



AFRICAN PARKS NETWORK
ANNUAL REPORT 2008



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 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.



Daniel Dolpire





Peter Fearnhead

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Front cover photography:
 Top - Daniel Dolpire
 Bottom - Frans Shepers / WWF NL





Daniel Dolpire



CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

When I was first introduced to African Parks as an organisation, I was attracted by the simplicity of the objective – to ensure the sustainable management of national parks in Africa, but similarly amazed at the complexity of the challenge. African Parks is a truly international business that spans the global spectrum, from operations in often remote and inaccessible parts of four different countries during 2008 in Africa, to the intricacies and regulatory requirements of multinational organisations and other financial partners based in the USA, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Each park is faced by its own unique set of challenges from civil strife, guerrilla warfare, organised crime, and corruption to logistical challenges that few people can comprehend. In addition, the entire organisation is directly impacted by global economic forces. For the first half of 2008, global stock markets were at an all time high – itself a positive point for fund raising. However, associated indicators such as oil prices, commodity prices and food prices were also at an all-time high, all of which have a direct impact on the remote places where we work. High oil prices mean a switching to other sources of energy, including wood to satisfy household requirements. High mineral prices mean that every known mineral deposit often in or near protected areas is reassessed to determine its commercial viability. High food prices mean that more land is cleared for cultivation, however marginal, for both subsistence and commercial production.

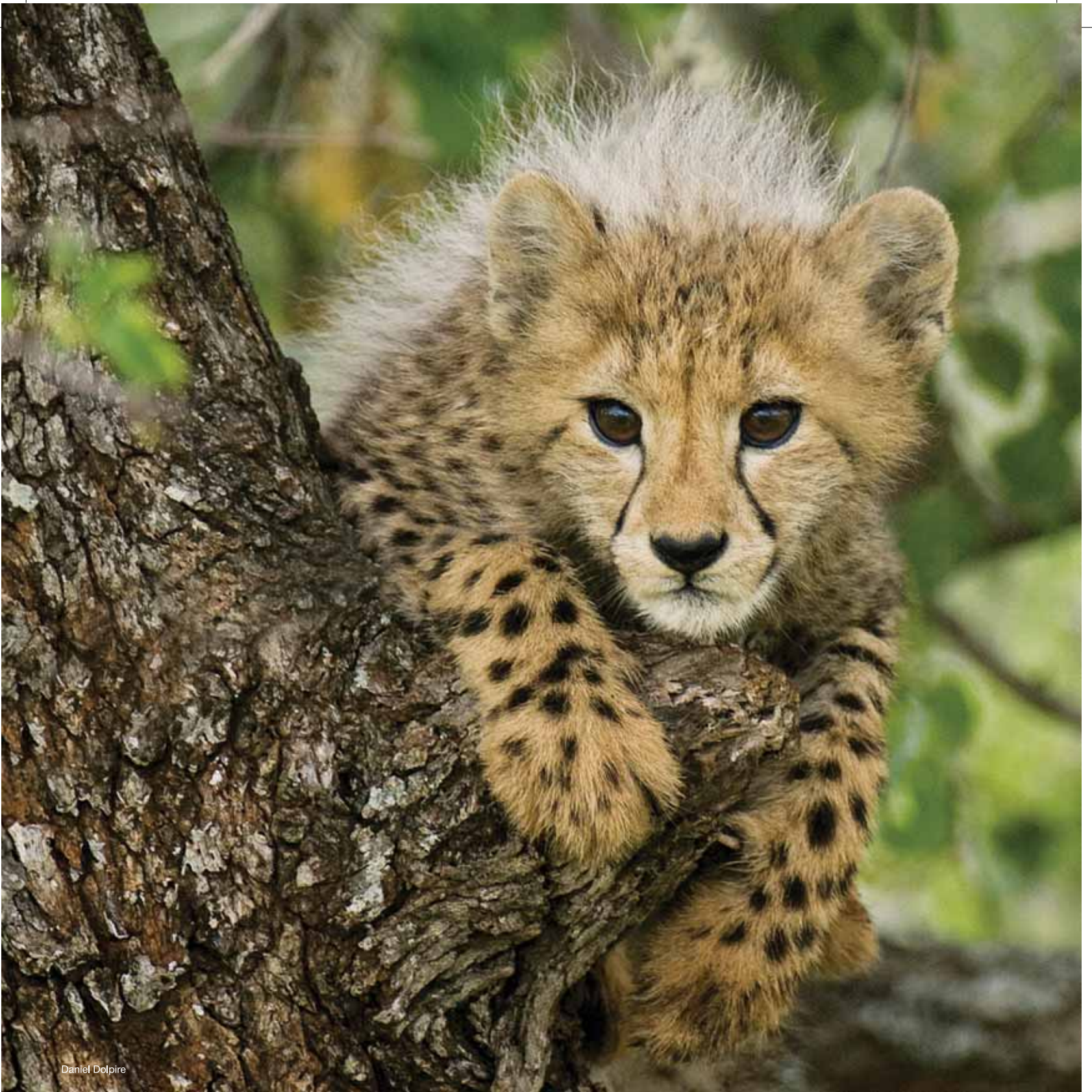
The second half of the year brought a new set of challenges – a global financial crisis which has impacted enormously on the wealth of individuals, foundations and governments on whom African Parks is dependent for its financial support. The uncertainty also means that such people and institutions adopt a conservative approach to future commitments. It is testimony to the quality of our financial partners and their governance that not a single one has had to withdraw their commitment to African Parks. Addressing such threats to ensure the continued survival of some of Africa's most precious assets is the everyday business of African Parks.

African Parks is well positioned for 2009. We will continue to grow – carefully and with partners in place from the outset, but grow we will. For me it is a privilege to take over as the Chairman of such an organisation in such challenging times. Despite the uncertainties that are almost certainly going to characterise 2009, African Parks will continue to take its mandate seriously, delivering the results for which it has become known, and it will emerge from the crisis with a portfolio of parks which will have been preserved for the benefit of Africa and her people.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Huibert Boumeester'.

Huibert Boumeester
Chairman: African Parks Network

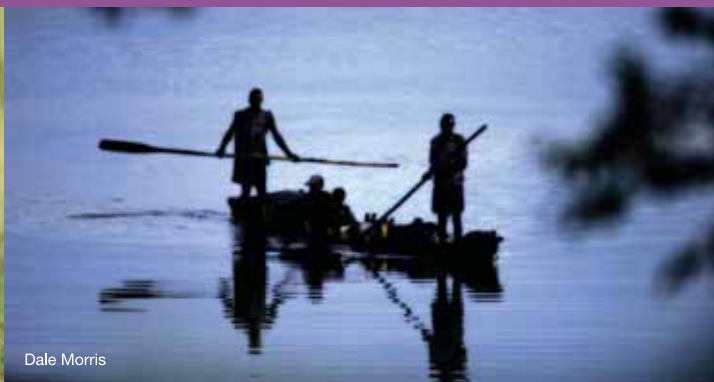




Daniel Dolpire



Daniel Dolpire



Dale Morris



Daniel Dolpire

CEO'S REPORT

It was just before midnight when the call came through – the low-loader carrying the breeding herd of elephant was at last on its way again. The nine elephants on board had been dived in another park in Malawi and loaded onto the truck by nine o'clock that morning, an operation that had begun at 4 am. On their long journey to Majete the 30-ton truck had broken down at the bottom of the Rift Valley escarpment. Our technical manager had spent the entire afternoon and half the night trying to fix it, knowing that a solution was critical to the safe passage of the elephant. By 1am we met the truck as it arrived at the release site, and within minutes the herd of elephants had backed out peacefully into the moonlight and started feeding quietly on the nearby trees. Content that the elephants were safe, the team was able to breathe a sigh of relief and start thinking about the next day's operations, the capture of 50 waterbuck. It had been a 22-hour day.

Such an exercise epitomises the everyday work of African Parks and the teams of people who are committed to its purpose. There are always challenges and unforeseen obstacles to overcome, but the focus remains on the result – in this case the translocation of 64 elephants and 850 head of other game into Majete Wildlife Reserve as part of the restocking of this park, which just six years ago was completely devoid of all wildlife and served no value to society.

2008 had similar characteristics, comprising both successes and challenges. At the Park level these are recorded in the individual park reports that follow. At an institutional level our results need to be assessed against the strategy we adopted going into 2008, which was essentially completing the strategic changes initiated in 2007, of which there were five key aspects:

Localise: this strategy describes the shift of the legal, strategic decision-making and operational base from the Netherlands back to Africa. Partly accomplished in 2007, as of 1st Jan 2008 the head office of African Parks has been located in Johannesburg. All the necessary aspects of establishing an office were put in place including the refurbishment and fitting of leased premises, opening of local and foreign bank accounts, setting up a computer network, installing telecommunications, and registration with the various authorities. The park management contracts and assets were also formally transferred to APN during the course of the year. In September, 'Public Benefit Organisation' status was granted to African Parks Network by the South African Revenue Service. Consequently APN is exempt from paying taxes on income donated to the organisation. However, at this stage APN is not entitled to issue tax certificates giving relief to South African donors. Given South Africa's leading role in the African economy, we feel that such status is justified and hence we will reapply in the course of 2009. The Board of African Parks Network was further bolstered with the addition of the Hon. James Lembeli (Tanzania), Valentine Chitalu (Zambia) and Justice Richard Banda (Malawi). Huibert Boumeester (The Netherlands) took over from Piet Klaver as Chairman. I would like to thank Piet for his considerable contribution to African Parks in the two and a half years he served as Chairman, and the support and guidance he gave to me in guiding the organisation through its strategic repositioning.

Professionalise: this strategy describes the need to ensure a business-like approach to the management of all Parks. An Accounting and Financial Procedures Manual was drawn up in cooperation with

PricewaterhouseCoopers, and this is now being implemented throughout the organisation. A new accounting software system (Pastel) that is familiar to the auditors, is suited to operations in the field, and is supported in the countries in which AP operates was implemented across the organisation. These interventions have helped standardise the financial administration and reporting. The Standard Operations Manual was also revised, incorporating improvements across a number of functions. All parks have formal, updated business plans in place which describe the objectives for management over a five year period, the required investment to achieve the defined results, and the strategy to develop operational income.

Commercialise: this strategy describes the need to generate income from the parks, both as a mechanism for achieving long-term financial sustainability as well as increasing the economic footprint in the areas where we operate. By definition, this strategy lags the rehabilitation of a park. Even so, African Parks was successful with the conclusion of a concession contract with Molecaten Africa / Robin Pope Safaris which will see the development of a luxury tourism lodge in Majete, Malawi. In 2003 Majete was a derelict park with no wildlife and no prospect of contributing to the economic well-being of Malawi. The conclusion of a commercial investment agreement for the development of a lodge illustrates the extent of progress in such a short period. Furthermore, US\$75,000 net income was achieved from the guest participation program linked to the elephant translocation, and Thawale tented camp continues to improve its financial performance with an 80% increase in income over 2007. In Liuwa Plain, Zambia, Robin Pope Safaris has leased Matamanene Camp as a possible precursor to a more permanent commercial arrangement and two films about the park were completed, both paying a fee to the park. Even Garamba made progress, with the commencement of construction of visitor accommodation.

