international conservation institutions that are increasingly looking to African Parks for strategic partnerships. Good progress was made on the establishment of an African Parks endowment fund which we hope to launch in 2010 as part of securing the financial sustainability of the parks under our management. As a result of the global economic crisis both the Stichting African Parks Foundation (Holland) and African Parks USA, had a challenging year. Both of these institutions have the primary responsibility for catalysing funding relationships to build the funding base for African Park's projects. However, the foundations have been laid for the anticipated global recovery.

### Outlook

As with Lady Liuwa, the outlook for the African Parks Network is a very positive one. The prospects of including good quality parks in the portfolio are better than ever. Given the number of potential projects in the pipeline, African Parks will not be actively soliciting additional partnerships but rather focusing on those that are close to conclusion. The challenge will be to build the funding base necessary to support all the parks. We have set ourselves the target of achieving a portfolio of 12 parks by 2015, conserving an area of between 5 million and 7.5 million hectares. Almost certainly this will be one of the largest and most ecologically diverse portfolios of parks in the world – under the direct responsibility of African Parks. It will be made up of parks with different income generating potential, reflecting the following approximate spread in terms of operational income at maturity:

- 4 parks will be largely financially self sustaining
- 5 parks will be generating between 25 and 75% of their annual cash requirements
- 3 will still be materially dependent on ongoing institutional donor support

The total direct cost of maintaining such a portfolio in its maturity is estimated to be US\$15.4m. Of this approximately US\$6.5m will be generated from income, leaving a gap of US\$8.9m. This US\$8.9m will have to be raised and in effect reflects the cost to global society of maintaining this unique portfolio of parks in Africa. It is possible to do more.

In closing I would like to express my thanks to three groupings of people – firstly the Governments, wildlife agencies and local communities that have entrusted their precious resources to our care; secondly to the individuals and institutions that believe in the future of Africa and the need to conserve these precious assets and who commit their financial resources towards this purpose; and thirdly to all our staff that execute their mandates with professionalism, passion and diligence.

Peter Fearnhead  
Chief Executive Officer  
African Parks Network



# Individual Park Reports



Peter Fearnhead



Lorenz Fischer / Allvisions



Peter Fearnhead



# Liyuwa Plain National Park, Zambia

## General Park Information

Liyuwa Plain National Park is famous for the seasonal migration of over 40,000 wildebeest and 5,000 zebra which move between the border with Angola and the Park. The rich grasslands also support populations of red lechwe, oribi, tsessebe, eland and buffalo. Predators are represented by large clans of hyaena and small populations of lion and cheetah. Wild dogs are making a significant comeback in the Liyuwa ecosystem with regular sightings of two breeding packs. The 3,660km<sup>2</sup> Park (366,000 hectares) is dominated by extensive grasslands, interspersed with woodland islands. The entire system floods annually from December to April – a spectacular and unique sight.

People are a major component of the Liyuwa ecosystem. The history of the Lozi people is inextricably linked to Liyuwa Plain. The people living in the park today are descendants of the original traditional game keepers who were relocated here by the Litunga (King) to protect the Park's natural resources over a hundred years ago. Management is working towards reviving and reinforcing traditional conservation values.

Liyuwa Plain National Park is managed as a partnership between African Parks, the Zambia Wildlife Authority and the Barotse Royal Establishment. Liyuwa is a good example of a working conservation partnership in practice. The project is now in its sixth year and it witnessed a great deal of further progress towards rehabilitating this magnificent Park.

## Accomplishments and Challenges in 2009

### Biodiversity Conservation

The year 2009 has seen a tremendous amount of activity in terms of Biodiversity Conservation programmes. The buffalo translocated in 2008 produced three healthy calves. The animals remain in a very good condition and as mating has been observed, a healthy crop of calves is expected in 2010. A young bull from South Luangwa has joined the herd, now numbering twenty. He will add to the genetic diversity of this important herd when he reaches maturity. The herd are now released daily from their boma to feed on the plains and are returned at night. The eland introduced in 2007 are regularly monitored and are in separate herds in the woodlands in the east of the Park. Nine calves were recorded in 2009. This should increase in years to come since the introduction this year of two mature bulls that will boost breeding and improve the genetics of the herd.

A highlight of 2009 was the translocation of two male lions to

the Park to join the resident lioness. The operation went very smoothly and the animals settled into the lioness's home range after a brief exploratory foray. The males have bonded well with the female and mating has been observed repeatedly. The story of 'Lady Liyuwa, the lone lioness of Liyuwa Plain' has been widely circulated with coverage in a top quality television documentary and many newspaper, magazine and internet articles.

An aerial count was carried out in April. This yielded positive results with most species showing good growth in numbers since the last count in 2007. It was also interesting to note that species that spend most of the year in the Park increased more than those that spend part of the year outside of the Park. This shows the importance of our continued efforts at securing and managing the entire range of as many species as possible. To this end there was good progress on a viability study for a Transfrontier Conservation Area between Liyuwa and adjacent areas in Zambia and Angola. A business plan for the Upper West Zambezi GMA was adopted by the Board and negotiations are ongoing with partners in an attempt to secure this area.

Once again, there was a report of elephant bulls in the Park as well as good sightings of wild dog and cheetah. Controlled burning has been carried out in the Park to negate the effects of late season wild fires and the locations of all wildlife are monitored with the use of the Park aircraft. Burning in the Park early in the season was successful in keeping most of the wildlife from moving far from the Park boundary.

Meetings were held with the Zambian Carnivore Programme as part of the plan to establish Liyuwa as a site in their important project. A local monitoring team and university students will conduct research that will aid management's decision making. As a precursor to this project two VHF radio collars and one satellite collar were fitted to members of two separate breeding packs of wild dog.

Law enforcement has continued to improve with the introduction of new systems, with 5,078 man days (up from 2,941 in 2008) achieved and this resulting in 25 arrests and 33 convictions. A good relationship with local authorities has resulted in a magistrate travelling from Mongu to deal quickly with conservation related cases. Two AK47's, two shotguns and one hunting rifle were seized during operations, whilst numerous snares and other hunting implements were also seized. There was a marked increase in the number of weapons handed in as part of the amnesty program. These include 28 AK47's (an increase from 9 in 2008), 2 hunting rifles and 188 rounds of ammunition. Twenty five



Peter Fearnhead



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Peter Fearnhead

scouts completed a ZAWA accredited basic scout training camp and have returned to station, ready to carry out their duties. Empowered with the required skills, their motivation and abilities will be greatly enhanced. The combination of improved scout discipline and better oversight has had a very positive impact on law enforcement results. An additional amphibious vehicle was procured to support wet season law enforcement operations, the period at which the park is currently most vulnerable. Illegal hunting remains a challenge that management is constantly striving to overcome.

#### Community Initiatives

The community section continued to make progress in building a constituency for conservation around Liuwa. Regular interaction with the Barotse Royal Establishment (BRE) from village level right through to the Litunga has been undertaken.

The LEEP program is making good headway in the local schools and contacts have been made with over 500 pupils. There are now 21 conservation clubs in schools in and around the Park. Schools from Liuwa participated in the very successful Interschool Drama Festival. We have maintained good communications with our community partners through regular meetings and through profiling opportunities such as the annual Kalabo Agricultural Show where we had an information stand. Quarterly newsletters were circulated to stakeholders to update them on the progress of the project. A successful application was made to "Close the Gap", an organisation that supplies computers to schools in developing countries. These computers and other IT hardware have been installed at the Kalabo High School computer laboratory. A further ten computers were also supplied by The Koornzaayer Foundation as one of their annual projects. As part of the school's commitment to the environment over 500 trees were planted. A donation of library books was received for schools in Kalabo from Biblionef, a charity that supports literacy development.

Community Development Funds have been allocated for water supply projects at 26 school nodes in and around the Park. The Koornzaayer Foundation projects for 2009 included a solar cooking project which saw four hundred solar cooking units purchased for the communities of Liuwa to reduce the amount of wood used by villagers in the Park for fuel. A vehicle was also purchased by The Koornzaayer Foundation for the community section to aid constituency building programs.

A major challenge for the project has been to persevere with and fully complete the land use planning process. This has now been achieved, approvals signed, and will be implemented in 2010.

#### Tourism

Tourist numbers increased from 337 in 2008 to 393 this year, including 44 guests of Robin Pope Safaris. This highlights the importance of continued marketing and project profiling as well as new ventures such as the RPS partnership. This year, safaris operated by RPS went extremely well and wildlife and bird viewing was reported as exceptional, with good revenue generated through this activity and an extension of this program secured through to 2010. We have also entered into discussions with potential lodge developers and a formal expression of interest process is being finalised. Advertising and profiling of the project was done in an effort to increase interest in the area and a number of documentaries and articles produced on the wildlife of Liuwa, all of which are expected to generate interest in the area. In order to improve future self-drive bookings, further networking towards a Western Zambia route has been carried out. Matamanene Camp underwent significant upgrades, transforming it into a marketable facility that can also be used for self-catering groups, visiting donors and other VIP's.

#### General Park Management and Infrastructure

The management team was strengthened by the appointment of a Field Operations Manager, who has implemented a number of controls and improved operational efficiency. A house at WENELA for him is now complete. A new Park Ranger also joined the project and he has also added great value to our law enforcement operations. The aircraft successfully underwent the required annual permission to fly renewals and flew 142 hours monitoring wildlife, in particular reintroduced species, and is helping guide and improve the efficiency of law enforcement operations. New assets received include a quad bike, an amphibious vehicle, a wooden and aluminium boat and a replacement for the Park Manager's vehicle. New equipment and uniforms for all staff were procured and this is having a positive impact on morale. The purchase of the WENELA property has still not been finalised but good progress has been made. This remains a challenge for management but should be finalised in 2011 as it is now in the hands of the Board Chairman and BRE.

