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THE ARCUS FOUNDATION FINAL REPORT

Organization: Lukuru Wildlife Research Foundation

**Title of Grant:
Protection for Bonobos in the Tshuapa-Lomami-Lualaba Landscape
(TL2)**

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Abbreviations

ADG – Administrateur Délégué Général or CEO
ADT – Administrateur Délégué Technique or Principal Technical Officer
ANR – Agence Nationale de Renseignement (like FBI)
DFID – UK Department for International Development
FARDC – Congolese Army (Forces Armées de la RDC)
ICCN – Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (Nature Conservation Agency)
MECNT – Ministry of the Environment, Conservation of Nature and Tourism
SOS Nature – Local NGO, Solidaires et Organisés pour Sauver la Nature
TL2 – Tshuapa, Lomami, and Lualaba are the three rivers defining the study zone.
UNOPS - United Nations Office for Project Services

Annexes

- Annex 1) Ministerial decree of Sept 09 establishing closed hunting season 20 May through 20 December in Kasai Oriental province. Signed by the Governor, Honorable Alphonse Kasanji, and the provincial Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Nature Conservation.
- Annex 2) Letter from project TL2 to the Governor of Maniema, Dr. Didier Manara Linga, requesting a meeting with the dignitaries of Kailo Territory.
- Annex 3) Photos of the process of engaging political and administrative authorities in the implementation of hunting controls.
- Annex 4) Letter from John Hart to the head wardens of several protected areas in Province Orientale asking them to compile information concerning elephant poaching such that a larger case can be assembled rather than just the TL2 poaching problem. He explains why he believes that the poaching is condoned by the military and specifically General Kifwa. Since this letter was sent we have had comprehensive and frightening answers from RFO and Garamba.
- Annex 5) Photos of local participation in the enforcement of hunting laws. Often village meetings dealt not only with hunting restrictions but also with the creation of a protected area.
- Annex 6) The report of the June radio broadcast. A radio show on the station KFM-Kindu preceded the closed hunting season (here) and another was broadcast after the season was opened. .
- Annex 7) Report of the bushmeat monitoring program in Maniema. The program was designed to assess the scale, geography and players involved in bushmeat commerce prior to enforcement of laws, as well as the degree to which laws were respected. Education was a key part of the program. All elements in the bushmeat chain were monitored from hunter to retail seller. The hunting of protected species, in particular bonobo, was assessed before and after the education program.
- Annex 8) A report of the October mission to Opala, whose goal was to engage the AT of the territory in the effort to control elephant poaching in the Tutu basin, a tributary of the Lomami in the Territory of Opala.
- Annex 9) Two different proposals for protected areas in the TL2 landscape, both include a national park at the center surrounded by a Reserve. Along with villages, the distributions of bonobo and elephant are shown.
- Annex 10) A table illustrating the steps required for classification of a protected area in DR Congo. This table was developed by the TL2 project and ICCN with input from other different conservation projects and the provincial ministry of the environment in Maniema.
- Annex 11) A meeting with the Technical Division of ICCN to work out the table in Annex 10 laying out the steps necessary to the creation of a national park in DR Congo.
- Annex 12) Minutes of meeting called by Maniema's minister of the environment in September 09 because of the necessity of assuring protection of the area proposed for protection despite the opening of the hunting season.
- Annex 13) Participative delimitation of the far south of protected area. Report of mission.
- Annex 14) Dino Tshwa carried out an information campaign on the west bank of the Lomami, among the most isolated group of the Balanga. This population would have to be relocated if the suggestion for the broader (E-W) park was adopted. Report.
- Annex 15) The provincial minister of the environment for Maniema organized a mission to the sectors of Balanga and Bangengele to promote the future National Park. Report.
- Annex 16) A meeting with the Kinshasa based representation of western Kailo (Balanga and Bangengele). Report.

- Annex 17) Report written by Paulin Tshikaya and Vital Droma, the chefs de bureaux of ICCN for the provinces of Maniema and Orientale respectively, concerning the meetings with authorities in Kisangani to deal with elephant poaching in the TL2 landscape and park creation.
- Annex 18) A letter supporting the park written by Maniema's Minister of the Environment.
- Annex 19) Organizational financials.
- Annex 20) Accounting report for this project.

Description of Results

1. *Referring to the goals and objectives described in your original proposal (or in any subsequent revisions described in the grant award letter), please describe the following:*

A. Please list the original or revised goals and objectives.

Goal 1 : Reduce hunting pressure in the TL2 landscape and particularly on bonobo

Objective 1a: Revitalize hunting controls through political backing and support for effective implementation.

Objective 1b: Eliminate bonobo and elephant poaching through training and support of local enforcers and an information network.

Goal 2: Promote the establishment of a protected area and associated zoning in the TL2 landscape

Objective 2a: Recommend an area for protection on the basis of bonobo distribution, the distribution of other large mammals, human settlement and human use.

Objective 2b: Build support within Congo at all levels and build consensus for a participatory method of park delimitation with stakeholders through media, meetings and effective promotion.

B. What action steps or activities did you engage in to meet your objectives and goals?

Objective 1a: (Revitalize hunting controls through political backing and support for effective implementation.)