Partnerships: this strategy describes the need for financial partners to support the work of African Parks. Specific successes include the approval of the second funding commitment of €1.5m from Stichting Doen (3 years), a €600,000 grant from WWF The Netherlands for operations in 2008 as well as a large commitment of €2.0m over the next two years to focus on Bangweulu Wetlands, West Lunga National Park and a third park to be mutually selected. The funding from Adessium Foundation to Liuwa also commenced in addition to the ongoing support provided by the Koornzaayer Foundation. Liberty Wildlife Fund paid US\$300,000 for the elephant translocation to Majete, and UNDP made commitments of US\$400,000 to West Lunga over 2 years, and US\$2m to Bangweulu over



Lorenz Fischer / AllVisions

3 and a half years. The EU provided an additional €300,000 for Garamba over and above its existing financial support. The Spanish Agency of International Cooperation has also become a significant financial partner in the restoration of Garamba, with a total commitment of €700,000 for 2008 and 2009.

Growth, based on success: In 2007 African Parks did a strategic review of the parks in the portfolio to determine the fit against the dimensions of long term sustainability, namely ecological viability, socio-political acceptability and financial sustainability, with subsequent decisive actions determined for 2008. In Sudan we attempted to secure a proper long-term mandate for Dungonab and Sanganeb Marine Parks, beyond the initial three-year contract. The Sudanese authorities showed little interest in discussing such a mandate, and instead confiscated all assets including boats, vehicles, equipment and computers for their own use prior to the termination of the agreement. As a result, when the agreement lapsed in August 2008, African Parks had little choice other than to lay off staff and close down the operations.

In Ethiopia, African Parks announced its withdrawal from Nech Sar and Omo National Parks in December 2007 on the basis of inherent structural problems arising from the unsustainable use of the parks by various ethnic groups, conflict amongst these groups, and our inability to convince the authorities to address the problems in a satisfactory manner. To continue without resolution of such long standing problems would have been a waste of financial resources. Every effort was made to facilitate a substitute agreement with a coalition of NGOs but they eventually declined to take on the responsibility. Fortunately the Horn of Africa Programme, funded by the Dutch Embassy in Addis Ababa, has continued to provide emergency financial support to the projects, but the fundamental issues remain unaddressed. African Parks' withdrawal was done carefully and in accordance with our agreements. Key assets required to continue managing both parks were handed over to the authorities. Nevertheless, APN will remain open to consider support to the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority, the regions and local communities for the management of protected areas.

The focus during the year remained on investigating new parks for inclusion in the AP portfolio. In this regard, the long standing commitment to Zambia

bore fruit, with the addition of two new parks in the course of 2008, namely Bangweulu Wetlands and West Lunga National Park. Bangweulu Wetlands, measuring 600,000 hectares in extent, is a unique project in the sense that the land is community owned, but has been set aside for conservation purposes. The six communities requested African Parks to be their management partner. West Lunga National Park, measuring 168,000 hectares, is situated in the catchment of the Upper Zambezi River and is the centre of an enormous block of dry evergreen forest which plays an important eco-system services function, particularly the storage of carbon. The agreement is initially focussed on the actual National Park but anticipates the inclusion of the three adjacent Game Management Areas which will make a conservation unit of 1,000,000 hectares. Although severely depleted of large mammals, the habitat is pristine, allowing African Parks the opportunity to reintroduce species in the coming years.

Unfortunately, further discussions throughout 2008 with the authorities did not yield an agreement for the management of Liwonde, Malawi's premier national park, despite the very serious threats that the park faces. African Parks will remain open to further dialogue should this be the desire of the authorities. A number of other possible projects in various countries were discussed, but whether these will result in any concrete projects will only become clear in the course of 2009.

Going forward, African Parks has adopted a three-pronged strategy, the essential elements of which are:

1. Management excellence: focussing on i) sourcing and retaining competent and passionate people particularly in park operations; ii) improving park management systems and procedures which are designed to support and guide management without inhibiting entrepreneurial flair; iii) delivery of results – in conservation, in socio-economic development and in income generation; and iv) self-analysis and improvement whereby mistakes are learning opportunities.

2. Funding: African Parks is dependent on a range of funding sources for the implementation of its work and can only grow as fast as funding commitments are secured. Our focus is on operational income as well as a few, significant relationships with institutions and individuals. A number of specified funding options will be developed to facilitate funding



Daniel Dolpire

relationships and reporting thereon. In this regard our affiliate organisations in the Netherlands, USA and UK have a key role to fulfil. The recent ruling by the European Court of Justice on tax deductions for gifts to charitable bodies registered in the EU should help with fundraising efforts of Stichting African Parks Foundation.

3. Growth: African Parks' success is measured by the number, size and biological diversity of protected areas in Africa that we manage. These must be well-functioning protected areas which are ecologically, socially and financially sustainable. Growth in African Parks is likely to have three dimensions to it: i) organic growth whereby existing parks in the AP portfolio have the capacity to be expanded through the inclusion of adjacent areas ii) those parks which, despite the inevitable challenges, have real prospects of generating income over time and therefore the ability to become financially sustainable; iii) those parks which are situated in difficult parts of Africa and because of their location, size or political risks, any form of income generation is extremely unlikely for the foreseeable future. However, if African Parks does not provide a management solution they will almost certainly be lost to humanity for ever. Although significantly higher in risk, African Parks is willing to consider such commitments as long as other institutions make a reciprocal commitment to the funding of park operations.

In summary, I believe African Parks is now well positioned to expand its impact on the continent for the following reasons:

1. The portfolio of parks has been cleaned up, withdrawing from ones with inherent structural problems, rendering them unsustainable in the long term, and occupying disproportionate amounts of management time as a result.
2. The repositioning of African Parks as a truly African organisation, domiciled in South Africa with its head office in Johannesburg, is complete. This gives AP a level of credibility that it did not previously enjoy and now African Parks is the only "African" non-governmental organisation dedicated to park management in Africa. As a result governments appear to be all the more willing to engage African Parks as a partner.
3. African Parks has refined its policies and procedures with the

introduction of comprehensive business plans and a standard set of operational guidelines. This ensures a professional, businesslike approach to the management of the Parks, ensures a common standard across Parks and allows for proper accountability to partner organisations, particularly financial ones.

4. African Parks now has a small core of significant funding partners and with their continued support the organisation is in a position to expand its impact.
5. The organisation has the depth of management that will allow it to expand in a manner that does not compromise quality of delivery in existing projects.

As with the breakdown of the truck transporting the elephants, setbacks are inevitable, but all need to be overcome. Perhaps the most devastating was the attack by the Lords Resistance Army on our Headquarters in Garamba on the 2nd of January 2009, in which 10 of our staff were killed with three people still unaccounted for and probably abducted. The implications for the families of these people are unimaginable. Key infrastructure and equipment was also completely destroyed together with all supplies. In total, more than 1,000 people were killed in the month from mid-December to mid-January in this long standing conflict. To their credit, the entire Garamba team was back in the park within days of the attack, beginning the process of rebuilding the headquarters and taking control of the park. Such commitment epitomises the everyday work of African Parks and the teams of people who are committed to its purpose.

Peter Fearnhead
CEO: African Parks Network





INDIVIDUAL
PARK
REPORTS





Daniel Dolpire



Nuria Ortega

Jes Gruner

MAJETE WILDLIFE RESERVE

General Park Information

Proclaimed in 1955 and managed by African Parks since 2003, Majete Wildlife Reserve (MWR) is situated in the Lower Shire Valley and measures 70,000 hectares (700km²) in extent. Poaching of large mammals accelerated during the late 1980s and by 1995 most species of large game, including elephants, had been exterminated, and smaller species were reduced to low numbers. In addition, illegal logging of hardwoods was widespread. MWR had no positive economic impact on the livelihoods of the communities living on its periphery.

In March 2003, African Parks concluded an agreement with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) to take on responsibility for the rehabilitation, development and management of the reserve. Majete was not taken on because of its biodiversity or conservation values or its potential for tourism. It was recognised that Majete was only a small example of the Eastern Miombo Ecoregion, increasingly threatened by settlement within Malawi but well represented in neighbouring countries, and that its protection would have little impact on the status of the Ecoregion. However, it was equally clear that taking on a depleted reserve that was a “paper park” and fulfilling its true potential could be institutionally more rewarding and would demonstrate the soundness of AP’s conservation philosophy more convincingly than managing a richer area. This has, after only five years, clearly proved to be the case.

Accomplishments and Challenges in 2008

Biodiversity Conservation

The Law Enforcement Team in Majete was increased from 23 members to 35, with all the new Parks and Wildlife Officers (scouts) trained by the DNPW and then seconded to Majete. Strengthening the Scout team was necessary as the Pende area (50,000ha in the south and west of Majete) was fenced and restocked, and the new Pende Scout camp became operational with 8 scouts and 5 fence attendants. One of the objectives was to increase the area patrolled, which has in the past been concentrated on Matithi where all the animals introduced during 2003-2006 were released. More illegal incidents were detected by the scouts in 2008 as compared to 2007, due to the increased area of regular coverage but the number of confiscations and recoveries was, however, reduced. This

appeared to be linked to the changing nature of illegal incidents, with fewer cases of poaching and more cases of plant harvesting and trespassing. Number of arrests declined from 79 in 2007 to 37, and in 2008 the scouts undertook 153 long patrols and 1102 short patrols with a total of 3,622 man-days on patrol.

In addition to patrols and anti-poaching operations, scouts also monitored elephants and rhinos throughout the year, with locations continuing to be recorded. Four out of six rhinos have now lost their radio transmitters and have to be tracked by spoor, which is often difficult and time consuming.

A conservation highlight of the year was the restocking project undertaken with the support of WWF-The Netherlands, the Liberty Wildlife Fund and USAID. More than 800 animals, including 64 elephants, were moved from Liwonde and Lengwe National Parks, and more were purchased from private ranches in Zambia.

During September and October the Park suffered from wildfires sweeping into the park from communal lands, especially in the Pende area. Large areas of grazing were temporarily lost as habitat for animals. A lot of time, money, and other resources were spent to put out the fires that burnt for more than a month and killed three elephants and three kudu, and nearly half of the total Reserve was burnt.

Community Initiatives

Community initiatives focus on community mobilisation to promote greater awareness, support and participation in the conservation and sustainable utilisation of natural resources in and around Majete. Activities covered Environmental Education and projects to enhance community benefits through enterprise development, educational support, and disbursement of microfinance loans. The Majete area, and in particular the highlands near the western boundary, has good potential for beekeeping and honey production. Several small businesses were established, therefore, with a primary focus on beekeeping. Four commercial beekeeping clubs were established with loans provided by a USAID funded project. There are now 11 beekeeping clubs around Majete operating with 596 hives of various types. Honey production has increased from 98kg in 2003 to 903kg in 2008 and more than 100 households now benefit directly from honey production. The total income stream to communities from honey production,



Caroline Staub

baking and mushroom cultivation amounted to US\$6,879. Various other Income Generating Activities (IGAs) were supported by African Parks and its associated donors. A total of 140 CBO members participated in different training programmes. IGA groups were trained in beekeeping, forestry management techniques, mushroom production, tourism & campsite management, business management training, and making of necklaces from tree seeds.