The proposed airstrip at Matamanene has been sited and an Environmental Brief completed as part of the requirements of the Environmental Council of Zambia. Once final approval has been received construction will begin, supported very generously by a member of the AP USA Board. It is believed that this facility will unlock the tourism potential of the Park by dramatically improving access and extending the tourism season.

The annual audit was completed timeously and the management



Frans Schepers / WWF NL



Frans Schepers / WWF NL



Peter Fearnhead

report contained the least number of queries in recent years. This indicates the impact of changes implemented in the finance section, with all assets, uniform and equipment budgeted for the year procured. As part of the workshop upgrade most redundant assets have been sold. New gates have been installed for improved security and a junior mechanic appointed to ensure that proper maintenance is carried out. A budget surplus was achieved - testament to the improved controls and the focus on cost saving measures.

His Excellency, Mr Rupiah Banda, the President of Zambia and a number of Ministers and Members of Parliament were hosted in the Park in December, highlighting support for the project at the highest level. Various donor and potential partner groups, the African Parks Network Management Meeting, one APN Board meeting and the African Parks USA board were also hosted at Matamanene.

A potential threat to the project arose with oil prospecting potentially being allowed in the Park. The Park Manager has been playing a role in a strategic environmental assessment process aimed at guiding decision-making around this sensitive issue. A decision from Government is still pending.

#### **Financial Partners**

Supporting financial contributions were gratefully received from Adessium Foundation, WWF The Netherlands, The Koornzaayer Foundation, Stichting African Parks Foundation and Stichting DOEN.

#### **Objectives for 2010**

##### **Biodiversity Conservation**

In 2010 we intend to secure and translocate more buffalo to augment the growing Liuwa herd. Funding is currently being sought through one of our partners and we are also attempting to get the support of ZAWA. All translocated species will continue to be monitored and managed intensively to ensure their successful establishment in the park.

We will continue engagement with ZAWA on the issue of our management mandate being extended to include the Upper West Zambezi Game Management Area. A number of wildebeest will be fitted with radio collars to allow us to better understand their movements. We will also be working hard on the research partnership with the Zambian Carnivore Programme as this will result in a better understanding of the workings of the Liuwa ecosystem.

Management will minimise illegal activities through innovative law enforcement strategies and good planning and effective training of staff. This will be supported through effective supervision, monitoring and incentives.

#### **Community Initiatives**

The community section will be focussed on implementing the Land Use Plan. The annual LEEP program will be carried out and the public at large will be informed of project progress through quarterly newsletters. Further development projects will be embarked on with the support of The Koornzaayer Foundation. Education facilities are the focus as a result of findings of the Land Use Plan.

#### **Tourism**

In an attempt to sharply increase revenue we will be running four specialist safaris where clients will participate in management and research activities. The lodge concession areas identified in our Land Use Plan will be marketed and the airstrip construction completed, allowing year-round access into the park.

#### **General Park Management and Infrastructure**

Infrastructural developments in 2009 will centre on consolidating accommodation for management staff in Kalabo. In order to maintain our operational effectiveness, continued focus will be kept on management and motivation of our large staff component.

Craig Reid  
Park Manager  
Liuwa Plain National Park



Frans Schepers / WWF NL



Frans Schepers / WWF NL



Frans Schepers / WWF NL



Ian Stevenson



# Bangweulu Wetlands, Zambia

## General Park Information

With an estimated 100,000 endemic black lechwe (*Kobus leche smithemani*), the Bangweulu Wetlands is home to one of the major assemblages of wildlife remaining on the planet. The area is home to one of the most enigmatic birds of Africa - the rare Shoebill - and the floodplain and swamp system is one of Africa's great wetlands. Situated in northern Zambia close to the border of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Bangweulu also supports a population of sitatunga (*Tragelaphus spekei*) and at least 1500 tsessebe (*Damaliscus lunatus*). Bangweulu is classified as an Important Bird Area by Birdlife International and the Chikuni area is a designated Ramsar Site.

Zambia is pioneering a new concept in African conservation, a "Community Partnership Park" (CPP). This is a protected area with a similar status to that of a national park, but which belongs to the local community rather than to the State and is managed by a private sector partner. African Parks Network was invited by the six local communities and the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) to be the private management partner not only for Chikuni CPP, but for the entire Bangweulu Game Management Area, an area of 6,000km<sup>2</sup>.

Bangweulu means "where the water meets the sky" – a fitting name for this unique ecosystem. Much of the area is swamp, seasonally flooded grasslands and termitaria woodlands. There are extensive areas of pristine Miombo woodland above the seasonal flood levels. Many game populations are much reduced but there are remnant populations of buffalo, elephant, zebra, hartebeest and roan and sable antelope, as well as the smaller game species in the area.

Governance of the project is by the Bangweulu Wetlands Management Board which consists of representatives from the Community, African Parks and the Zambia Wildlife Authority.

## Accomplishments and Challenges in 2009

### Biodiversity Conservation

Priority at the beginning of a new project is to establish baseline data for the protected area and to get an overview for future zonation, planning and management. An aerial survey of the entire GMA was conducted in October 2009, which provided vital information on both wildlife and human distribution and densities. Two planning meetings were conducted to draft a general management plan for the Bangweulu GMA. Basic GPS data, maps, shape files and tracks were collected to form the start of the GIS

database. A proposal has been drafted for Shoebill and fisheries research and preparations have commenced for the reintroduction of cheetah in 2011.

A total of 84 law enforcement personnel have been recruited made up of the Head of Law Enforcement, 58 Village Scouts, 24 ZAWA Wildlife Police Officers and 2 drivers. An extensive selection process was conducted and all personnel have been formally seconded from ZAWA and the Community Resources Boards to the project. All Village Scouts underwent a 10 week training course (23 this year) and selected personnel have had extra training in GPS, data collection, communications and report writing. All personnel have been issued with new bicycles, uniforms and patrol equipment. Two new vehicles have been purchased and the required equipment fitted to them. All teams, camps and vehicles are now equipped with radio communications. Management, administration and monitoring systems have started to be implemented and an incentive schedule has been agreed upon. Over 70 suspects were arrested and tonnes of bush meat, firearms, bicycles and other equipment confiscated. Several additional firearms were provided to the project by ZAWA however this remains inadequate for the patrolling effort required. Poaching remains high and there is still a lot of work to be done with the law enforcement team in 2010.

### Community Initiatives

As a major partner and stakeholder, the community is a key component of the project. In 2009 the community team was recruited and is now active in the area. A Community Coordinator oversees 6 Community Development Facilitators (CDFs) a driver and a vehicle, 4 motorbikes and 2 outboards. Resolving the issue of unsustainable fishing practices in the area is undoubtedly the biggest challenge the project faces and is vital to its success. A strategy for addressing the fishing issue and the sensitisation of the fishermen has commenced including involvement of local, traditional, and governmental authorities. Motorbike and Coxswain training has been conducted and usage regulations developed and implemented. The Bangweulu Board and CRBs play a very active role in the development of the project. A look and learn trip to Namibia was conducted for all the Chiefs in the area, allowing them to witness first hand a community conservation model which has been running for over 15 years. The first site and plans have been agreed upon for a community campsite and a second site has been identified. The project has contributed resources and expertise in the election of new Community Resource Boards and we are in the process of building local capacity. Proposals have been collected, analysed, approved and funded for the community development fund and several projects have



Frans Schepers / WWF NL



Ian Stevenson



Frans Schepers / WWF NL

commenced. Stakeholder meetings have been conducted on sharing of benefits, fishing issues, information sharing and planning.

**Tourism and Resource Utilisation**

Tourism has not been a major focus in 2009 as it is the project's first year. However much effort went into monitoring and regulation of hunting in the section of the project area where this is an official practice, and ensuring adherence to ethical practice. The project set a much-reduced hunting quota, but this was not adopted by ZAWA, in conflict with the management agreement. In 2009 hunting generated over US\$125,000 of revenue. These fees have been collected by ZAWA who should retain 10% and pass on the balance to the Park as a contribution to the operational costs of the project. However this has not happened and will be addressed as a priority in 2010. A community campsite has been agreed upon and its construction started. It will be operational in 2010.

**General Park Management and Infrastructure**

The year 2009 saw the number of permanent employees under the project grow from 2 (Park Manager and Financial Controller) to 96 including the engagement of the full management team (Head of Law Enforcement, Community Coordinator and Works Supervisor). The establishment of the management team was a long process which meant there was limited capacity for the first half of the year. Codes of conduct, conditions of service and contracts were drafted, legally approved and implemented. The project has been branded with a new logo, and letterheads and business cards have been developed. There were delays in the decision-making process for the new project headquarter site, however in October a decision was reached. The new site was identified and approved, a 7km road has been opened to allow access, the sites for the offices, workshop, stores, housing and a visitor's camp have been cleared and two temporary camps for the project management have been established. An architect was engaged and has designed the buildings and an Environmental Impact Brief has been drafted and submitted to the Zambian Environmental Council for approval. A temporary office and Manager's house in Chikuni were renovated as well as scout houses. Work on the dirt road from Mpika has advanced and there is now all-season access to Chiunda Ponde. Two bridges and a series of culverts have been constructed between Chiunda Ponde and Chikuni. Once the road is upgraded in 2010 there should be all-season access to Chikuni as well. An area for a new airstrip in Kopa has been identified and construction has commenced. Mobility has been greatly improved with the procurement of new Land Cruisers, motorbikes, a quad bike and a pull-grader. A light 4WD truck has been ordered. Communications

have also improved with the installation of a satellite internet communication system and a VHF radio network linking all outposts.