We promoted and publicized two laws. One law was national and was already in existence. The other was provincial and not yet written into law in Maniema Province or Kasai Oriental Province in early 2009. The national law forbids all hunting of certain protected species including the bonobo and the elephant. The provincial law has to do with closure of hunting seasons; it is at the provincial level (or lower) that forests are closed to all hunting for a given period.

Our greatest efforts to control hunting and particularly hunting of bonobo were concentrated in Maniema Province where the largest bonobo populations are found in the TL2 landscape. This province also had very intense bushmeat hunting with no apparent control on the killing and selling of bonobo as meat. The concentration of bonobo crosses the northwestern border of Maniema into the forests along the Lomami River in Katako Kombe Territory of the Province of Kasai Oriental. The market for meat from these forests is, however, Kindu in Maniema Province so, again, if Maniema closed its markets to bonobo this would affect hunting across the border.

The only TL2 population of elephants is in Orientale Province and it is elephant poaching that has, over the past year, defined our requests for assistance at a political level in Orientale.

Over the past year our activities to promote these laws and encourage their effective implementation included:

Maniema Province :

We had a series of meetings with elected and traditional authorities in the Provincial capital of Kindu.

- ✓ In February we had a meeting for chefs de secteur, the administrator of Kailo territory (the northwestern territory of concern) a deputy of the provincial assembly from Kailo and officials of the ANR and concerned provincial ministries.
- ✓ This led to an April 11th meeting for all chiefs and village authorities from the pertinent area (western Kailo Territory) for a total of 150 persons including all the provincial agencies and authorities. It was co-hosted by the ADG and ADT of ICCN and the Provincial Ministry of the Environment. The main theme was commercial hunting and the need to control killing of protected species.
- ✓ We had numerous visits with the governor to encourage the signing of a closed hunting season – which eventually happened.
- ✓ In September there was a meeting for a smaller group of two deputies, chefs de sector and the Administrator of the Territory to discuss the opening of the hunting season and the need to prepare the population for eventual delimitation of a protected area. This led to a 5-day field trip by all of the above officials to the two concerned sectors (or chefferies).
- ✓ All of our activities in Maniema were organized through the provincial ministry of the environment, partly because there was no representative of ICCN. That has now been changed. We were able to raise funds (from DFID, through UNOPS) that allow us to cover salary and operational costs of an ICCN representative (Chef de Bureau) in Maniema and also in Orientale. The DFID grant has been operational since July 09.

Kasai Oriental Province:

- ✓ We have a base camp on the border of the Lomami in Kasai Oriental Province, territory of Katako Kombe and the sector of Watambola Nord. This is the only region of Kasai, close to TL2, with an important presence of bonobo. We have had numerous visits with the two locality chiefs controlling Watambola Nord.
- ✓ During the past year Terese visited Mbuji Mayi with the provincial deputy from Katako Kombe and the head of local NGOs for Katako Kombe. They met with the governor and the heads of pertinent provincial ministries. Their message was hunting control particularly of bonobo and an eventual protected area. There seemed to be little knowledge of a pre-existent Sankuru reserve, but Terese phrased the message in terms of a need for concentrated protection along the eastern border of Sankuru, ie Watambola Nord in the Territory of Katako Kombe.

Orientale Province:

- ✓ In 2007 and early 2008 all of our initial contacts were through Orientale Province including meetings with leaders of the ethnic Mbole group. More recently our political efforts have been concentrated in the south and specifically Maniema where there is the largest bonobo concentration.
- ✓ With the increase in elephant poaching, we have renewed political contacts in Kisangani, specifically the general of the FARDC and the environment minister. We have also stepped up

contact with the territorial administrator of Opala because of the need to rein in his chef de village in Obenge who is collaborating with FARDC for elephant poaching.

Objective 1b: (Eliminate bonobo and elephant poaching through training and support of local enforcers and an information network)

Our grass-roots level efforts to control bushmeat hunting, and in particular bonobo hunting were concentrated in Maniema Province where we feel this series of pilot activities proved very useful. We hope to have a similar series of activities in Orientale .

- ✓ In Kindu, we trained environment agents (first major workshop was 10 April 09) so that they not only recognize bonobo, but understand where and how to enforce.
- ✓ At the village level we assured wide diffusion of a pamphlet with color pictures of protected species as well as a summary of the law that protects them and how it would be enforced, who would be punished (ie the person who transports and sells bonobo meat is as guilty as the person who kills bonobo). This was in Swahili and French. Our teams visited all the villages surrounding the area identified for protection at least once and many villages more than once.
- ✓ In Maniema we witnessed the burning of hunting camps and the “banishment” of foreign hunters from villages, although in all cases this was carried out by the chefs de village. Missions were taken with the chef de sector to “capture and discipline” in a case of known bonobo hunting.
- ✓ The project carried out a monitoring program before and after the closed hunting season that included training of monitors posted at two key sites along the main entrances to Kindu . Collaborating market vendors were also trained. Associated with the monitoring was an information campaign to sellers and transporters of bushmeat.
- ✓ There were two radio campaigns, one before and one after the closed hunting season.