The surrounding communities benefited in many ways from the revenue sharing mechanism linked to the community campsite, with income of US\$2,000 generated from 215 visitors during 2008 and the local Committee that runs the Campsite was trained in tourism, hospitality and business management skills. The campsite was improved through the installation of solar power for lighting and a refrigerator through a grant of US\$10,000 from Anne Hoiyer in Holland.

Nineteen community resource maps were completed, depicting the resources available in the community areas and further resource management and mitigation plans for four pilot areas were developed. A team of 37 finalists from the "Times Leadership Challenge" in the United Kingdom constructed a children's playground at Namitsempha camp, as well as a duplex teacher's house and ablution in one of the villages bordering Majete. Similarly the construction of Namitsempha health clinic will reduce the distance the scouts' families travel for primary health care and benefit about 200 surrounding households.

The Secondary School Scholarship fund, which targets girls and needy orphans, supported 60 students costing US\$5,000. Ninety African Parks staff including scouts and their families as well as labourers were sensitised on HIV/AIDS prevention. In addition, the NaMajete Band recorded a CD and is producing a DVD with financial support from the Van der Mark family.

Income Generation

The year saw an increase in visitor numbers and income due to more active marketing and the guest programme linked to the elephant translocation. Thawale Tented Camp was enlarged and upgraded with two new tents and a rebuilt kitchen. A photographic hide was built at a waterhole using USAID funding to enhance the tourism product.

There were 2,059 paying visitors and 126 official visitors to the Park. Park entrance fee revenue was US\$10,807; while accommodation charges, visitors guiding fees, food and drinks, activities (elephant tracking, bushwalk) and visits to the Heritage Centre gave a total park income from tourism of US\$43,085. This income is almost double the previous year's income of US\$23,860. The guest participation program linked to elephant translocation contributed a net income of US\$75,000 to Majete.

At the end of 2008, African Parks signed a contract with Molecaten Africa for an upmarket lodge to be built in a concession area within the Reserve, with construction due to start in 2009. This initiative is expected to provide many more permanent jobs for local people, and attract more visitors to Majete.

In 2008 Majete joined the Malawi Tourism Marketing Consortium. This organisation informs and advises its members on all aspects of Malawian Tourism. It also acts as a promoter for its members and in November 2008 Majete was featured at the World Travel Market. Four quarterly newsletters were produced and sent out to the African Parks Network and over 100 other subscribers. Majete also joined the Malawi-Waves, a monthly newsletter that is distributed to international tourism agencies.

General Park Management and Infrastructure

Over the year, Majete provided employment to an average of 245 staff: 4 in management, 28 scouts, 11 senior field staff, 5 community extension workers, 17 guards and camp staff and 180 general labour (mostly working as fence attendants and on construction). By the end of the year the infrastructure development programme for Majete had largely been completed. Only small works remain to be done. This should see a reduction in staff costs as the numbers of technical jobs are reduced. Close links between AP and our partner DNPW were maintained with regular meetings and consultations. One Scout leader completed his training at the Malawi Wildlife College while the Park Manager successfully completed his MSc degree in strategic planning and management. The expatriate finance coordinator was replaced by a Malawian national, appointed in August.

Activities during 2008 were strongly focused on infrastructure needed for re-introducing animals into the Pende area. This included the construction



Sarah Hall

Peter Fearnhead

of a game-proof perimeter fence of about 140km that was completed and functioning by March, five fence attendant houses, the Pende Scout camp, and the upgrading of Pwadze Scout camp. About 90km of access roads and management tracks were completed in the south of the reserve, and additional water sources and four boreholes were drilled and solar pumps installed, which are regularly used by the introduced animals.

Throughout the reserve 9 river crossings were constructed, ensuring access to all tourist roads for visitors in the wet season. Construction at Mathithi headquarters included one duplex house, a technical officer's house, total refurbishment of an extension officer's house, and upgrading of accommodation for volunteers. Further development included the building of a new workshop bay for the service of motorbikes, the increase of storage capacity and building a new office for the technical officer and the fence section. Electricity was installed at all houses at Mathithi.

Financial Partners

The Majete team is extremely grateful to all the Financial Partners that contributed to a very productive year in the rehabilitation of Majete. The main contributors to the core costs of the park were Stichting African Parks Foundation, Stichting DOEN, USAID, and WWF-The Netherlands. The Liberty Wildlife Fund funded the perimeter fence and the translocation of 64 elephant, while WWF and USAID funded the plains game translocation. The three-year USAID funded project, concluded in September, provided the backbone to Majete's entire community outreach programme over the past three years and included support to establishing viable populations of wildlife on which the entire tourism endeavour, which should become the largest employer of staff in the next few years, is based.

Anne Hoiyer, the Times Leadership Challenge, and a number of smaller donors also contributed to specific projects in or around Majete all of which create a positive association with the Park amongst the people living around Majete.

Objectives for 2009

The African Parks model in Majete has now been largely achieved, with infrastructure almost complete, wildlife populations to a large extent rehabilitated and the tourism product is self-evident. Priorities for 2009 onwards must turn to promoting growth of the Majete business, and creating efficiencies in operational costs as we begin walking the path to sustainability.

The Majete team intends to implement more income-generating activities in the short and medium term, and efforts will be made to expand our market network to enhance income. Similarly the use of staff and transport will be rationalised to reduce operational costs.

A final round of game introductions to Majete of about 1,000 animals is planned for 2010, and includes cheetah, leopard and more black rhinoceros. This will require full support and involvement of the DNPW as well as financial support, and will occupy us throughout 2009. In addition, fire management controls will be improved, finance and accounting procedures streamlined, and law enforcement efforts in the Pende area will be consolidated. The Park Manager will facilitate the construction of the new Molecatan-Majete lodge and a facility for use by our financial partners.



Dale Morris



Peter Ryan



Lorenz Fischer / Allvisions



Lorenz Fischer / Allvisions



Lorenz Fischer / Allvisions



Lorenz Fischer / Allvisions



Craig Reid

LIUWA PLAIN NATIONAL PARK

General Park Information

Liuwa Plain National Park in Zambia, one of Africa's wildlife jewels, is now becoming well known for the seasonal migration of approximately 40,000 wildebeest moving between Angola and the southern parts of the Park, accompanied by large herds of zebra. Rich grasslands support populations of red lechwe, oribi, tsessebe and now also eland and buffalo, reintroduced in 2007 and 2008 respectively. Predators are represented by large clans of hyena and remnant populations of lion and cheetah. Wild dogs are making a comeback, with regular sightings of a breeding pack that appears to move with the wildebeest herds on their annual migration. This 3,660km² park is characterised by extensive grasslands interspersed with woodland islands that are the only refuges for many animal species when the plains flood in the wet season from December to April.

The history of the Lozi people is inextricably linked to Liuwa Plain, and they are also a component of the ecosystem. Many are descendants of the traditional gamekeepers who were moved into the area by the Litunga (King) to protect the Park and its natural resources over a hundred years ago. Management is working towards reviving and reinforcing traditional conservation values.

Liuwa is managed through a partnership between African Parks, the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) and The Barotse Royal Establishment (BRE), through which all of the key management issues of the Park are addressed. Liuwa is a good example of a working conservation partnership in practice, now entering its sixth year.

Accomplishments and Challenges in 2008

Biodiversity Conservation

Highlights of 2008 were the success of the eland population and the introduction of buffalo. The eland - free-ranging since their release in late 2007 - have already produced five calves, and two more adult bulls have been secured for delivery in 2009 to improve the herd genetics and breeding potential. A group of 16 disease-free buffalo was moved to an enclosure in Liuwa to start a new population, with two calves born soon after arrival and another two females likely to calve soon. An adult male lion was moved from Kafue National Park to Liuwa as a mate for the

remaining lioness, but unfortunately died before release. We are now working with ZAWA and the BRE to secure a replacement. In general, wildlife numbers are increasing with excellent game viewing for visitors. A group of four elephant bulls, thought to have come from 300km away, visited Liuwa briefly, emphasising the vastness of the ecological system of which Liuwa forms a part.

The Liuwa team is assisting in exploring the feasibility of a Transfrontier Conservation Area linking Liuwa to the adjacent Mussumba area of Angola. ZAWA has been approached to find a way to stop the unsustainable safari hunting in the Game Management Area surrounding Liuwa, which, if successful, would relieve pressure on animal populations in this area forming a buffer around the Park.

A total of 4,273 man-days of patrolling were carried out, resulting in 31 arrests, 29 of which culminated in successful prosecution, positive results considering there is no permanent magistrate in Kalabo. Three AK47 rifles and four shotguns were seized during operations and the weapons amnesty and scout incentive scheme was revised to ensure an improvement in productivity of these programs. The amnesty program yielded 1,219 rounds of AK47 ammunition and 20 AK47 rifles, yet reports of numerous illegal weapons in circulation in the communities surrounding the Park persist. This is a direct threat to wildlife and communities that will continue to be addressed in 2009. Fifteen scouts started intensive basic training to improve their skills, and the combination of improved scout discipline, new GPS based patrol-monitoring program and revised incentives has had a positive impact on law enforcement results. This not only improves conservation but social security as well, yet despite these improvements, two eland were lost to poaching, highlighting the constant challenge we face. Wet season law enforcement is very difficult as the park floods completely, with new strategies in place for the 2009 floods, aimed at curbing poaching at our most vulnerable time. Importing the Ultralight Aircraft into Zambia took some months to achieve but was eventually put to good use in aerial monitoring and patrolling. Unfortunately the Park Manager had to abort a take-off and damaged the wing of the aircraft that will be replaced before aerial surveillance can continue.

Community Initiatives

There was a continued focus on local communities and development



Lorenz Fischer / Allvisions

projects as the support of the Liuwa communities is vital to the success of this project. In keeping with this, the second block of the school at Lukoko village was completed. Audiovisual equipment and a new quad bike were purchased to bolster the Liuwa Environmental Education Program. Campsite attendants' houses have been built, and teacher's accommodation at village schools improved with funds from the Liuwa Community Development Fund. These initiatives and other community support continues with the assistance of our partners, USAID PROFIT and the Koorzaayer Foundation. In an attempt to quantify the impact of the Liuwa project on the local economy an Economic Impact Analysis was done. This highlighted the significant value of the project to the local economy. African Parks again supported the annual Kuomboka ceremonies that are important cultural events for the Lozi people. A computer laboratory for Kalabo High School was completed, the only such facility in Western Province. The water supply project for communities in the Park was also completed and resulted in eight wells being constructed in villages around the Park.

Nine women from Liuwa were trained in basketry to improve their capacity to produce products that can be sold to tourists, and while these groups are starting their business activities on a small scale it has to be seen in the context that there was little or no economic activity in the past. Work will be done on linkages with markets, including tourists visiting the Park.

The Liuwa Environmental Education Program (LEEP) was successfully carried out. The program included the annual Inter School Drama Festival, which always generates much excitement amongst participants from the villages in and around the Park.