**Financial Partners**

Supporting financial contributions were gratefully received from WWF The Netherlands and Stichting African Parks Foundation. In addition UNDP/GEF also provided financial support to the project, although this was not channelled through the Bangweulu Wetlands Management Board.

**Objectives for 2010**

**Biodiversity Conservation**

Objectives for 2010 include the obtaining of legal status for Chikuni Community Partnership Park. A GIS expert will be employed to develop a database which will underpin a zonation plan for the area and assist with monitoring the effectiveness of law enforcement. The process of reintroducing cheetah in 2011 will continue, and research will commence on the population dynamics, distribution and breeding sites for the Shoebill. The assessment of the human impact on the fish population and development of a strategy for sustainable offtake will commence. Funding for the restocking program and enclosure will also need to be secured.

**Law Enforcement**

Management, reporting and monitoring systems will be implemented, and refresher training in law enforcement including range shooting, law and discipline will be provided to all field staff. Sufficient and effective water transport through procuring of additional boats will be supplied, and the living conditions in scout houses will be improved with the construction of additional houses and office and storeroom blocks. Man-days will be increased to an average of over 800 per month and additional firearms will be secured to provide greater protection and law enforcement efficiency.

**Community Initiatives**

Community objectives in 2010 involve ensuring that benefits flow to the community from their ownership of and active participation in the management of the Bangweulu Wetlands. Crucial to this is the development of alternative livelihood projects which reduce the communities dependency on the utilisation of natural resources. We also intend to develop an environmental education programme to raise conservation awareness in the local communities and engage them in taking positive actions regarding the environment and fishing issues. Work with the fishermen and relevant authorities are set to continue in order to ensure sustainable offtake of the



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fish resources. Community Resources Boards will also be trained in how to better manage and protect their resources and strengthen accountability to the Community.

Where possible we will work with established NGOs who specialise in community development, education and public health issues. Construction of the Nsoke Community Camp is set to be completed, the mobilisation of Community Development Facilitators is to be improved through the procurement of banana boats, and communications and relations with all stakeholders will be strengthened.

**Tourism and Resource Utilisation**

Plans for the year ahead include finalising an agreement and time frame for the transfer of the lease on Shoebill Camp to the project, constructing a hunting camp, employing, training and mobilising staff for the hunting camp, upgrading the road to the hunting camp, setting and submitting quotas for sustainable hunting to ZAWA, the further regulation of this practice, as well as increasing marketing and project exposure in the media and travel trade.

**General Park Management and Infrastructure**

At a Board level, there will need to be a clearer separation of the

non executive Board and executive management functions which will improve the pace of delivery. Implementation of administration, management and monitoring systems will be a focus, as will the employment of additional staff (mechanic, stores person, carpenter, builder, and drivers). Capacity building in our management team will be achieved through training in areas such as computer skills, administration and management. At the headquarter site, construction of the workshop, office block, management houses and visitor's area will commence, and water and power reticulation will be installed. Other infrastructure such as the construction of a bridge over the Lukulu River, upgrading of selected roads, construction of the plane hangar will also be completed. Procurements will include a Toyota Hi-Lux for construction, a quad bike and staff bicycles and a water bowser and compactor for road work.

Ian Stevenson  
Park Manager  
Bangweulu Wetlands



Ian Stevenson



Ian Stevenson



Ian Stevenson



Stephen Cunliffe



Stephen Cunliffe



Daniel Dolpire



# Majete Wildlife Reserve, Malawi

## General Park Information

Majete Wildlife Reserve was proclaimed in 1955 and measures 70,000 hectares (700km<sup>2</sup>) in extent. Poaching of large mammals accelerated during the late 1980's and 1990's and by 2000 most species of large game, including elephants, had been exterminated.

In 2003, African Parks Majete (Pty) Ltd. (APM) concluded an agreement with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) to take on responsibility for the rehabilitation, development and management of Majete. Majete was not initially taken on as a project because of its biodiversity or conservation values or its potential for tourism. Majete is only a small example of the Eastern Miombo Ecoregion, which is well represented in neighbouring countries, however taking on a wasted and depleted reserve that was a "paper park" (existing on a map rather than as a reality on the ground) and fulfilling its true potential could be very rewarding. A successful Majete project would demonstrate the soundness of African Parks' conservation philosophy more convincingly than managing a bigger and more diverse area. This has, after only seven years, clearly proved to be the case.

Between 2003 and 2009 over US\$8,730,056 has been received by Majete in investment and operating expenditure. Over US\$3,034,866 has been used in infrastructure developments, transport, field scout equipment, and other office equipment. Within this amount over US\$1,401,803 was used to construct the perimeter and sanctuary fences which are a key component in the conservation of wildlife in Majete. Over US\$2,346,821 has been spent on the translocation of around 3,000 animals. Over US\$3,348,369 was used in operating expenditures, which include staff, administration, law enforcement, and community extension costs.

## Accomplishments and Challenges in 2009

### Biodiversity Conservation

Conservation activities included the successful translocation of 83 elephants from Phirilongwe Forest Reserve in Mangochi under DNPW funding, and the completion of WWF The Netherlands funded animal translocations of 40 zebra, 25 hartebeest and 20 eland. Negotiations with DNPW to acquire 600 animals for translocation to Majete in 2010 were also successfully concluded.

Two solar powered water holes were constructed in the outer reserve near Phwadzi and on the Namisempha – Diwa road to supply additional water to the animals being introduced in the Pende area. Ecological monitoring included habitat monitoring in

21 plots in the Sanctuary and Pende area. A preliminary report of the current habitat status was produced. Construction of firebreaks as well as early patch burning was done to mitigate the impacts of fire.

Law enforcement consistently achieved 100% patrol coverage every month, due to increased staff numbers. Further training for scouts on law enforcement and provision of more equipment resulted in a dramatic decrease in illegal activities, in particular poaching. There was increased support for law enforcement activities by both the judiciary and the police to the extent that some offenders were given no fine option but sent to jail for 24 months. Elephant and rhino tracking significantly increased. However, more rhino monitoring programs and law enforcement activities are planned for 2010 so that the animals are provided even greater protection. This will be achieved through physical tracking training of Majete scouts early in the year and use of predetermined patrol routes to increase coverage and distances patrolled.

### Community Initiatives

Apart from maintaining the active participation of the key stakeholders and the local communities through the regular meetings of the Majete Wildlife Reserve Association (MWRA), the Joint Liaison Committee, and village sensitization meetings; other activities involved enterprise development with particular focus on beekeeping and promotion of handicrafts, environmental education and HIV/AIDS intervention in the work place. The first Executive Board for the MWRA was elected. The Majete Beekeepers' Association was established with over 400 members. In collaboration with a USAID funded project, COMPASS II, 56 beekeepers were provided with an educational visit to Sapitwa Beekeepers Association in Mulanje and Nali Ltd, a honey packaging and processing company in Blantyre.

Capacity building programmes included formal training of 37 beekeepers in honey quality management and eight members of Zatonse pottery club in use of a potter's wheel and making of clay flower pots. A shelter for the clay kiln, storeroom and working facility has also been constructed. A film "In and around Majete Wildlife Reserve" that highlights various community projects, income generating activities, tourism and wildlife activities was produced by the Nature Conservation Film Company funded by Anne Hoiyer from Holland. A detailed set of resource utilisation guidelines, providing a framework for implementing the collection of natural resources such as thatch grass and bamboo by neighbouring communities was developed. The Majete Environmental Education curriculum was also created to enhance



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Jurgen Vogt / Swiss Photography



Jurgen Vogt / Swiss Photography

wildlife and conservation knowledge in wildlife clubs. There has been a great increase in the number of educational trips by school groups to Majete with over 800 students visiting. Further, the Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi was contracted and conducted the baseline socio-economic survey for Majete.

The Evangelical Lutheran Development Service (ELDS), the main development partner in the community programmes around Majete provided 4,500kg of maize and 900kg of beans to 90 people that were affected by elephant crop damage. A project to make a chilli pepper hedge along the boundary fence line was initiated in collaboration with ELDS to reduce elephant human conflict. Stakeholder consultations with African Parks and the communities were conducted as part of an evaluation of the first 4-year phase of the ELDS project.

A five year "HIV/AIDS intervention in the work place" project was initiated in collaboration with USAID. Two staff members were trained as Peer Educators and Trainers of Trainers in use of Hopekit for HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness. The Extension coordinator was also trained by International Labour Organisation in development of HIV/AIDS policy; and over 121 staff members and all scout families were sensitised about HIV/AIDS.

Finally APM continued to provide secondary school scholarships to 60 students from adjacent villages targeting orphans.

### **Tourism**

A total of 4,053 paying tourists came to Majete during 2009, generating total gross revenue of US\$101,678. This was a significant increase on 2008 revenue of US\$43,197. Promotional activities included production and distribution of brochures and linking up Majete with tourist travel agents at both a national and international level. Majete promotion materials were presented to both electronic and print media. Special promotional and public relation meetings were held in Lilongwe and Blantyre where tour operators and other stakeholders at both an operational and policy level attended. Construction of the APN guest lodge was postponed and the construction of the Molecaten Malawi lodge is progressing, albeit behind the contract schedule.