The Land Use Plan was initiated and 1,040 people in 12 communities were sensitised to ensure understanding and buy-in to the process, which will have benefits for the project and communities as a whole. Mapping of the various uses of the Park has begun as well as a household registration process and consultations with traditional structures.

Income Generation

The short tourist season, due to flooding and specialist market, remains a challenge for tourism development in Liuwa. In 2008 visitor numbers were down from 436 to 337 despite intensive marketing efforts. Reasons for this trend are many, including the significant increase in the fuel price

and a dramatic increase in the cost of visas, but highlights the importance of diversifying the tourism product and the need to secure a lodge developer.

Exposure for the Park was created through articles in the popular press and on television, locally and abroad, as well as through four wildlife documentaries based in Liuwa being made, the first of which is already appearing on a major international wildlife channel. A coffee table book in which Liuwa will feature prominently is also being produced.

The biggest tourism-related event of the year was the conclusion of an agreement with Robin Pope Safaris to run wet season fly-in safaris in December, May and June, which will contribute substantially to revenue generation. The pilot safari in December went off extremely well with clientele providing very positive feedback and prospects for 2009 are good. As part of the development of this product, Matamanene Camp is receiving continuous upgrades, transforming it into a marketable facility that can also be used for donors and other guests of African Parks.

General Park Management and Infrastructure

The ambitious goals in our Business Plan are being vigorously tackled with a good management team now in place, including a local Zambian accountant who has replaced our expatriate Financial Coordinator, while the Technical Coordinator's position is currently vacant. A flood retaining wall and new volunteer accommodation have been constructed at the Park Manager's house on the outskirts of Kalabo. New assets include 2 replacement Land Cruisers, a quad bike, 6 replacement motorbikes, an amphibious vehicle and a truck, with these adding value to our operations and saving on maintenance costs which were very high due to the age of the vehicle fleet. New uniforms and equipment for scouts were procured and this is having a positive impact on operational efficiency. The Park Manager completed pilot training. The purchase of the Park Manager's house has still not been concluded, but good progress has been made. The building of an airstrip in the Park has been deferred to 2009. The annual audit for 2007 was successfully concluded. Focus this year has been on implementing systems for control and accountability within the financial and administration section. To this end, new accounting software has been adopted, allowing for better tracking of project expenditure and more accurate reporting internally and to donors. Saving on bookkeeping and payroll preparation, previously outsourced at a great



Daniel Dolpire



Lorenz Fischer / Allvisions

expense have also been achieved. Risk management has been a key focus area this year which has had a great impact on the integrity of the project as a whole.

Financial Partners

Supporting financial contributions were received from Adessium Foundation, WWF-The Netherlands, the Koornzaayer Foundation and Stichting DOEN. Without this invaluable support our goals could not have been met. The working partnership with USAID PROFIT continued to support community development initiatives. Effort is required in capitalising the Liuwa Endowment Fund to make a greater contribution to existing income streams.

Objectives for 2009

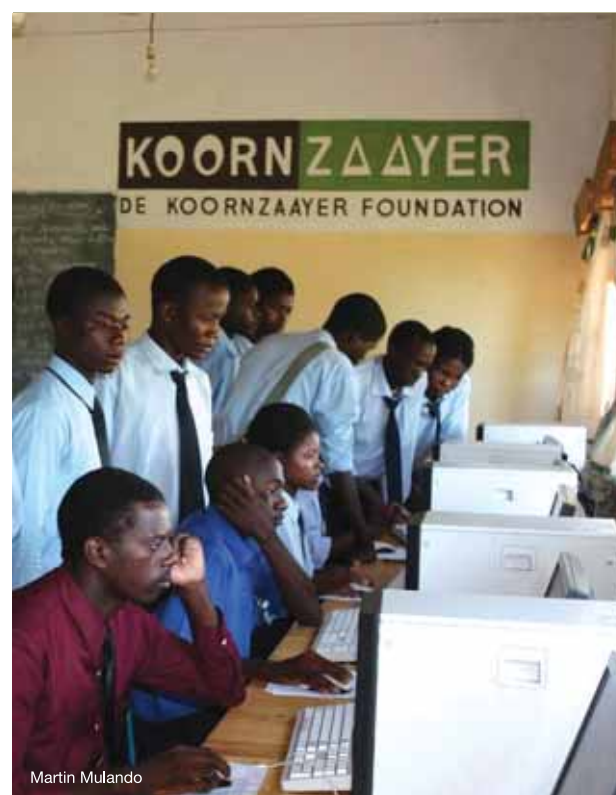
Translocations remain one of our key focus areas for the rehabilitation of Liuwa. In 2009 we intend to secure and translocate another male lion and two eland bulls and at least another 20 buffalo, this component dependent on funding currently being sought and the support from ZAWA. All translocated species will continue to be monitored intensively to ensure their successful establishment in the Park.

Management will continue engagement with the relevant authorities on the Transfrontier Conservation Area into Angola and with Peace Parks Foundation which is facilitating the process. This will include engaging with ZAWA on the issue of the management mandate being extended to include the Upper West Zambezi Game Management Area towards Angola. A partnership with an academic institution for relevant research in the Park will be developed. An aerial game count of all key species is also required, as is continued monitoring to improve understandings of migration patterns of wildlife.

From a community perspective, 2009 will be important for the scheduled completion of the Land Use Plan that will then be implemented. The annual LEEP program will continue and the general public will be informed of project progress through quarterly newsletters. Support to the Community Campsites will continue, whilst women's clubs will be supported and linkages created with the Community Campsites, allowing access to markets. Further development projects will be embarked on with the support of the Koornzaayer Foundation.

Management will attempt to increase current revenue levels through marketing and product diversification, including securing a lodge development. Safaris operated out of Matamanene will be increased through attracting additional operators to this product or extending the relationship with the existing operator. To this end an airstrip will also be developed at Matamanene to ensure access throughout the year. Our financial targets will be challenging in the current global economic climate.

Infrastructural developments in 2009 will centre on consolidating accommodation for management staff and renovating offices and workshops at Kalabo. Additionally, investments in key capital items, including boats and a vehicle, will be made. In order to maintain our operational effectiveness continued focus will be kept on management and motivation of the large staff component.



Martin Mulando



Nuria Ortega



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Gorka Lejarcegi



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GARAMBA NATIONAL PARK

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 proclaimed 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 12,427 km², of which 4,900km² 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, whilst further north features 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 harbor bongo, chimpanzee and sitatunga.

Besides ICCN (our governmental partner), African Parks has also formal partnerships with Fauna and Flora International for the community conservation programme, UNESCO and IUCN for monitoring of key species, and the three traditional authorities surrounding the Park that play a vital role in strengthening our links with the local populations.

Accomplishments and Challenges in 2008

Biodiversity Conservation

This year African Parks recruited 59 new rangers, with basic and advanced training held from January to April, with additional coaching by an experienced instructor from Kenya. Number of patrols has increased, and also in efficiency, which has contributed to a significant reduction in poaching, with only one armed contact with Sudanese poachers to report, in August.

All anti-poaching top officers have been changed and discipline has been stepped up, with more progress to be made in the near future. In the southern part of the Park, between Dungu and Garamba rivers, very few cases of poaching were reported, and rangers started to tackle the local poaching inside the *domaines de chasse* during the second half of the year. The intelligence unit has also been completely overhauled, which has enabled the confiscation of 14 firearms and the arrest of 22 local poachers.

Regarding monitoring, most of the year was devoted to the rhino search including aerial surveys. Four expert rhino trackers, two from Zimbabwe and two from Kenya, came to assist the teams on the ground. A total of 2,560 hours and 4,709kms of monitoring patrols and 165 flying hours were performed during the year. Despite these efforts, no direct or indirect sighting was reported. Although some areas were not surveyed because of the security situation, it is increasingly likely that the Northern White Rhino (*Ceratotherium simum cottoni*) is extinct in the Park and its environs.

The biggest challenge throughout the year has been the continued presence of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a Ugandan rebel group active in the region. In March, one vehicle was ambushed in the Park, with one person injured and the vehicle destroyed. After that incident, the situation settled down and the rangers were able to patrol with relative normalcy.

In October, the LRA started attacking several villages inside the *domaine de chasse* Azande, west of the Park, killing people, burning houses and abducting women and children. The situation prompted the Congolese army to send in troops and as a consequence the rangers located in that area had to suspend the patrols. On 14 December, the armies of Uganda, DRC and South Sudan launched a joint offensive aimed at neutralising the LRA, resulting in rebels scattering in small groups over a very large area. As a result all field operations were suspended immediately.

A volunteer, holding a PhD in biology, is working in the research and monitoring department. Important bibliographical materials on the Park were recovered and archived, and two important research proposals on the chimpanzee and the elephant written up and successfully submitted for funding. These surveys will be conducted in 2009. Funding has also been identified for the production and the publication of a book about the Park, with several chapters drafted.

A high-level technical meeting was held in September between the Congolese wildlife authority (ICCN) and their counterparts from South Sudan. This has marked the official launch of transboundary collaboration between the two countries, and will be followed up by a range of joint activities, including the exchange of information, cross-visits, the production of a transboundary map and the setting up of communications channels.



Community Initiatives

During 2008, our partner Fauna & Flora International deployed a team to strengthen the community conservation department. An experienced technical assistant is now leading the programme, with a couple of assistants, and 8 extension workers have been recruited and trained.

The strategy of the community department was revised in order to focus on a few realistic objectives. Meetings were held with community representatives and a first selection of projects to support has been compiled. Environmental awareness and micro-projects (schools, dispensaries) were carried out in the three traditional areas bordering the Park.

With the local populations considering the lack of roads a very important issue, a large road rehabilitation project between Faradje (the nearest town from the park) and Nagero has started. A total of 23km of roads will eventually be repaired with heavy involvement of the community.

During the rhino search operations, the extension team has also been very active in moving through the villages and gathering potential intelligence on the whereabouts of the rhinos.

Income Generation

Despite the problems and difficulties linked to the development of tourism in a region like north-eastern DRC, Garamba offers a lot of potential and it was decided to slowly start looking into this issue during the course of 2008. The first step is the construction of adequate infrastructure for visitors, not only for tourists but also other categories of guests such as local and national officials and financial partners. Toward this end, the building of a lodge comprising of 10 cottages and one central building has commenced.

Journalists and TV crews visited the park during the year and several articles were published in the print media and radio interviews and TV documentaries were broadcast in Europe. Several individuals as well as travel agents contacted the Park in order to find out more about the Park and its potential.

General Park Management and Infrastructure

During the course of 2008 most of the senior management team was

changed, including the Park Manager and the Chief Warden, and two positions added, namely Technical Coordinator and Tourism and Public Relations Coordinator. The official list of ICCN employees was updated, as there were several deceased people or deserters who were still appearing on the old lists. Similarly the newly recruited rangers are being added to the public service lists.

On an administrative level there were some challenges. Firstly an office in Goma (a large town in North Kivu) was established to consolidate the administrative and financial team, but the distance between the two proved unworkable. Another issue was the turnover of financial staff, something that had a negative impact on the efficiency of an already complex project, but this eventually resolved with the appointment of a competent and experienced financial controller.