### **General Park Management and Infrastructure**

The infrastructural developments during 2009 included chemical weeding of the 160km fence line and maintenance of the fence and rehabilitation of the elephant boma at Pende in readiness for the Phirilongwe elephant translocation. The 17km road to Chikwawa was graded to improve access to Majete. Community infrastructural projects included the UK Leadership Challenge-

funded double classroom school block, a duplex teacher's house at Mamine Primary School, increasing the number of classrooms from 4 to 6, construction of a culvert bridge for Mamine and painting of four classrooms. The community campsite benefited from the construction of campsite attendants waiting rooms.

A heavy storm was experienced in December that blew off roofs and three staff houses were crushed by falling trees. Majete also experienced the tragic death of our tractor driver who was trampled by an elephant. During the year, a lot of high profile visitors came to Majete as testimony to the popularity and significance of the project. The ambassadors of America, Ireland and South Africa visited the park. Other high profile visitors include the Minister of Tourism, National Parks and Wildlife, Chiefs and local and international media.

The Majete management team was set the objective at the beginning of the year of cutting back on operational costs which was achieved with a saving of US\$100,000.

### **Financial Partners**

Majete greatly appreciates the continued support of Stichting African Parks Foundation and Stichting DOEN for general budgetary support; WWF The Netherlands for funding the animal translocation programme completed in 2009, and the Euterpe Foundation for budgetary support of US\$18,750. In addition the DNPW provided the scouts and technical support as well as the 83 Phirilongwe elephants.

### **Objectives for 2010**

#### **Biodiversity Conservation**

In 2010 plans are firmly in place to translocate 600 sable, impala and waterbuck from within Malawi in order to build on the wildlife product already available at Majete. This will be the last antelope reintroduction for Majete. At the same time, six elephants will be recollared as part of the ongoing elephant monitoring programme. Law enforcement efforts will also be made more cost effective by improving on coverage and deployment tactics. Law enforcement scouts will be provided with additional monitoring equipment such as binoculars, telemetry sets and GPS units. Rhino tracking and monitoring will be also be enhanced by retraining of dedicated rhino monitoring teams.

#### **Community Initiatives**

The community team will focus on ways to enhance benefits to the rural poor who bear the cost of living with wildlife around Majete. In this regard we shall continue in collaboration with



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Majete Management

communities to be innovative in the identification of income generating activities and the provision of needed social services to the surrounding communities. The very successful orphan scholarship programme (for secondary schooling) will continue, and if possible expanded to include some assistance for tertiary education.

#### **Tourism**

During 2010 Majete will facilitate the major construction works for the Molecaten Majete Lodge which expects to be operational in the first half of 2011, including help with the acquisition of necessary permits and community support for the project. As a way of growing Thawale Lodge's income, the marketing network will continue to be expanded, and brochures will be updated and distributed. Majete will also continue to be advertised in the local print and electronic media. A new marketing person will be recruited to carry out these functions. In August, Majete will host a series of Participation Safaris around the translocation and elephant collaring project. The Heritage Centre at the main gate may also be updated to better cater for day visitors to the park. Overall, there will be an ongoing focus on customer care as the wishes of the customers are at the heart of Majete's tourism operations. Entrance fees will also be revised to increase the average revenue per visitor.

#### **General Park Management and Infrastructure**

The year will see limited construction activity at Majete as most infrastructure is in place. The emphasis will therefore be on proper maintenance of facilities and the perimeter fence. The timing for possible removal of the internal sanctuary fence will also be investigated, in which case, the fence would be moved to close the park on the Eastern bank of the Shire River.

Majete will also use its good government relations and contacts to continue to investigate the possibility of taking on new projects in Malawi.

Patricio Ndadzela  
Park Manager  
Majete Wildlife Reserve



Jes Gruner



Dr. José Kalpers



Bryan Havemann



Peter Fearnhead



Peter Fearnhead



# Akagera National Park, Rwanda

## General Park Information

Akagera is the oldest of Rwanda's three national parks, having been proclaimed in 1934 when the concept of such special protected areas was still very new in Africa. Whereas the other two national parks, Volcanoes and Nyungwe, are evergreen Afromontane forest parks where the priority animal species are birds and primates, Akagera is dominated by typical East African savannah and woodland. With the habitats come the species, and as far as we know Akagera is still a "Big Five" national park. We are certain that the buffalo, elephant and leopard populations are strong, but we know that there are no more than one or two black rhinoceros and perhaps only a few lions left in the park. To transform these tenuous "Five" into a definite and thriving "Five" will be one of the priorities of management for African Parks. In a crowded, predominantly agricultural country the 111,000 ha of Akagera's savannah, woodlands, dry forests, lakes, Papyrus swamps and grasslands are a national treasure. The mosaic of vegetation types provides habitat for many species not found anywhere else in the country, or only in small numbers. The wetlands support a large population of hippo and sitatunga and the open savannah holds eland, giraffe, topi, roan antelope, zebra and buffalo. A small population of about 100 savannah elephants are the last of the species in the country. In addition to providing a classic East African game viewing experience in the heart of the Great Lakes Region, the birdlife is exceptional. Akagera has an official list of 525 bird species recorded in the park, probably the highest number of species in any African protected area. Among the birds are some notable "specials" like the Shoebill and the Papyrus Gonolek, a brilliantly-coloured form of bush shrike only found in the swamps of East Africa. The White-winged Swamp-warbler and Papyrus Canary are two more Akagera species to delight serious birdwatchers.

In the recent past Akagera National Park was three times its present size. During the events that followed the genocide of 1994, thousands of refugees returned to their home country bringing with them large numbers of cattle. The Government simply had no alternative but to accommodate them and sadly most of the park was de-proclaimed for the purpose. Even worse from a wildlife management point of view is that the best grazing land was taken for the cattle and much of the present park is hilly country with shallow infertile soils and relatively low carrying capacity. Fortunately it is scenically most attractive and even in the areas where little game might be seen, the landscapes are stunning with rolling views across the hills to the swamps and lakes that lie in the valley of the Akagera River, and to the distant hills of Tanzania. The river roughly marks the eastern boundary

of the Park, and the international boundary between Rwanda and Tanzania.

## Accomplishments and Challenges in 2009

In September 2007 African Parks was only days away from signing an agreement with the Government of Rwanda to become the management partner for Akagera. Then Dubai World, a company that was aggressively pursuing tourism developments in Africa, made a multi-million dollar offer to develop tourism facilities in Rwanda. The Government accepted the offer which included the management rights to Akagera National Park. Though disappointed APN took the view that a financial solution had been found for Akagera and moved on. The recent global financial meltdown had a disastrous impact on Dubai World and it could no longer honour its commitments in Rwanda. The contract was cancelled and Rwanda once again approached APN to consider becoming the management partner for Akagera. Since April 2009 a new agreement was negotiated between APN and the Rwanda Development Board (RDB), new legislation was introduced by the Government that made it easier to embrace a Public Private Partnership and an agreement was signed in December 2009. In retrospect the current agreement is a more business-like arrangement than was anticipated in 2007. The vehicle for implementing management will be a non-profit company on which RDB has three directors and the Chairmanship of the Board, while APN will have four directors and will appoint the Park Manager and Financial Controller. The commitment of the RDB as a partner is stronger under the new agreement as it includes a financial contribution to the project for the first five years, as well as agreeing to all APN's requirements for a strong mandate to manage.

## Financial Partners

The Walton Family Foundation has generously agreed to support the project through a US\$2.5 million contribution over five years. The RDB is also a financial partner in that it will contribute US\$250,000 per year to the project and an initial US\$2.2 million to the cost of fencing the western boundary of the Park. Stichting DOEN, a strong financial partner of APN elsewhere in Africa, will also be contributing significantly to the Akagera Project. These contributions ensure that the start-up and basic running costs of the project are adequately funded and the project can proceed.

## Objectives for 2010

### Biodiversity Conservation

The habitat in the de-proclaimed part of the Park, which now lies



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to the west of the new park boundary, is more attractive to game than much of the habitat inside the remaining Park. Many animals are, therefore, still found in these neighbouring areas. These animals will have to be returned to the park as the fence progresses – but to ensure suitable habitat for them inside the park may require the provision of permanent water sources. APN is planning to carry out an aerial survey of the park and census of its wildlife so as to establish a benchmark for measuring successful population growth in the future. Other elements of habitat management that will be a high priority is implementing a rational burning regime and embarking on an invasive alien plant elimination programme. Among the many aliens are *Lantana camara*, the prickly pear *Opuntia sp.* and sisal *Agave sp.*

As in many other APN projects some translocations will be required to assist the full rehabilitation of the park's biodiversity. The priority species is the black rhinoceros, given that there may still be one or two animals left in the park that could be reinforced with breeding partners to get the population growing again. The question of lions will also be carefully assessed, if there are a few animals left there may be some potential for the population to recover, but some thought will have to be given to inbreeding and genetic factors. It may, therefore, be desirable purely on genetic grounds to augment the population. Another species that seems to be in decline in Akagera is the roan antelope. However, this is an ecologically sensitive species and their decline may be due to loss of suitable habitat brought about by the boundary changes to the park in 1997 rather than to poaching or any other cause.

**Community Initiatives**

Community outreach will be a high priority for APN – and it is clear that we will build on what has already been done to interact with neighbouring communities by the former managers. It is still too early to decide on where our priorities will lie, but clearly education may be relatively more important in the Rwandan context than some other options.