A master plan for the rehabilitation and construction of infrastructures was produced by the technical coordinator, along with cost estimates and suggested timeframes, and after the identification of necessary funding, construction started.

A major challenge is the road network, including the access roads and the tracks inside the Park. Repair works on the main access road to the park started in October, with local manpower hired under the supervision of a volunteer civil engineer. With the assistance of another volunteer, the tracks inside the Park have been surveyed in the case of new tracks, and retraced in the case of old ones. A grader has been ordered with a new grant from the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation; this equipment will significantly contribute to building and maintaining the road network.

The new office block was completed in June and is in use, and the rehabilitation of several houses was undertaken, as well as three boreholes drilled to supply the whole area with potable water.

A new radio system has been partly installed, to cover most of the Park and the domaines de chasse. A tractor with trailer was purchased, along with an interlocking-brick machine.



Nuria Ortega



Nuria Ortega

Financial Partners

In 2008, the main financial partner was the European Union (EU) with the 3-year €3.1 million grant which was concluded in mid-2006. In addition the EU granted a budget extension of €300,000. Furthermore, discussions with the EU on further funding for the next 4 years are well advanced.

Through our technical partner, Fauna and Flora International, some monitoring activities received funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and the Spanish Ministry of the Environment, after a visit to the Park, both agreed to finance some of the Parks' needs. A total of €785,000 has been allocated for 2008, but for technical reasons the funds will only be available in 2009.

Because of procedural requirements, most institutional funding has to be channelled through international organisations, whereas the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-GRASP) decided not to charge any overhead or commission for funds channelled through it, IUCN has charged 14% of grant value for its administrative costs, or a total of €70,000 for the first year! Contacts have also been made with the Spanish National Parks Agency, which is willing to assist Garamba in 2009.

Regarding the Global Environment Facility (World Bank) funding, discussions have continued but still nothing has been finalised. It is now hoped that the grant will be concluded and available in the course of 2009.

Objectives for 2009

Following the LRA attack in early 2009 and pending the security in the region, the objectives set for the year will have to be reassessed on a regular basis and adjusted accordingly. Currently the priority is to re-establish critical infrastructure and communications that were destroyed in the LRA attack. Thereafter the management team will focus on the identified activities in the park management and development plan.

The road network both inside and outside the Park, along with some key buildings, will be rehabilitated or built, including the visitor guesthouse. A new ranger base and two patrol outposts will also be built in order to progressively regain control of the north of the Park and to step up the protection of the *domaines de chasse*. Important equipment to be purchased include the grader and two new vehicles for anti-poaching. Thirty new rangers will be recruited and trained, so as to replace the older ones who will progressively be retired. A new intelligence unit will be put in place, and its members given proper training.

A new Geographic Information System will be set-up with the assistance of an expert, and key staff will be trained to maintain and use the database. Two specific studies, one on chimpanzees and one on elephants will be carried out. A full draft of the book on Garamba should be complete and a draft version of the management plan for the Garamba complex will be completed.

The community programme will be stepped up with the deployment of extension rangers in the neighbourhood of the park. Local labour will be used intensively on road repair and construction, with immediate and positive results for the broader community. A Park visitation programme will also be initiated, initially targeting schools.

Contacts with tour operators or private individuals will be intensified in preparation of the opening of the visitor accommodation. The website will be updated, and staff involved in guest relations or accommodation will be trained. During the course of 2009, we will finalise the grant applications for EU and World Bank funds and intensify the financial support already provided by several arms of the Spanish government.



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WEST LUNGA NATIONAL PARK

General Park Information

West Lunga National Park (WLNP) is situated in north-western Zambia and encompasses an area of 1,684 km². The park lies in an ecological transition from sub-tropical to tropical zones of central Africa, with a substrate that is typically Kalahari sands which, combined with high rates of annual precipitation, help to create a unique habitat. The Park is dominated by pristine *Brachystegia* (miombo) woodlands and *Cryptosepalum* forest interspersed with extensive grass plains and seasonally flooded dambos (grasslands). The *Cryptosepalum* forests have been recognised as the largest area of Dry Evergreen Forest outside of the equatorial zone and identified as a significant contributor to the carbon storage capacity of this region. Found only in north-western Zambia, Angola and the DRC, West Lunga National Park offers the only legal protection of the endemic *Cryptosepalum* forest.

The boundaries of WLNP are defined by the Kabompo River on the east and the south and by the West Lunga River on the west. Both are large, clear perennial watercourses with heavily vegetated banks and several areas with small waterfalls and rapids, and a number of smaller streams feed these rivers from within the Park boundaries and surrounding areas. The entire region is a significant contributor to the Zambezi River system. The importance of conserving WLNP is due to these hydrological factors, the region's diverse ecological services and the climate change mitigation functions of the forests. Excessive poaching, illegal logging, human encroachment, uncontrolled fires, ineffective Park management and prospective copper mining interests are among the current threats to the ecological integrity of WLNP and surrounding areas.

The avifauna of the *Cryptosepalum* forests comprises 381 known species, of which 15 bird species do not occur elsewhere in Zambia including the white-chested tinkerbird (*Pogoniulus makawai*), of which only one specimen has ever been collected. West Lunga National Park is one of the last strongholds for Zambia's diminishing population of yellow-backed duiker and in the past supported a wide variety and unusual mix of mammal species. Wildlife Department reports from the 1960s indicate once healthy populations of elephant and buffalo, roan, sable, Lichtenstein's hartebeest and numerous large predators. Current population densities and species diversity is unknown but most animal

varieties seem to be locally extinct or critically endangered.

An agreement was signed with the Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA) on the 30th August 2008 and African Parks commenced operations in early October.

Accomplishments and Challenges in 2008

Biodiversity Conservation

On signature of the agreement there were 10 ZAWA Wildlife Police Officers (WPOs) based at Jivundu, the headquarters of West Lunga, including one senior and one radio operator. Officers had scanty resources and did not receive a regular supply of rations, fuel or equipment. Their houses and office facilities were in a state of disrepair and the workshop had not been maintained for over 15 years. As a result law enforcement was almost non-existent. On commencing operations, AP equipped the scouts with necessary uniforms, boots, tents, water bottles and back packs; supplied the necessary rations; and fixed the boat required for deployment of patrols. Needless to say, morale immediately lifted and patrols are now being carried out regularly. Several arrests have already been made and poaching equipment and firearms confiscated.

The WPOs were briefed on mammal and spoor identification and provided with note books and pens to record all signs of fauna whilst on patrol. Sable spoor was recorded twice in 2008 and buffalo were sighted once. Baboon, Samango monkey, puku, reedbuck and duiker are sighted more often than other species albeit intermittently and at low densities, while a few hippo and crocodiles have been seen along the Kabompo near Jivundu and there are bushbuck around the camp.

An aerial reconnaissance was conducted by the Park Manager in late October 2008, with only puku and reedbuck in very low numbers recorded. The flight, however, revealed vast tracts of undisturbed *Cryptosepalum* forests and negligible human encroachment or disturbance along the Park boundaries or within the Park.

Community Initiatives

On conclusion of the agreement, ZAWA management had planned to conduct a sensitisation of the local administration and community Chiefs

surrounding WLNP and introduce AP to the community. However, this was not done and is therefore a top priority for 2009.

Mufumbwe, with local government offices, a market and numerous tradesmen and small businesses, is the closest centre and is approximately 50kms from Jivundu. As of 31st December, more than US\$20,000 had been spent in the Mufumbwe community by AP. Initial responses to the project are positive and a solid platform has been laid for success in 2009. Numerous applications for employment and involvement are being received from the broader community. An informer network was established in six villages around the southern boundary of the Park through which useful information is obtained.

Tourism

The only tourist facility in the WLNP area is a small informal fishing camp operated by a private family on the banks of the Kabompo near Jivundu, where visitors from the Copperbelt and Solwezi launch boats for angling on the river. Park and angling fees are collected and in the 3 months of operation totalled US\$389. The option of recreational fishing camps for visitors will be investigated in 2009.

General Park Management and Infrastructure

The headquarters for WLNP is Jivundu camp on the banks of the Kabompo River. The infrastructure and facilities are in a serious state of disrepair so infrastructure development has been concentrated on refurbishing the management house, water reticulation services for the Jivundu community, dismantling and refurbishing of staff wall tents and ensuring that all scout houses are waterproofed and secured for the rainy season. The work was undertaken by AP management, WPOs and casual employees and a local contractor. A priority was to install a secure source of water for domestic use. Two existing wells at Jivundu were deepened and fitted with hand pumps, an additional borehole drilled and equipped and reticulation to a 5000 litre tank put in place. Most of this work was completed in record time, despite delays brought about by heavy rains and an almost impassable access road.

Financial Partners

Stichting African Parks Foundation (Netherlands) has provided the start-up capital for the project together with WWF-The Netherlands, which has made a two-year commitment to the project. In 2009, Stichting DOEN will become a core financial partner as will the UNDP through their REMNPAS project. UNDP and African Parks have submitted a proposal to the German Government for a carbon based funding programme, which will hopefully be formalised in early 2009.

Objectives for 2009

In the first weeks of 2009, an internal dispute in ZAWA was brought to the formal attention of African Parks. The Board of ZAWA was of the opinion that the conclusion of the agreement by its Director General was outside the framework of delegated authority, even though the agreement was facilitated by the UNDP REMNPAS project, itself an official program of the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Natural Resources. The Board ruled that the opportunity to manage West Lunga National Park should be put out to tender to allow other interested parties the opportunity to be considered as partners of ZAWA. This is despite the fact that the UNDP

had subjected the project, and African Parks' proposed involvement, to an open process of evaluation and approval by all the leading NGOs, donors, and relevant government departments in Zambia well before the agreement was signed. As a result, African Parks has temporarily suspended activities in West Lunga whilst the situation is resolved. African Parks will provide a statement of qualifications together with the business plan for the Park, but as a principle African Parks does not tender for the provision of its services. The future of the West Lunga project will be clarified in the near future when other prospective parties will have an opportunity to declare their interests and, like African Parks, make their plans and intentions public.

The main objective for 2009 is to resolve the contractual uncertainty over WLNP and then to enter into negotiations with the communities of adjacent areas with the view to encouraging their participation in the project, as anticipated in the original agreement. There are several new categories of protected areas developed by the REMNPAS project, where ownership of the land is retained by communities, but ZAWA or private sector partners are the managers. These options will be explored together with the communities, and an appropriate governance structure put in place.

Thereafter the priority is to provide an adequate administrative base for the project by completing renovations to infrastructure at Jivundu, including management house, office and radio room, the installation of solar power and a V-Sat internet access. It is planned to replace staff houses which are beyond repair, upgrade the workshop and the Jivundu airstrip. There is still a trace of an old road running through the Park from Jivundu to Ntambo which will be rehabilitated.

African Parks intends to build on the good start made with law enforcement and increase the numbers of trained, fully equipped scouts. The law enforcement effort will require the building of two new scout outposts as well as the acquisition of a vehicle, boat, quad bikes and motorcycles. A radio communications network with repeater system will be installed and senior law enforcement coordinator recruited.