**Tourism**

Akagera has good accommodation for visitors in the form of the Akagera Game Lodge and a campsite, but there is scope for more facilities, particularly for upmarket lodges that match the standards of the lodges which serve the gorilla and primates market in Volcanoes and Nyungwe National Parks. While Akagera is easily accessible from Kigali by road, the journey taking just over 2 hours, it is only 25 minutes away from Kigali International Airport by helicopter. There are no boardwalks to give access to the swamps and their bird life, nor is there a well developed road

system for visitors. There are thus many opportunities for further developing the tourism product of Akagera and for staking a claim on a larger share of Rwanda's rapidly growing ecotourism market.

**General Park Management and Infrastructure**

As with any new project there are a host of details to be taken care of - the registration of the company, tax exemptions, opening bank accounts and appointing staff. Much of this work was commenced in December 2009 and should be completed by the end of February. By the beginning of March 2010 APN will have some senior staff in place at the Park Headquarters in Akagera and will take full responsibility for the running of the Park.

Some major infrastructure projects are an absolute priority for the Project. These include the erection of an electrified game fence along the western boundary of the Park. This fence is a high priority because of the extent of wildlife/human conflict. Not only are wild animals raiding crops, but cattle enter the park to graze illegally. Invariably cattle are killed by lions and the lions are then poisoned or snared by the cattle owners, to the extent that only a few may be left in the Park. Over the past year no less than 11 of the Park's neighbours ended up in hospital after encounters with buffalo. The fence is, therefore a high priority for APN and for the Government. While a contractor has been appointed to erect the fence, APN will supervise the construction. A further major task that awaits us is providing housing for staff, and building a workshop and offices. The Government recently decreed that all asbestos roofs in Rwanda must be replaced and as all the existing buildings at the Park Headquarters have asbestos roofs this will be a major priority, and cost.

Overall, Akagera National Park holds enormous promise of becoming a self sustainable project within a few years. However what is even more promising is the overall development objectives of the Government and people of Rwanda. This is a small country that works. It is a country with a buzz and with a clear direction. This country is investing in its people – with every child at even the most remote of village schools soon to have their own laptop and access to the internet. The economic growth that will be generated by the services offered by a generation of computer literate people will surely also provide a home-grown potential market for wildlife related tourism.

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Interim CEO  
Akagera National Park



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Nuria Ortega



Daniel Dolpire



Nuria Ortega



Nuria Ortega



# Garamba National Park, DRC

## General Park Information

Garamba National Park is situated in the north-eastern corner of the Democratic Republic of Congo, on the border with Sudan. The park was established by Belgian royal decree in 1938 as one of the first national parks in Africa and was closely tied to the Elephant Domestication Centre, established in the early 1920s at Gangala na Bodio. The park was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1980.

Garamba is surrounded by three hunting sectors or domaines de chasse – Azande in the west, Gangala na Bodio in the south and Mondo Missa in the east. The total area of the Garamba complex, including the domaines de chasse, is 12,427km<sup>2</sup>, of which 4,900km<sup>2</sup> is the park itself.

The southern part of the park is predominantly grassland savannah 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 and riverine and small swamp forests. In contrast, the hunting sectors are predominantly dense bush savannahs, mixed woodlands and forests.

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).

Garamba is an excellent ecosystem for elephant and they are never short of food or surface water. The elephants found in the area are an inter-grade between the savannah sub species (*Loxodonta africana africana*) and the forest race (*Loxodonta africana cyclotis*). The complex also hosts important populations of Nile buffalo, hippopotamus, Uganda kob and Lelwel hartebeest. The park is also the last refuge for the Congo giraffe. The hunting sectors, being more forested, also harbour bongo, chimpanzee and sitatunga.

## Accomplishments and Challenges in 2009

The year 2009 was a challenging year for Garamba for two key reasons. Firstly, on the 2nd of January 2009, the Garamba Park headquarters at Nagero was attacked by LRA rebels. Twelve staff were killed and extensive damage to property, aircraft and other equipment was caused. Operations were understandably thrown into total disarray as the park and the entire region became unsafe. In February, a park vehicle was also ambushed by the LRA who killed the three occupants, amongst them a Park warden. After these attacks, the future of the project was naturally called into

question. However it was unanimously decided by management, staff, African Parks, the European Union and ICCN to continue with the project and to rebuild Garamba. A decision to leave would almost certainly have led to the demise of the whole park.

One of the highlights of 2009 was the rescue in December of one of the children kidnapped in the January attacks. He spent three months with the LRA before escaping, and then spent months in the bush with the Ugandan army before making it back to Nagero.

The second reason was the tight financial circumstances at the beginning of the year, which were made worse by long delays in signing a Phase II funding agreement with the European Union. Stichting African Parks Foundation and African Parks Network gave extensive financial support to Garamba, but some operations were curtailed.

Overall, it is a credit to the management team, staff and supporters of Garamba that the project has been able to continue, and all look forward to rebuilding the park and having a more normal year in 2010.

## Biodiversity Conservation

Law enforcement activities were severely affected by the LRA attack. After the attacks, all rangers were recalled to protect the Park headquarters at Nagero and the base station at Gangala Na Bodio. War-like conditions then continued for many months, with no access to the park. Poaching activity was not able to be monitored, however it is understood that even poachers avoided the park due to the unstable security situation. During this time, very limited monitoring was done with the aircraft. Elephants seemed peaceful and no evidence of poaching was seen. In May joint patrols with DRC soldiers resumed in the southern section of the park between the Dungu and Garamba Rivers. No signs of poachers, rebels or elephant carcasses were found, and since then patrols have continued normally and the area covered has progressively increased. Levels of poaching have also significantly reduced after the departure of the DRC army from the area in November. Some rangers are also permanently deployed at Park headquarters to maintain the security of Nagero.

Wildlife research and monitoring projects effectively ceased for the first six months of the year, so emphasis was placed on training and project planning. A monitoring volunteer and two rangers were sent to Uganda for chimpanzee survey training, 70 rangers were trained in the use of GPS units, and a GIS database has been set up. Five elephants were also successfully darted and collared in May with the use of the project aircraft and two teams of 30



Nuria Ortega



Nuria Ortega



Nuria Ortega

rangers to ensure adequate security. Their movements are now tracked daily via satellites and the internet. Census projects for chimpanzee, giraffe, hippopotamus and other large mammals were either underway or being finalised by year end, marking a strong recovery in the level of conservation activities.

**Community Initiatives**

Besides the attack on the Nagero headquarters, the LRA attacked many towns and villages in the region, destroying houses and causing the displacement of many people. Due to the inaccessibility of the region and the severity of the security situation, humanitarian agencies were not heavily involved in the Tadu-Faradje area around Nagero. What Garamba resources were available from the community conservation programme were redirected to helping the local people with food, medicines and clothing. Community liaison efforts were seriously disrupted by all of the displacements and did not resume normal operations for the whole year. A new contract has been signed with Fauna and Flora International who will finance many community projects around Garamba, and a fresh start will be made in 2010. As a goodwill gesture, African Parks Network also paid US\$20,000 to the families of the victims of the LRA attacks.

**Tourism**

Tourism activity was nil in 2009 which is not surprising in light of the severity of the LRA attacks. Construction of a guest lodge continued throughout the year in anticipation of the security situation returning to a level where tourism can resume. It is expected to be ready in May 2010. Garamba also received some press coverage during the year, including an article in the Spanish edition of National Geographic magazine. A Spanish television film crew also spent two months in the park filming about life in Garamba.

**General Park Management and Infrastructure**

Infrastructure losses during the LRA attacks were significant: two ultra-light aircraft, all the radio equipment, significant stores of valuable construction equipment, a Unimog truck, several new motorbikes, two outboard engines, a new welding generator, and the like. This delayed the entire infrastructure program for 2009, and planned roadworks had to be cancelled. Fortunately, the new guest lodge that was being built was not affected by the attack, however its completion was delayed.

Since then, a new ultra-light has been ordered and much equipment, uniforms, and radios have been replaced. A new grader has also been bought for much needed roadwork, both inside the park and on main arterial roads in the area.

The team in charge of project administration and accounting was changed completely and a new accounting system put in place. Both have improved operations significantly.

**Financial Partners**

Supporting financial contributions were gratefully received from the European Union, Stichting African Parks Foundation, Stichting DOEN, Fauna and Flora International, and various Spanish Government agencies: the Agency of International Cooperation Development (AECID), Environment, Rural and Marine Ministry (MMAMRM), Independent Organisation of National Parks (OAPN) and the Biodiversity Foundation.

**Objectives for 2010**

**Biodiversity Conservation**

Law enforcement activities will focus on taking back control of the park, at least to 2008 levels of coverage and security. It is however planned to also cross the Garamba River and retake the north of the park. The improvement of the road network in the park with the grader will greatly assist law enforcement activities. In addition, at least two permanent stations in Dodo and Bac Garamba need to be constructed, at least 40 new rangers need to be recruited and trained, and adequate arms and sufficient ammunition must be secured.

Wildlife monitoring and research activities will focus on fully implementing census studies on the chimpanzees, giraffes, hippo, lions and hyenas of Garamba. A killifish study will also be conducted by a team from the Science Museum of Madrid. The GIS expert will make a follow-up visit to the park to continue training and ensure that the system is being used and updated properly. It is also hoped that some Congolese university students can be found to participate in the conservation activities.

It is also hoped that in 2010 the proposed co-operation with Southern Sudan in relation to Lantoto National Park can be institutionalised. Lantoto shares a common boundary with Garamba.

**Community Initiatives**

Community projects in 2010 will focus on fewer but larger and more effective projects. Road rehabilitation will be a significant priority, using the grader and involving the local population as much as possible. Various schools will be built and an environmental programme that includes visits to the park will be implemented. A health centre will also be built, supplied with necessary equipment, and doctors will be trained to ensure proper service delivery.