For the general management needs, another vehicle, tractor and trailer, tools and other equipment will be purchased. Management-grade staff for community liaison, finance, and technical services will be recruited. To improve communication in roadless terrain, and improve law enforcement the option of using an ultralight aircraft will be evaluated. A major priority will be to pursue carbon funding options for West Lunga and adjacent areas, and as such an appropriate monitoring mechanism put in place.



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BANGWEULU WETLANDS

General Park Information

The Bangweulu floodplain and wetland is situated in northern Zambia, close to the border of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Bangweulu is home to the rare Shoebill, one of the most enigmatic birds of Africa, and is the only place where the endemic black lechwe (*Kobus leche smithemani*), currently occurs and is estimated to be over 80,000 strong. The wetlands also support a population of sitatunga (*Tragelaphus spekei*) and at least 1,000 tsessebe (*Damaliscus lunatus*). Bangweulu is classified as an Important Bird Area by Birdlife International and furthermore the Chikuni area is a designated Ramsar Site.

Zambia is pioneering a new concept in African conservation, a "Community Partnership Park" (CPP) - a protected area with the status of a national park, but owned by the local community and managed by a private sector partner. The development of the CPP has been spearheaded by the Reclassification and Effective Management of the National Protected Areas System project (REMNPAS) that will continue to support the development financially and logistically till 2011. Almost half of the Bangweulu Game Management Area is to be proclaimed as the Chikuni CPP. 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 GMA, an area of 6,000km².

Much of the area is swamp, seasonally flooded grasslands and termitaria woodlands, with extensive areas of pristine Miombo woodland above the seasonal flood levels. Large game populations are much reduced but there are remnant populations of buffalo, elephant, zebra and sable antelope, as well as the smaller game species in the area.

Since late 2008, governance of the project lies with the Bangweulu Wetlands Management Board which consists of representatives from the Community (3), African Parks (3) and the Zambia Wildlife Authority (1).

Accomplishments and Challenges in 2008

Biodiversity Conservation

Poaching in the Bangweulu Wetlands to feed the bush meat trade is a major problem, with many species reduced to remnant populations or locally extinct. In the last few months of 2008 after taking on the role as the private management partner, African Parks' priority was to focus on selecting personnel to enforce the law and protect the wildlife and environment of Bangweulu, without which there is little reason to consider reintroducing species now locally extinct. It was agreed with ZAWA and the local communities that 54 Village Scouts and 24 ZAWA Wildlife Police Officers would be seconded to the Board and led by a well qualified Head of Law Enforcement.

Objectives and strategies have been identified to obtain reliable ecological information, thus ensuring the sound and sustainable management of the Bangweulu eco-system, with the Shoebill identified as a priority species. Information on the population size, distribution and breeding sites are required as there are concerns over the raiding of eggs, destruction of nests, and even the capture and illegal export of live birds.

Whilst hunting is a sensitive issue in Europe, most institutions that support conservation initiatives in Africa understand the role of sustainable consumptive use of natural resources through ethical hunting, particularly where revenues flow back to the park and there is a positive economic impact on local communities. The Bangweulu Board is to take on the responsibility of administering hunting in the GMA section of the project site as of January 2009 in order to bring integrity to the practice. Due to poor resources, lack of reliable data, and often unethical practices, the quotas in the past have often not been based on reliable data, and off take statistics are unreliable. In 2008 after collecting what data existed and after consultation with ZAWA and Community Resource Boards (CRBs), the Bangweulu Board submitted a much reduced 2009 quota recommendation to ZAWA for approval. Developing a clear hunting policy with regulations and ensuring that these regulations and quotas are adhered to in the Bangweulu GMA is vital.

Community Initiatives

The Bangweulu Wetlands belong to six different communities, with whom African Parks has effectively entered into a partnership to manage the area on their behalf, making local people a major stakeholder in the venture. Our main focus in 2008 was to inform and involve the communities through their representatives on the Board, with many meetings held to discuss issues such as the business plan, tourism development and recruitment of Village Scouts. At the end of 2008 a field trip was conducted by the community Board members to update chiefs, CRBs and the community in general on the progress of the project.

It has been observed that unregulated fishing practices have had a negative effect on fish populations, making the management and involvement of the communities in regulated and sustainable fishing practices one of the main challenges the project will face.

Tourism

The Bangweulu Wetlands, if well-managed, has great potential to generate significant revenues and this is recognised by the tourism industry, with several reputable tour operators showing an interest in investing in Bangweulu.

Achieving financial independence, to which tourism will be a major contributor, is an important objective of the African Parks' concept. Photographic tourism based on birds, wildlife, scenery, rural people and the fantastic sense of place of Bangweulu is to be developed and will

be the main initial source of income for the project. And, while a basic tourism strategy is outlined in the 5-year business plan, a more detailed development plan is still required.

General Park Management and Infrastructure

The Bangweulu Wetlands Management Board has been formally established, registered, and a comprehensive 5-year Business Plan has been completed and agreed upon by all partners. The Project Manager has been appointed and is operational and the process of recruiting the main management team (Community Coordinator, Head of Law Enforcement, Works Supervisor and Assistant Admin and Finance) has commenced. ZAWA has approved the secondment of 24 Wildlife Police Officers and a driver and a selection process for Village Scouts has been developed and is being implemented.

Infrastructure developments include the renovation of a temporary base for management, powered by a solar system. Several scout houses have been reroofed in anticipation of the rainy season and upgrading of the causeway has commenced. Two additional vehicles and a quad bike have been procured, and a tractor and trailer, two boats and two motorbikes are also in place. The ultralight aircraft which was destined for Bangweulu was sadly destroyed in Garamba National Park, however a suitable replacement will be purchased in 2009 from insurance proceeds.

Financial Partners

Stichting African Parks Foundation (Netherlands) has provided the start-up capital for the project together with WWF-The Netherlands which has made a two year commitment to the project with a total value of €1,300,000. A commitment of US\$500,000 per annum has been made by UNDP for the period 2009-2011 from their REMNPAS Project funding.

Objectives for 2009

The first objective for 2009 is the completion of the recruitment of the personnel required for the Bangweulu Wetlands team. Priority will be placed on installing effective law enforcement as without this tourism and wildlife reintroduction cannot be considered. This will include re-equipping with uniforms and field kit, providing transport and communications and training to bring performance, morale and discipline up to the required standard. Improving living and working standards, providing incentives and working with other relevant authorities will also contribute to a more motivated and effective law enforcement team.

The year ahead will see the commencement of the project to reintroduce or supplement the full complement of large mammals indigenous to the Bangweulu System, and will initially focus on identifying a suitable area for reintroduction and finding a funding partner. Cheetah will be considered for free release in 2010 on the open flood plains where there is sufficient prey for them, with their presence enhancing the tourism product in the early stages of the project's development.

The development of a GIS database will be initiated and a zonation plan for the Bangweulu Wetlands drafted to allow proper management in terms of community utilisation, tourism, fishing, hunting, agriculture and restocking. Research on the Shoebill will be conducted, as will a specific survey on the sitatunga. An aerial survey will take place in the dry season

to contribute to baseline data and to help monitor the wildlife populations and effectiveness of the project's management and law enforcement activities.

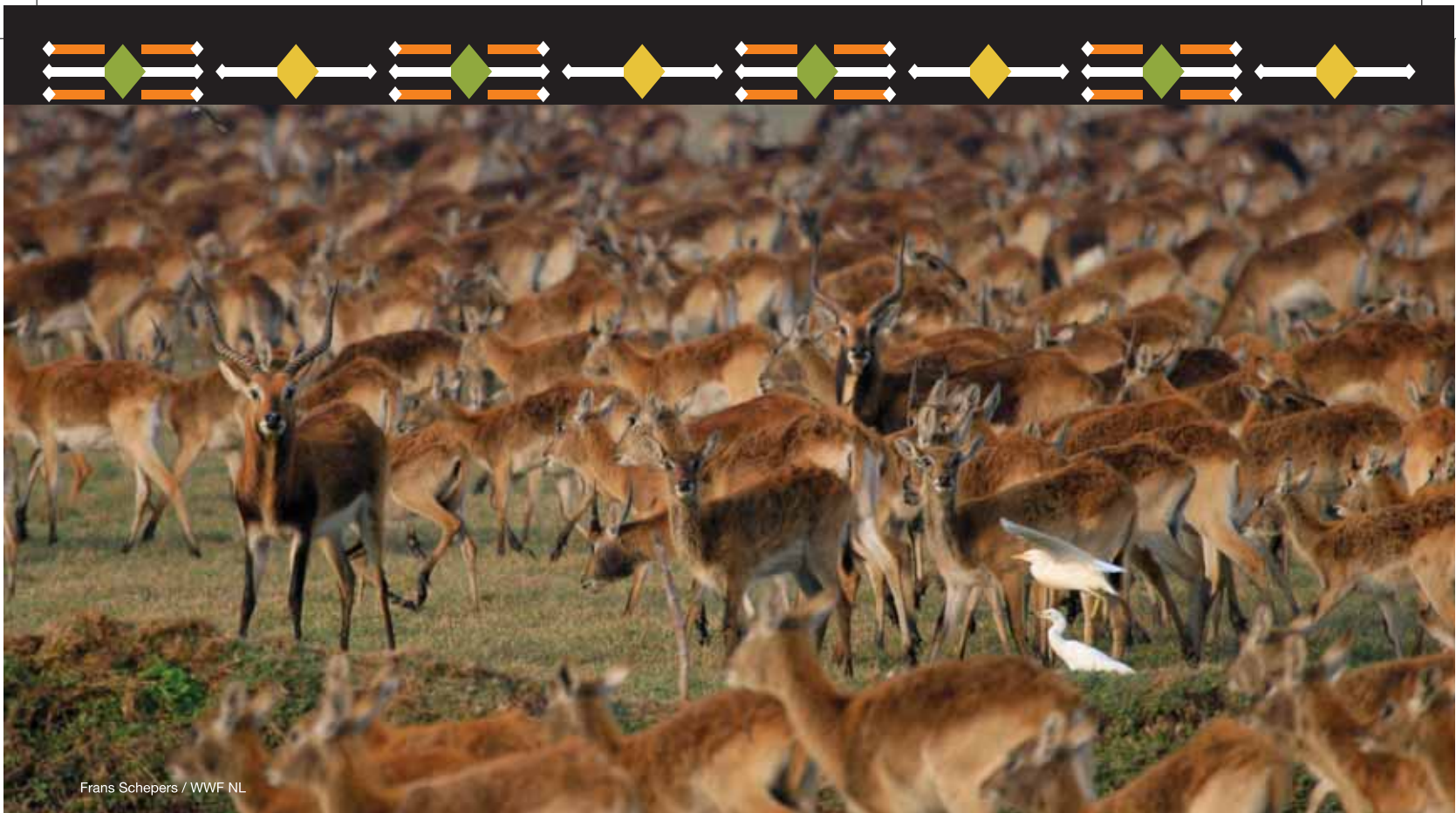
Urgent problems such as earth-weir constructions for fish traps and the use of mosquito nets around Chikuni that impact negatively on tourism prospects and on fish populations will be addressed through consultations with the local fishermen who will also be involved in research and the management of fishing-free zones, allowing them to see first hand the values of sustainable fishing practices.