Nuria Ortega



Garamba Management



Nuria Ortega

### Tourism

The guest lodge is expected to be completed and open for guests in May. The first guests are then expected to be a delegation of all of the EU ambassadors who are based in Kinshasa. The guest lodge will also host the African Parks management meeting at year end. Otherwise, tourism marketing activities will recommence with the hope that tourism activity can be restored to a respectable level.

### General Park Management and Infrastructure

The year 2010 will be a catch up year on 2009, with the following infrastructure priorities: improvement of the road network within and around the park, rehabilitation of various existing staff houses and buildings, and the construction of new houses for certain staff, rehabilitation and improvement of the Nagero clinic, improvements to the water system at Nagero, construction of two new patrol posts, and the construction of a school in Nagero.

In addition, park management will be focused on developing a park management plan for Garamba, and securing adequate long-term funding for its objectives.

Luis Arranz  
Park Manager  
Garamba National Park



Nuria Ortega



**A Week in the  
Life of  
African Parks**



# Rodger Monde

**Occupation:** Wildlife Police Officer (Eland Monitoring Unit), Liuwa Plain National Park

**Duration:** 6 years

## Most Memorable Experience

Being involved in the collaring of wild dogs in Liuwa Plain National Park, which are considered to be an endangered species.

## Most Challenging Experience

Anti-poaching operations during the rainy season, as it is difficult to catch poachers due to the high water levels in the park.

## A 10 Day Patrol

### Day 1

Organising patrol rations, checking condition of motorbike and equipment including VHF radio, telemetry device, GPS, tyre repair kit, first-aid kit and extra fuel.

### Day 2

Issued with firearm and ammunition and leave for the park before 07h00. Cross the pontoon, two hour ride to Kuuli/Munde where the eland are located. The rest of the day is spent locating the different herds of eland. After I establish a visual, do an estimated count and am happy with the populations, I proceed to set up camp in an area where there is water to drink and good shade.

### Day 3 & 4

06h00 breakfast and immediately follow-up on the herds of eland and do a more analytical study i.e. do a recount, use binoculars to determine the health of the animals, record any injuries, births etc. If I notice a problem, as I once did when an adult female had a snare around her leg, I contact the Park headquarters and report my finding so that action can be taken. Test telemetry equipment to check if collared animals are responding to the device. This takes the whole day and I return to camp in the evening for a rest.

### Day 5

06h00 breakfast and proceed to check the collared lions around Matamanene, mostly using my keen eyesight. Usually the lions are easy to find and once a visual is established I test the telemetry device to see if the VHF collars are responding. Once satisfied I leave to check the eland herds on my way back to camp. I also check the condition of animals I meet along the way, especially wildebeest and zebra.

### Day 6 & 7

As usual I have my breakfast and try to locate the collared wild dogs (which are in two groups). Sometimes I am successful and sometimes not as they are quite mobile animals covering huge distances. On these two days Mutafela my colleague and I, usually take a long walk to avoid disturbing the animals and to save on fuel. It is also good exercise. As usual I check the condition of the animals.

### Day 8 & 9

In these two days I combine all my operations and check the condition of all three species: eland, lion and wild dog in preparation for leaving the park.

### Day 10

I make my final round and say goodbye to the animals and head back to Kalabo.

## Conclusion

I am very honoured to work for such a project as I am empowered with the necessary resources and equipment to carry out my work effectively. I have learnt so much over the past six years and I am confident that I will learn more in the years to come. I am optimistic that the relationship between ZAWA and African Parks will continue to grow. The results of the partnership are evident in the way numbers of animals such as wildebeest and zebra have grown and will continue to grow, and poaching levels are very low compared to the period before the project. Another good example is African Park's commitment to restock the park with eland, buffalo and lion that used to occur and were eradicated due to human activities. I urge African Parks to keep up the good work so that Liuwa can establish itself to be a preferred tourism destination in Zambia. This will bring a lot of revenue to the country and uplift the standards of living of the people around the park.



Frans Schepers / WWF NL



Frans Schepers / WWF NL



Lorenz Fischer / Allvisions



# Asbestos Kampamba

**Occupation:** Works Supervisor, Bangweulu Wetlands

**Duration:** 1 year

## Most Memorable Experience

When I arrived in Bangweulu we visited Bwalyamponda and Nsamba so that we could be introduced to the communities of the two Chiefdoms. These two Chiefdoms are located in the swamps of Lake Bangweulu. My memorable experience was travelling on water for an entire day in order to reach these islands.

Another memorable experience was when I completed the construction of a Bridge at Mwalikankamana stream. The Communities appreciated this development as it made the road accessible in the rainy season.

## Most Challenging Experience

It was very difficult for me to execute the construction projects initially due to the different sites and size of the project area. In the beginning my department had no transport and I depended on hiring trucks to transport materials, which was difficult and time-consuming.

Bangweulu is situated in the rain belt so during the months of December and January, most of our construction activities are disrupted.

In this area there is almost no skilled labour, so I had to build capacity and to constantly monitor the construction works in different sites using a 4WD quad bike - covering large distances to and from the sites, often in the rain.

## My first week at work

### Day 1

Reported for work where I was introduced to the management team and I attended a workshop and assessed our equipment needs.

### Day 2

We had a meeting with the Park Manager, so that we could come up with a work plan and give immediate priority to the establishment of temporary accommodation and improvement of road accessibility in the project site.

### Day 3 & 4

We visited six Chiefdoms which are in the project area so that we could be introduced to the Communities and get to know the

areas where we would be operating. This entailed a great deal of travel by both road and boat.

### Day 5

Began with the establishment of temporary accommodation and commenced the plumbing and electrical installation. I had to be very "hands on" to carry out these activities due to the lack of skilled labour in this area.

### Day 6

I met with different people and members of the Community Resources Board in the community where I was staying, and learned a few things about the lifestyle in this community because I was a newcomer.

### Day 7

Completion of the establishment of temporary accommodation, which meant that the management team has somewhere to stay. I then started working on the improvement on the road accessibility in the project area.

## Conclusion

Working for African Parks has been interesting and rewarding yet challenging. The progress that I have seen in my department with regards to the improvement of road accessibility, which includes the construction of bridges and culverts, is good. Now the road is accessible even in the rainy season which had never happened before. This is an integral part of the sustainability of the park and I am proud to be part of the African Parks team.



Ian Stevenson



Ian Stevenson



Ian Stevenson



Ian Stevenson



## Dr Anthony Hall-Martin

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**Occupation:** Director of Conservation and Development

**Duration:** Since the inception of the African Parks concept in 2000

### Most Memorable Experience

Arriving at Majete Wildlife Reserve for the first time after signing the Agreement with the Malawian Government that made Majete the first African Parks project to get off the ground.

### Most Challenging Experience

Deciding to shoot an elephant bull that had escaped from Majete. We had to consult with the authorities (it is illegal to kill an elephant in Malawi without Ministerial permission), the CEO (being mindful of the negative publicity), and all on poor lines on a mobile phone while in the midst of a second elephant capture operation in which eight important guests were participating.

### A typical week of travel and meetings

My work in project development requires a lot of travelling. The African Parks headquarters is in South Africa, and our current projects are in Malawi, Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda. We are also developing new projects in several other countries.

#### Day 1

Peter Fearnhead, the CEO of African Parks, and I had to be in Kigali on Monday, 25 February. The normal way of getting there is with Rwandair on a direct flight from Johannesburg. However, Rwandair's flight was not available so we had to get to Kigali via Nairobi, and then via Bujumbura in Burundi to Kigali. Today, we travel as far as Nairobi.

#### Day 2

We were picked up by our taxi at 05h30 and headed for Kenyatta International Airport. Our flight was uneventful and the rest of the day was a whirl of meetings with lawyers, with our senior colleague in the Rwanda Development Board, Ms Rosette Rugamba, and with the CEO of the Bank of Kigali. Peter had the added duty of giving interviews to journalists about the Akagera National Park project.

#### Day 3

We left Kigali after breakfast and were greeted along the way by colourful banners proudly proclaiming the launch of the partnership between the Rwandan Development Board and African Parks for the management of Akagera. By 10h00 we were seated in a large

marquee awaiting the Minister of Tourism. A team of Rwandan drummers provided a heady African rhythm in the background. After the speeches, we were treated to magical traditional dancing. The beautiful Rwandan women did the dance of the Crowned Crane and were followed by the Intori dancers, the warriors with spears and shields and long flowing white headdresses that look like lion manes. The highlight of the day – the Minister presented Rosette and Peter with a walking stick, covered in intricate beadwork in the national colours of Rwanda. This, she said, was the symbol of authority over Akagera. As soon as the ceremony was over we inspected the headquarter buildings to determine infrastructure priorities and layout.

#### Day 4

Another early start – after overnighing in Akagera we headed for Kigali. After a meeting with officials to agree on the project rollout, Peter and I departed for Nairobi. Without notice, Kenya Airways cancelled their flight. Fortunately, Rwandair offered an alternative but paying was problematic: after a series of complications which involved converting currency and an ATM which only gave a maximum of 40 notes at a time, we were forced to scrape together our travel reserves of greenbacks and had just had enough for our tickets, which were brought to us as we checked in. At least we made it to Nairobi in time for a series of meetings about a potential project in Kenya.

#### Day 5

Another 05h30 departure and we were heading for Kenyatta International and the 4 hour flight to Johannesburg. We had our moments of drama with airport security as one officious gentleman insisted that our beautiful Akagera walking stick could not be taken aboard the aircraft, but after some persuasion, I was reunited with the stick. We spent the rest of the afternoon in meetings at the African Parks head office where I safely delivered the Akagera stick.

#### Day 6

Another day in the office in Johannesburg with Peter and Craig McIntosh and lots accomplished. On Saturday morning I drove to a meeting with Professor Brian Huntley who was to make a presentation on African Park's behalf in Luanda, Angola, the following week.

### Conclusion

Another week with lots of travel, lots of meetings and a few difficulties overcome, and for this particular week, the satisfaction of the Akagera National Park launch and the feeling of once again having been part of the small African Parks team and having made solid progress.



Peter Fearnhead



Peter Fearnhead



Bryan Havemann



# Stella Pyera Mzumara

**Occupation:** Community Development Coordinator  
Majete Wildlife Reserve

**Duration:** 3½ years

## Most Memorable Experience

The settlement of a huge conflict with the local communities mainly due to encroachment on the Park of 66 maize gardens in the Chapananga area. The Encroachment problem was resolved and serves as a good example of how to deal with conflict resolution for the future.

## Most Challenging Experience

In June 2008, when an elephant killed a young woman and left her 70 year old mother with a fractured limb, I was one of the people asked to address the funeral gathering before the burial service. There were lots of people who came to witness this funeral at Mitekete village. Several people addressed the gathering and then I was asked to speak. What do you say to the people and the family upon such a tragic death?

## A week of community work

### Day 1

In the morning I check and respond to emails, check activities and write reports. In the afternoon, a village liaison meeting is organised and I travel to Kashoni village, one of the communities adjacent to the Reserve, 60km from the office. The meeting is facilitated by the Extension workers and CBO Board in the area and is called to order at 15h00 when about 300 people have gathered. Respecting all protocol, I give updates on relevant developments at Majete, address the poaching problems and other illegal activities and planned game translocations. Usually, there are two hot issues: compensation for damage by wildlife and requests by everyone to visit Majete to see the elephants and other animals.

### Day 2

A Wildlife Club of a private primary school in Blantyre is visiting Majete. Arrival time is 09h00. There are 30 students (ages 9 - 14) and three teachers in a hired 30-seater minibus. After a couple of minutes of settling down, we give them a talk about Majete Wildlife Reserve. Mr Tizola Moyo, the head scout, briefs the students about law enforcement and shows them illegal hunting weapons. The scout who will accompany them on the game drive

talks to them about rules and regulations and around 10h00, the students go on the game drive in their bus.

### Day 3

Apart from the community campsite as a revenue-sharing project, we are promoting various natural resource-based handicrafts from palm leaves, bamboo, and clay pottery. In consultation with the CBO members we go to the villages and identify artisans and the crafts in surrounding villages. In Chingalumba Tambo I village, we meet a 70 year old woman, Katolina, who makes some round baskets. We buy her baskets together with others in the area. For the first time in a long while, she has sold enough to buy a useful amount of maize.

### Day 4

We also implement various private donor projects. Twenty schools in neighbouring communities received some teaching materials from the Gift for Gift Foundation. I will be delivering the items to schools in Chapananga area. The schools collect only MK150/1US\$ from each student per annum, which is inadequate to buy the required textbooks. Less than US\$500 is raised for textbooks for all 4 classes. The school I am visiting has assembled students, teachers, together with Chiefs, the school committee, the Parents Teachers Association and CBO members to witness the delivery of the materials.

### Day 5

Office work, checking and responding to emails, and continue drafting and revise the Environmental Education curriculum modules we are developing for Wildlife Clubs around Majete.

### Day 6 & 7

On Saturday morning I travel to Blantyre for the weekend where my family is based. My six-year-old daughter Rejoice is happy to see me.

## Conclusion

Working with African Parks has been a rewarding and challenging experience. Fulfilling my dream of working with local communities on a variety of development projects and conservation activities with different organisations and people from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds has been a unique experience. Participating in the progress that I have seen in my department has been an integral part of the sustainability of the park and I am proud to be part of the African Parks Team.



Stella Mzumara



Stella Mzumara



Daniel Dolpire



## Markéta Antonínová

**Occupation:** Volunteer in Garamba National Park, to improve the capacity of the monitoring teams in all aspects of their work.

**Duration:** 1 year

### Most Memorable Experience

Very close contact with a wild animal, touching an elephant's closed eyes or listening for lions and hyena calls in the night. Above all, to fly just above the ground and feel free...

### Most Challenging Experience

Working with people who have completely different reasons for why they work in Garamba. I try to understand their daily problems and involve them in my activities so that they can also understand my reasons.

### Chimpanzee and elephant research

#### Day 1

The first day of a field mission is always stressful and I lose a lot of time waiting for rangers. Eventually they arrive and we leave for Nagero. We cross the river and after some time, the driver drops us in the field. We then set up camp.

#### Day 2

We search for chimpanzees. The place is in the reserve next to the park and people live close by. First step is to speak with the chief of the village and his people, about chimpanzees, life in the village and natural resource utilisation. During the last mission we found some gold mining camps and we have tried today to assess this impact on the chimp population.

#### Next several days

During the mission we have to visit several small riverine forests and verify the chimp's presence, and their distribution. They are very shy and we can only see their sleeping nests. We have walked these small forests during the last 5 missions, doing more than 300km by foot, but never saw chimpanzees directly, only their nest and tracks. Are there really chimpanzees and how many?

#### Last night in the field

Another mission has passed and we still rely only on indirect signs. We discussed this around the fire and then in the night a strange screaming woke us. "Madame, madame can you hear them?" the ranger in the tent nearby calls out to me. It is four o'clock in the morning and two groups of chimpanzees have started to communicate to assure each other that they are not far away. I

am excited, and so are all the rangers. It was the first time we heard them. They are really here. The question now is how many?

### Back to the station

We have collected a lot of data on chimpanzee distribution, habitat and human activities and now I have to go back to the office and analyse the data. First conclusion is that the population is small, and forest patches are separated and sometimes damaged by gold mining. Now we need to set up a conservation plan. In addition to chimps there are other tasks for me and the monitoring team. Tomorrow a veterinarian will assist us to put collars on the elephants.

### Next day

I need to present to the monitoring team what we are going to do, for what purpose and to divide the roles. We need to be professional, because elephants can be dangerous and a mistake on our part could threaten the elephant's life.

Early in the morning we take the plane and survey the southern part of the park, looking for elephants in our proximity. We choose one herd and take GPS coordinates. Then things start to move quickly. The team is ready to go, once more we cross the river with the 4WD and then by foot towards the elephants. After several kilometres we approach the herd, slowly still checking wind direction.

### During the week

We managed to collar 5 elephants which will enable us to monitor their movements. Every day we obtain their positions via satellite but it is not sufficient. To understand their behaviour we still need to go into the field. Direct observations are irreplaceable. But the security situation in Garamba is unstable and our work will be limited for several months to certain areas only. It is necessary to adapt our field work as we cannot just leave it.

### Conclusion

Working as a volunteer with African Parks in Garamba has given me a lot of experience. Not only in terms of animal research in an insecure and really wild environment, but especially the experience on how to deal with different people. I always try to set a good example to the people I work with, and to illustrate how responsibility is most important in work and also our daily lives. When the exchange of knowledge works, the work becomes fun.



Nuria Ortega



Daniel Dolpire



Nuria Ortega



## Financial Partners

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African Parks is very grateful to all partners for their continued support, from those who donated their time as volunteers, or in kind as professionals, to the many who made financial contributions to the parks. We would also like to thank those partners who have requested to remain anonymous. Mentioning all people, companies and institutions by name is simply not possible, however there are a few that we would like to make special mention of:

### **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 2009 a total commitment of US\$784,317 was made available to cover the core cash requirements of the various APN projects not covered by other partners.

### **Alicia and Tannetta Fentener van Vlissingen**

A contribution of US\$1,588,491 was made by Alicia and Tannetta Fentener van Vlissingen 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.

### **European Union**

In 2005 the European Union committed a total of €3.5m from the European Development Fund for activities in Garamba for the period 2006-2009. In the course of 2009, US\$899,275 of that funding was utilised for Garamba's operations. The European Union has committed a further €5m for the period 2010-2013.

### **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 2009, Stichting DOEN contributed €500,000 to park operations plus a special grant of €150,000 to Garamba following the LRA attack of January 2009.

### **Adessium Foundation**

The Adessium Foundation, based in The Netherlands, provided support for operational and capital expenditure at Liuwa Plain National Park amounting to US\$659,007. Adessium has been the principal partner in Liuwa since 2008. Adessium has also committed a further €1.05m for general institutional funding for the period 2010-2012.

### **WWF The Netherlands**

In 2007, WWF The Netherlands entered into a formal partnership

with African Parks. Both organisations feel that this partnership can greatly benefit the sustainable management and financing of protected areas in Africa. Apart from financial support, this partnership will also look at technical collaboration on the ground. In 2009, WWF provided €720,000 of funding under the partnership towards the costs of the Bangweulu Wetlands and West Lunga Projects. WWF also provided US\$6,927 for the finalisation of the translocation of two lions to Liuwa and US\$18,475 for feeding and upkeep of the translocated buffalo herd.

### **The Walton Family Foundation**

In late 2009 the Walton Family Foundation committed to funding Akagera National Park with an amount of US\$2.5m for a five year period ending in 2014.