Sensitisation and information sharing meetings and workshops will be held to ensure that communities understand and are involved in the management of the project. Training and capacity building for the CRBs will be conducted and will work with the community team to develop alternative livelihood projects and an environmental education program. One Community Campsite will be developed, with camping fees going direct to the communities and only park entrance fees being collected by the project. The eastern side of the Chikuni CPP boundary will be marked thus making it clear for both communities and hunters.

Clarity will be sought on the future management of Shoebill Camp, the only existing tourism facility in the Wetlands, and how it relates to the project and its objectives. Reputable and ethical hunting operators will be screened to conduct hunting safaris in the Bangweulu GMA and suggested Park entrance fees will be submitted to ZAWA for approval. Once the legal status and legislation are completed for the CPP these fees will be enforced.

An important focus in 2009 will be finding a suitable site and commencing the construction of a permanent project Headquarters including accommodation, offices, workshop, stores and armoury. Two additional vehicles, motorbikes, bicycles, a truck and an ultra light aircraft will be purchased and access will be improved by the upgrading of the Chikuni causeway, airfields and roads.

Efforts will be made to find partners in the NGO community for local health projects, scholarships for HIV/AIDS orphans and for livelihood projects such as beekeeping and other activities. We will also engage with both long-term donors, and donors for special projects, to ensure funding for fencing, wildlife reintroduction and scout housing.





Daniel Dolpire





SPECIAL
REPORTS





Dr. Andre Uys

SPECIAL REPORTS



Frans Schepers / WWF NL



Frans Schepers / WWF NL



Frans Schepers / WWF NL

ELEPHANT TRANSLOCATION TO MAJETE

The game restocking operations carried out during the dry season of 2008 were as successful as our earlier efforts and 810 animals (including 64 African elephants) were safely delivered to Majete by year end. Another important dimension to these game capture operations, was to combine our technical endeavours of catching and moving animals with our long-felt need to share information, experiences and personal involvement with our partners and supporters.

The rehabilitation of Majete from being a depleted natural asset to becoming a new anchor for tourism in Malawi rests on financial support, the superb law enforcement effort of the scouts, and the restocking of the reserve with viable populations of large game. The role of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife of Malawi, that has provided most of the game for restocking, has been crucial. However, nothing much could have been achieved without the financial partners who carried the costs of the restocking.

Large-scale capture operations are a challenge in a country like Malawi, which has no commercial helicopters or game catching equipment. Everything required for these operations must be imported and planning must commence far in advance. A commercial guest programme had been tried on a small scale with the first elephant capture in 2006 and again with the black rhino capture in 2007. The 2008 capture also offered some scope for commercial guests, but more importantly provided an opportunity for African Parks' leading benefactors to take part in the operations. Most of them accepted the invitation, and also generously insisted on paying their own costs.

The capture operations in the Liwonde National Park were divided into modules lasting five days and four nights each, with capacity to accommodate a maximum of ten guests per module and each guest group scheduled to see two elephant capture operations. For one capture they had the option of a seat in a helicopter, from where they could watch the elephant being darted from the air, and the other an option of travelling with the ground crew. All guests were involved with the elephants on the ground once the darting was over. The most intense, hands-on, part of the operation for guests was the recovery of the immobilised elephants, picking them up with a crane and loading them onto recovery vehicles followed by the cross-country ferry to the road transport crates. The immobilised animals were then transferred to a large "wake-up" steel box that could accommodate two bulls, or a family group of about six animals at a time. Here they were injected with the antidote drugs and allowed to wake up, get to their feet and shuffle across into the road crates that would take them to Majete.

The guests mingled with the capture team as they worked, being careful not to get in the way of a swinging trunk or a thrashing foot and helping where they could. Some cradled baby elephants on the recovery truck to ensure that they did not get hurt, while other guests helped attach radio transmitter and others took pictures to record the experience of a lifetime.

In addition to taking part in the elephant capture, guests were also given the opportunity to watch the capture of other animals like waterbuck, sable, warthogs and impala. Here they were even more involved in the action as they were stationed inside the capture corral where they helped close the capture curtains and chase the animals into the transport crate. The noise of the helicopter overhead, the dust, the excitement, the shouted instructions and fear all added to the adrenalin-charged experience of something unique and very personal. Short moments of absolute excitement, mayhem and intense action in the capture boma were interspersed with hours of boredom and character-building waiting, especially when the wind was not favourable for driving suspicious animals to the capture site.

Whether or not to allow guests to take part in the plains game capture was hotly debated before the event, but in retrospect all agreed that it was worthwhile. These operations do not always unfold as planned, and accidents can happen, and did, with one waterbuck cow dropping dead at the feet of a group of guests, and one of the capture team being gored by an angry warthog. The outcome of these incidents was to magnify the intensity of these operations. In the case of the bone-deep wounds inflicted by the warthog, the veterinarians had to disinfect the wounds, and stitch them up (47 in all) as no doctor was available. The only anaesthetic was alcohol, but at least the patient had a choice of beer or whisky!

There were other dimensions to the guest experience, such as game viewing drives in Majete, sundown cruises on the Shire River, dinner in the bush, a comfortable stay in the Wilderness Safaris lodge in Liwonde or the Thawale Tented Camp of African Parks and visits to community projects around Majete. The programme was also designed to allow time for discussions of African Parks' objectives and plans, interaction with the professionals in the capture team, the pilots, staff of Majete and the African Parks management team. For our guests it was no doubt rewarding to understand the passion, sensitivity, devotion, humour, ambitions and setbacks of a uniquely qualified group of people that they are helping to make the African Parks ideal a reality.

Dr Anthony Hall-Martin



Marketa Antoninova

SPECIAL REPORTS



Marketa Antoninova



Marketa Antoninova



Marketa Antoninova



Dr José Kalpers



Nuna Ortega

ATTACK ON GARAMBA

The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) is a Ugandan rebel group in existence since 1986 that initially fought in northern Uganda, then was progressively pushed out of the country and into South Sudan for 10 years. Since September 2005, they have used the Garamba region in DRC as a safe haven, out of reach of the Ugandan army.

On the 14th December 2008, the three armies of Uganda, DRC and South Sudan launched a military offensive against the main camps of the LRA, located on the west side of the park. A direct consequence was that the LRA fragmented in all directions, attacking villages and killing and abducting civilians in numerous places in the region.

On 2 January 2009 at 16h45, a large group of LRA rebels (probably about 100) attacked the Garamba headquarters in Nagero. Despite resistance from the park rangers and the local army troops, the attack had a devastating outcome: 10 people were killed, including 4 rangers and 3 women. Six people were injured, but all are now safe. The Park Chief Warden was also slightly wounded by a bullet to his head that almost killed him. Three people were reported as missing after the attack, probably abducted by the LRA, a practice for which the LRA is notorious.

The attack had a huge impact on infrastructures and equipment: the large storehouse built in 1938 was destroyed and burnt, with everything inside (stocks of fuel, rations, spares, etc.), the communications room, with all its equipment, was burnt; several cottages from the old guest-house were destroyed, as well as guest tents; one Unimog truck and several motorbikes were set on fire; several containers at the airstrip and near the main buildings were totally destroyed, and the two ultralight aircrafts burnt. Initial estimates of damages exceed US\$1m.

After the attack the immediate concern was to attend to the wounded and the welfare of our staff. Security of Nagero was improved with the deployment by UN helicopters of Congolese troops who have been patrolling and guarding the vicinity of Nagero since.

The park management team, away on Christmas leave at the time of the attack, immediately returned to Nagero along with the three volunteers, to reinstate order and tackle the new priorities. Vital supplies such as food rations and fuel were immediately purchased, intensive contacts were made with relief agencies to request and organise their intervention, basic communications networks were re-established, ash and rubble was cleaned up and reconstruction of vital buildings begun.

The philosophy was to give the headquarters a sense of purpose and normalcy as soon as possible, in order to boost the morale of people but also to convince those who ran away to return. Activities such as the extraction of the gravel, sand and stones resumed vital for reconstruction but also as a means of creating employment opportunities for people left destitute. The project organised the distribution of food, clothes and medicines for the local populations of Faradje, a neighbouring town that was attacked by the LRA on Christmas Day and that suffered severe casualties and damages.

In collaboration with the Congolese army, special training was carried out for our rangers, focusing on combat situations, particularly defensive tactics. A request has been made to ICCN and the Congolese authorities to supply the rangers with the right quantity and quality of weapons and ammunition, which will allow park patrols to resume in the south of Garamba.

The attack on Nagero was a devastating start to 2009. As a result it will be necessary to revise the work plan established for 2009 and adapt according to the new conditions and priorities. So far the financial and technical partners of African Parks have reacted very positively, and we hope to identify additional funding sources to partner African Parks in the rehabilitation of Nagero and the continued management of this magnificent World Heritage Site.

Dr José Kalpers & Luis Arranz



Aquavision

SPECIAL REPORTS



Peter Fearnhead



BUFFALO TRANSLOCATION TO LIUWA

Reintroduction of buffalo to Liuwa Plain National Park, Zambia

Conducting any form of operation in Western Zambia is a logistical nightmare, but when one includes moving wild animals in the equation, things become even more challenging.

This year, a founder herd of 16 buffalo were moved to Liuwa, comprising 10 females and six males. This was the culmination of nearly three years of hard work, negotiations, uncertainty and, above all, logistical challenges. The new Liuwa herd is by no means ordinary either; they are some of the less than 150 buffalo in Zambia that are free of Foot and Mouth Disease.

This complex operation started in 2006 with the surveying of an isolated population of buffalo on Sekula Island in Lake Kariba. These animals have been isolated from the mainland, and hence other animals and disease, since the Lake was filled in the 1950's. It was deemed important that disease-free buffalo be used for the re-establishment of a herd in Liuwa due to the presence of cattle in and around the Park. Blood samples had to be taken and sent for analysis in South Africa to confirm their disease-free status. Then the capture operation itself was extremely complex in that the team and all equipment had to be ferried to the island by boat and, once captured, the buffalo had to be ferried back to the mainland, a trip lasting several hours. The poor nutritional status of the buffalo combined with extreme conditions meant that there were a number of mortalities, something that weighs heavily on any capture

team. The surviving animals were transported to pens at Mazabuka by truck and then to a private game ranch outside Lusaka where they improved in condition. They remained there until October, were recaptured and moved to Liuwa, some 700km away.

The final piece of the journey between Mongu and the Park included the treacherous journey across the Barotse Floodplain. As a result of the incredibly thick sand the truck took some 10 hours to cover this 100km stretch, much of it in tandem as a backup truck had to tow the heavy animal transporter through the thick sand. The total time on the road for each of the four loads was nearly 30 hours, and in total the buffalo travelled over 1,000km from their point of capture on the island to reach Liuwa.

Despite their ordeal, the animals settled very well, quickly becoming habituated. Their condition also improved rapidly with the good grazing brought about by good early rains. On 13 January 2009 the scouts that monitor the animals reported that a female calf had been born. On the following day a second calf, a male, was reported. At least two more cows are thought to be pregnant. Historically, buffalo were common in Liuwa with herds of up to 1,000 reported. Whilst this translocation is just the beginning, a small step in the right direction, with good planning and protection our small herd will quickly reach a viable size and the population will be on its way to recovery.