### **Koornzaayer Foundation**

The Koornzaayer Foundation continued to provide direct financial support to the core operating costs of Liuwa Plain National Park amounting to €100,000 in 2009. In addition The Koornzaayer Foundation provides €100,000 per annum to community-based projects, which in 2009 were focused on equipping of the computer centre at the Kalabo High School and procuring solar cookers for communities in Liuwa. A vehicle for community support was also provided.

### **UNDP/GEF (REMNPAS)**

The initial 3 years of development of the Bangweulu project were supported by the UNDP/GEF funded Reclassification and Effective Management of the National Protected Areas System project REMNPAS. In 2009 UNDP/GEF contributed US\$378,635 to Bangweulu, however this money did not flow through the project Board and so has been excluded from the consolidated accounts.

### **Stichting Groenling**

In 2009 Stichting Groenling made an additional contribution of €5,000 to Stichting African Parks Foundation, the Dutch affiliate of African Parks Network.

### **Spanish Government**

The Spanish Government, through various programmes, provided US\$612,685 of funding towards Garamba National Park in 2009. The funds were used mainly for building visitor accommodation and ranger posts, and for the procurement of vital equipment such as a grader.

### **Hotel Contact**

In 2009 a further donation of €7,500 was received from Hotel Contact. Hotel Contact takes care of foreign hotel and meeting



Daniel Dolpire



Daniel Dolpire

reservations for a number of large European clients including ABN AMRO, ING, Fortis, Pink Roccade and Randstad. Each time a client makes a reservation, Hotel Contact donates €0,50 to African Parks.

**USAID PROFIT**

USAID Profit contributed a total of US\$29,342 to Liuwa Plain National Park for the completion of the Land Use Plan.

**Steltman Jeweler**

In May 2009 African Parks concluded a three year agreement with Steltman Jeweler, one of Holland's most prominent jewelers based in The Hague. In 2009 African Parks received €10,000, under this arrangement.

**Fauna and Flora International**

In 2009 Fauna & Flora International contributed an amount of US\$29,960 through the Rapid Response Facility program for emergency support to Garamba after the LRA Attacks in January 2009.

**The Spanish Ministry of Environment**

US\$143,000 was provided to Garamba by the Spanish Ministry of Environment for the purchase of a new 4WD patrol car, a new ultralight for aerial surveys, and to build a new patrol post within the park.

**UK Leadership Times Challenge**

The UK Leadership Times Challenge contributed US\$27,325 to Majete Wildlife Reserve for school classrooms and teacher housing.

**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 2009 Clifford Chance, supported by Werksmans, a leading South African law firm, assisted African Parks by providing pro bono legal advice in relation to the establishment of the African Parks Endowment Fund.

**Mabili**

In 2009 Mabili, a leading South African executive search firm, provided pro bono services to African Parks in recruiting a Chief Financial and Operating Officer.



Daniel Dolpire



Daniel Dolpire



Lorenz Fischer / Allvisions



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## Financial Highlights for the Year 2009

The financial highlights for the year 2009 are set out below. This information can be derived from the audited statutory financial statements of African Parks Network for 2009. The figures are for the consolidated group which comprises of the Johannesburg head office and all park projects.

### Consolidated Income Statement

A consolidated operating surplus for 2009 of US\$323,924 was recorded. The surplus relates to an extra contribution that was made by Stichting African Parks Foundation to provide African Parks Network with a cash reserve for contingencies and unexpected events. As African Parks is a not-for-profit entity, any surplus can only be used in its operations and cannot be distributed in any way whatsoever.

	2009 (US\$'000)
<b>Income</b>	
Donations	7,386
Operating and other income	246
	<b>7,632</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Employee costs	2,707
Other operating costs	4,601
	<b>7,308</b>
<b>Operating surplus</b>	<b>324</b>

### Donations income

The following major donors supported the operations of African Parks during 2009.

Stichting African Parks Foundation provided US\$2,372,808, including a contribution of US\$1,588,491 by Alicia and Tannetta Fentener van Vlissingen to cover the overhead costs of African Parks Network.

WWF The Netherlands provided €720,000 of funding towards the costs of Bangweulu Wetlands and West Lunga, and supported the translocation of two lions and the upkeep of the buffalo herd at Liuwa Plain.

The European Union contributed US\$899,275 towards expenditure at Garamba under its existing funding programme.

Stichting DOEN contributed €500,000 to various park operations plus a special grant of €150,000 to Garamba following the LRA attack of January 2009.

The Adessium Foundation provided support for expenditure at Liuwa Plain amounting to US\$659,007.

The Spanish Government, through various programmes, provided US\$612,685 of funding towards Garamba National Park in 2009.

The Koornzaayer Foundation provided €100,000 towards core operating costs, and €100,000 for community projects at Liuwa Plain.

### Operating and other income

Operating and other income is mainly derived from the operation of Thawale Lodge at Majete, Matamanene Camp at Liuwa Plain, and park entry fees.

### Employee costs

Employee costs are the single largest cost category for African Parks, spread across approximately 600 employees. In addition, African Parks employs various consultants, the costs of which are included in other operating costs.

### Other operating costs

Other operating costs include the remaining running expenses of African Parks Network, Liuwa Plain National Park, Majete Wildlife Reserve, Garamba National Park, West Lunga National Park, and US\$150,000 of start-up expenses for Akagera National Park. In addition, they include travel and business development costs that are required to investigate potential new projects. Other operating costs therefore include motorised vehicle expenses, fuel and maintenance, travel and accommodation, consultants, game relocation and habitat monitoring, training, administration, and depreciation expenses.



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### Consolidated Balance Sheet

The consolidated balance sheet shown below reflects a surplus of assets over liabilities of US\$3.378 million:

	<b>2009 (US\$'000)</b>
<b>Assets</b>	
Non-current assets	2,747
Current assets	2,279
	<b>5,026</b>
<b>Equity and liabilities</b>	
Total equity	3,378
Current liabilities	1,648
	<b>5,026</b>

#### Non-current assets

Non-current assets include infrastructure improvements, motor vehicles, aircraft, plant and machinery, furniture and fittings, and other fixed assets. During 2009, US\$1,136,004 was invested in tangible fixed assets and a depreciation charge of US\$722,081 was recorded. Tangible fixed asset expenditure included upgrading of infrastructure, purchase of equipment, vehicles and aircraft, and capital works in progress. Many infrastructure projects are not capitalised on the balance sheet, for example ongoing road improvements, so the investment made by African Parks in improving its projects is greater than the figures indicate.

#### Current assets

Current assets include cash on hand and cash at bank, inventories and accounts receivable. Cash at bank is US\$799,000 and is made up predominantly of donor monies not spent in West Lunga because of the unexpected termination of that project, which will be reallocated in 2010 to other projects, and the operating surplus of 2009. Accounts receivable include US\$899,000 owing from the European Union to Garamba in relation to 2009.

#### Current liabilities

Current liabilities include US\$500,000 owing to Stichting African Parks Foundation in relation to the financial support it provided to Garamba during 2009, undrawn or unallocated donor funds

held in the bank accounts of African Parks Network, accounts payable, and provisions for expenses not yet invoiced as at 31 December 2009.

#### Employees

If Akagera staff are included, African Parks employed 633 staff as at 31 December 2009, an increase from 587 at the end of 2008. The economic impact of employing staff multiplies as employees spend their wages with suppliers, retailers and other businesses. In addition, African Parks often employs casual workers on construction and road building projects.

#### Total employee numbers are made up as follows:

African Parks head office and business development	6
Akagera National Park	62
Bangweulu Wetlands	95
Garamba National Park	256
Liuwa Plain National Park	93
Majete Wildlife Reserve	120
Zambian finance and accounting	1
	<b>633</b>



# Auditors' Report

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## To the Board of African Parks Network

We have audited the financial statements of African Parks Network for the year ended 31 December 2009, from which the financial highlights were derived, in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. In our report dated 10 April 2010, 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 African Parks Network's financial position, the results of its operations for the year, and of the scope of our audit, the financial highlights should be read in conjunction with the financial statements from which the financial highlights were derived and our audit report thereon.

KPMG Inc.

Per D. Read  
Chartered Accountant (SA)  
Registered Auditor  
Director  
10 April 2010





# Institutional Information

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## **African Parks Network - Board**

Huibert Boumeester (Chairman) : deceased, June 2009  
Piet Klaver (Interim Chairman) : June - 2 December 2009  
Robert-Jan van Ogtrop (Chairman) : from 2 December 2009  
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](mailto:info@african-parks.org)  
[www.african-parks.org](http://www.african-parks.org)

Reg no. 2007/030803/08  
PBO no: 930028082

## **Stichting African Parks Foundation - Board**

Robert-Jan van Ogtrop (Chairman from 28 September 2009)  
Piet Klaver  
Frederik van Beuningen  
Dick de Kat  
Laetitia Smits van Oyen : from 25 November 2009  
René Hooft Graafland : resigned 8 May 2009  
Pauline van der Meer Mohr : resigned 28 September 2009

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 H. Kansteiner (Chairman)  
Thomas Blount  
Thomas Gibian  
Anna McWane  
Thomas Salley  
Henry Slack

Frances Kansteiner Sec. Treasurer (Ex Officio)  
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 Mwansa  
Kingford Malama  
Peter Fisher  
Craig McIntosh

## **African Parks (Zambia) Limited - Board**

The Honourable Charles Milupi, MP (Chairman)  
R. K. Muteto  
Edwin Matokwani  
Craig Reid  
Dr Anthony Hall-Martin  
Craig McIntosh

## **Akagera Management Company - Board**

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



[www.african-parks.org](http://www.african-parks.org)