Craig Reid



FINANCIAL PARTNERS

African Parks is very grateful to all partners who supported our work in any number of ways, 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 that 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 one of the organisations affiliated to African Parks Network and which was initially capitalised by the late Paul Fentener van Vlissingen. In 2008 a total commitment of US\$3,000,000 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 €877,000 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 Delegation in Kinshasa committed a total of €3,1m from the European Development Fund for activities in Garamba for the period 2006-2009. The funding is part of a 3 year, €5m Eastern DRC programme in partnership with the Africa Conservation Fund. In the course of 2008, the European Commission approved an additional €300,000 for Garamba.

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. For more information visit www.doen.nl. 2008 was the final year of an initial 3 year, €1,5m grant, but in the course of the year Stichting DOEN made a further 3 year, €1,5m grant for the period 2009-2011.

Adessium Foundation

The Adessium Foundation, based in The Netherlands signed a three-year agreement committing to fund the core costs of Liuwa Plain National Park for the period 2008-2010. The total commitment is for a value of US\$1,859,721. Support of this nature is critical for both day-to-day operations to keep scouts in the field protecting wildlife, and the "bigger picture" of generating sustainable income streams that will ensure the future prosperity of Liuwa Plain National Park.

WWF The Netherlands

In 2007, WWF - NL 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 a first phase in 2008, an amount of €600,000 was provided for the rehabilitation of Majete Wildlife Reserve and Liuwa Plain National Park. In a second phase from July 2008 – June 2011, WWF Netherlands has committed a further €2m to three new projects, two of which are the Bangweulu Wetlands and West Lunga National Park, both in Zambia, and the third project will be mutually identified during 2009.

UNDP/GEF (REMNPAS)

The initial 3 years of development of the Bangweulu project and the Chikuni CPP were spearheaded by the UNDP/GEF funded Reclassification



and Effective Management of the National Protected Areas System project (REMNPAS). In 2008 UNDP/GEF invested US\$422,000 in the project's development and have committed to continue their financial (estimated at US\$1,500,000) and logistical support until the end of 2011.

Liberty Wildlife Fund

This Netherlands based foundation committed €600,000 to the construction of Majete Wildlife Reserve's perimeter fence in 2007, a project which was completed early in 2008. The fence increases Majete's effective conservation area from 14,000 hectares to 70,000 hectares and ensures that neighbouring communities are not negatively impacted by the presence of large and dangerous species of wildlife. In addition the Liberty Wildlife Fund sponsored the translocation of 64 elephant into Majete at a total cost of US\$285,000.

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 2008. In addition the Koornzayer Foundation provides an additional €100,000 per annum to community based projects, which in 2008 were focussed on the provision of clean drinking water to some of Liuwa's communities and the equipping of a computer centre at the Kalabo High School.

Spanish Government

The Spanish Government, through the Spanish Aid Agency and the Ministry of Environment, is providing a total of €700,000 towards Garamba National Park in the period 2008-2009. The funds are to be used mainly for building visitor accommodation and ranger posts, and for the procurement of vital equipment such as two vehicles and a motor grader.

Huibert Boumeester

Huibert Boumeester contributed €20,000 which was used for the production of a promotional DVD on African Parks using Majete Wildlife Reserve as a case study. This DVD is being used as a communication tool to solicit prospective financial partners.

Hotel Contact

Hotel Contact/World Meetings takes care of foreign hotel and meeting reservations, contract negotiations and invoicing for a number of large European clients including ABN AMRO, ING, Fortis, Pink Roccade and Randstad in the Netherlands. Each time a client makes a reservation, Hotel Contact donates €0,50 to African Parks. A further donation of €10,000 was received from Hotel Contact in 2008.

Stichting Groenling

Stichting Groenling made an additional contribution of €12,000 to Stichting African Parks Foundation, the Dutch affiliate of African Parks Network.

USAID

USAID made a contribution of US\$172,800 to Majete Wildlife Reserve, which was used for the animal translocation project.

UNESCO

The contribution of US\$50,000 received from UNESCO was used for various operational projects in Garamba National Park which is a World Heritage Site.

Anne Hoijer

Anne Hoijer, a long standing partner in Majete Wildlife Reserve made a further donation of €14,605 to Majete, for various projects.

Fauna and Flora International

Funding received from US Fish and Wildlife Service through Fauna and Flora International was used for the rhino search and monitoring in Garamba National Park.

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 2008 Clifford Chance signed an agreement with African Parks to provide pro-bono legal advice to the organisation, a service of which extensive use has been made.



Dale Morris

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE YEAR 2008

In this section the financial highlights for the year 2008 have been included. This information can be derived from the statutory financial statements of African Parks Network for 2008 for which PricewaterhouseCoopers has issued an unqualified auditor's report. The full annual report is available on African Parks' website www.african-parks.org.

RESULTS

The overall consolidated result for the year amounting to US\$2,982,000 is detailed below.

(US\$ * 1,000)	2008 (US\$)
Income	
Donations	7,580
Park entrance fees and others	269
Goodwill	2,246
	<u>10,095</u>
Expenses	
Operating costs current projects	(6,143)
Specific project costs	(1,002)
Operating Surplus	2950
Financial income and expenses	32
Results for the year	<u><u>2,982</u></u>

Income

Funding to the value of US\$2,253,000 was received from Stichting African Parks Foundation which included a contribution from Alicia and Tannetta Fentener van Vlissingen of US\$1,232,500 to cover overhead costs of African Parks.

During the year €375,000 was received from Stichting DOEN towards operating costs of Majete and Liuwa. In the course of the year Stichting DOEN concluded an agreement for a further €1,5m grant for the period 2009-2011.

An amount of €600,000 was received from WWF The Netherlands in support of Liuwa Plain National Park and Majete Wildlife Reserve for the restocking of wildlife.

Liberty Wildlife Fund sponsored US\$285,000 for the translocation of elephant to Majete Wildlife Reserve and US\$144,000 for the completion of the perimeter fence.

The Adessium Foundation committed to funding US\$1,859,000 over a three year period and during the year US\$799,000 was received by Liuwa Plain National Park to cover operating costs.

A grant of €820,000 was received from the European Union for the Garamba National Park project, being part of the total grant €5,000,000 for three years. An additional €300,000 was also granted to cover 2008 operating expenditure.

The other main donations came from the Koornzaayer Foundation, UNESCO and USAID.



Agreement has been concluded with the Spanish Cooperation to provide for funding in 2008-2009 of US\$768,000 for Garamba for the purchase of a grader, the building of a guest house and resources for anti poaching activities.

Goodwill

Goodwill is the excess of the net fair value of assets transferred to African Parks Network by the Stichting African Parks Foundation, over the amount paid.

Operating Costs

Expenses for current projects of US\$6,143,000 refer to the running costs of African Parks Network, Liuwa Plain National Park, Majete Wildlife Reserve and Garamba National Park and include the start up costs for Bangweulu Wetlands and West Lunga National Park, as well as investigation into other potential projects.

Investments

During the year the Group invested an amount of US\$2,715,000 in tangible fixed assets. This investment includes the upgrading of infrastructure and

completion of fencing at Majete; vehicle replacement at Liuwa, Garamba and Majete and road construction and upgrading of infrastructure at Garamba.

Current Assets

Current assets relate mainly to cash at banks available on demand.

Current Liabilities

Current Liabilities of US\$2,068,000 refer to money borrowed from Stichting African Parks Foundation to support the cash flow requirements of Garamba and includes an amount to be refunded by the European Union, as well as accrued income for funded projects that will be completed in 2009.

Employees

At year end APN employed 587 people, down from 2007 as a result of the closure of the projects in Ethiopia and Sudan and the fact that the new projects in Zambia are still in their very early stages of establishment. Of these employees only 1.2% were expatriates. The economic impact on employment of labour extends beyond those directly employed by African Parks, extending to suppliers and contractors engaged from local communities.

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008

(US\$ * 1,000)	31 December 2008 (US\$)
Assets	
Fixed Assets	2,318
Current Assets	2,678
	4,996
Equity and Liabilities	
Capital reserves	2,926
Minority Interest	2
Current Liabilities	2,068
	4,996



Lorenz Fischer / Allvisions

AUDITORS' REPORT

TO THE BOARD OF AFRICAN PARKS NETWORK

We have audited the financial statements of African Parks Network for the period ended 31 December 2008, from which the summarized financial statements were derived, in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. In our report dated 18 May 2009, we expressed an unqualified opinion on the financial statements from which the summarized financial statements were derived.

In our opinion, the accompanying summarized financial statements 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 and the results of its operations for the period and of the scope of our audit, the summarized financial statements should be read in conjunction with the financial statements from which the summarized financial statements were derived and our audit report thereon.

Johannesburg, 18 May 2009

PricewaterhouseCoopers
N L Forster
2 Eglin Road, Sunninghill, 2157
South Africa





Daniel Dolpire



Lorenz Fischer / Allvisions



Lorenz Fischer / Allvisions



Lorenz Fischer / Allvisions





Lorenz Fischer / Allvisions



INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

African Parks Network - Board

Huibert Boumeester (Chairman) : as from 1 September 2008
Piet Klaver (Chairman) : resigned as at 1 September 2008
Peter Fearnhead (CEO)
Cyril Ramaphosa
Mavuso Msimang
Valentine Chitalu : as from 26 May 2008
Justice Richard Banda : as from 26 May 2008
The Honourable James Lembeli : as from 26 May 2008

Chief Executive Officer: Peter Fearnhead

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

Stichting African Parks Foundation - Board

Huibert Boumeester (Chairman) : as from 9 October 2008
Piet Klaver (Chairman) : resigned as chairman as at 9 October 2008
Frederik van Beuningen
René Hooft Graafland
Dick de Kat
Nico Visser : resigned as at 25 November 2008
Pauline van der Meer Mohr : as from 25 November 2008

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3940 AH Doorn
The Netherlands
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Fax: +31 343 565022

Mister Walker

African Parks Foundation of America - Board

The Honourable Walter H. Kansteiner (Chairman)
Frances Kansteiner Sec. Treasurer (Ex Officio)
Thomas Blount
Thomas Gibian
Anna McWane
Thomas Salley
Henry Slack
Peter Fearnhead (Ex Officio)

African Parks Foundation of America
21980 Quaker Lane
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Tel: +1 540 592 9571

Senior Counsellors

Michael Eustace, Lord Simon Cairns, Michel Barnier, Ian Johnson,
Wim Kok, René Hooft Graafland Jr

African Parks Malawi - Board

Bob Renshaw - (Chairman)
Khalid Hassen
Alfred Upindi
René Valks
Patricio Ndzela
Leonard Sefu (Observer)
Dr Anthony Hall-Martin

Bangweulu Wetlands Management - Board

Dr Lewis Saiwana - (Chairman)
Chileshe Mukate - (Deputy Chairman)
Lucas Mwanza
Kingford Nsaka
Peter Fisher
Jacob Mwanza
Dr Anthony Hall-Martin

African Parks Zambia (Liuwa) – Board

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





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