Different methods were needed to control elephant hunting. Whereas bonobos are killed mainly with 12 caliber rifles and by village level hunters, elephant hunting is done with military arms and almost always with army involvement. Where it is not army, it is police. The networks are vast, and can only be controlled at a high politico-military level. So far we have only worked with the general in charge of FARDC (annex 4) in Orientale, who is, we now believe, implicated in the poaching. We must lobby above him. In the meantime short-term efforts might be effective to dismantle army supply chains. The army depends on villagers to supply the elephant hunters, guides and lodging.

- ✓ We organized a meeting with the Territorial Administrator in Opala concerning discipline of the chefitaine of the village of Obenge who is facilitating elephant poaching. The ICCN chef de bureau from Kisangani, Vital Droma, met the TL2 team leader, Dino T’shwa for this purpose in Opala.

Objective 2a: (Recommend an area for protection on the basis of bonobo distribution, the distribution of other larger mammals, human settlement and human use.)

This process has progressed by steps. The first step involved two years of field work to determine the critical areas to protect in terms of animal presence and human presence. The second step was to determine how exactly to go about creating a protected area so that our own role would be clear and particularly so that the role of our various government partners would be clear. To whom were we making recommendations and how would these recommendations move forward. Finally we have developed a couple proposals based on our findings for discussion. Activities included:

- ✓ Analysis of the inventory results to know where there are bonobo and other mammals and where there are human activities and how these activities impact the value of the forest and its potential for protection.
- ✓ Develop and formalize the steps necessary to create a protected area in DR Congo via meetings at ICCN-Kinshasa , Kampala,(where John met with ICCN and other Congo conservationists around chimp meetings), Kindu and Kisangani. Also important were informal meetings with the minister of environment in Kindu, the technical director of ICCN in Kinshasa, and a deputy in Maniema.
- ✓ Develop map proposals for a national park and a reserve to allow discussion of what priority steps would be necessary to move ahead with any one of the proposals. These maps included human settlement based on our own teams' circuits and information gained in work sessions with authorities.

Objective 2b: (Build support within Congo at all levels and build consensus for a participatory method of park delimitation with stakeholders through media, meetings and effective promotion.)

Grassroots, Village level support for a protected area:

- ✓ Contacts were made through a frequent and travelling presence on the ground of John Hart, an intermittent presence of Terese Hart and a constant outreach of team leaders who were circulating to learn of human use, human attitudes and to inform of the process underway. The team leaders whose participation in, initiation of, and leading of activities was key for this objective were:
Dino T'shwa
Maurice Emetshu
Bernard Ikembelo
Crispin Kibambe
Cristian Urom
Leon Salumu
There are several other very promising younger, newer workers who are growing rapidly into assuming more responsibility.
- ✓ We also facilitated visits by influential Congolese chiefs sometimes with ICCN and TL2 team leaders, sometimes on their own.

Provincial level support for a protected area:

- ✓ We have had repeat meetings in Maniema with the people we consider important and have sometimes included the press in these meetings. This was not only for lobbying purposes but also to work out the details of statutes and enforcement.
- ✓ There has been a less constant presence at the provincial and territorial level in Kasai Oriental although Terese made a single trip to MbujiMayi, capital of Kasai Oriental Province where the host was a senator from Katako Kombe (the Territory of interest to TL2 for conservation) and where she met the governor and pertinent provincial ministers and was able to hold a powerpoint, question-answer session.
- ✓ In Orientale is where we initiated field work with politico-administrative contacts in 2007 and 2008. Since then we have moved our most concerted efforts south, but we are now planning a major return north to Orientale. Recently John has had meetings with the general in charge of the army in the Province as well as the provincial minister of the environment.
- ✓ We have rented office/gîtes in both Kisangani and Kindu with permanent representatives in these cities.

Institutional support for a protected area: We have had a strong and very beneficial commitment from the ICCN both at the national and the provincial level.

- ✓ We facilitated one trip by the ADG and two by the ADT in 2009. These were trips to Kindu, where they otherwise would not come (unlike Kisangani)
- ✓ In both Maniema and Oriental, there are Chefs de Bureau for ICCN in the capitals that have undertaken missions specifically for the future park. Through our projects we contribute to the status and viability of their current posts.

National level support for a protected area:

- ✓ We have had meetings with ICCN in Kinshasa and
- ✓ We have had meetings with professional Kinshasa- dwelling natives of the TL2 region.
- ✓ We have not pushed hard for meetings at higher government levels as we receive ample information that the project is known and is being pushed by Congolese officials – which is appropriate. Nevertheless, as we move closer to classification, hopefully next year, we will accompany ICCN officials, whenever useful, in presentations at the national level.

2. If you did not receive full funding from Arcus or any other sources, please explain how you adjusted your project.

We received full funding from Arcus. We also received the other funding sought although it did not come as rapidly as we had hoped (ie DFID funding was not available until July 2009). This is explained in the financial document (**Annex 20**). Changes in our plans were made as we were presented with opportunities (willingness of authorities to undertake missions) and emergencies (elephant poaching in Orientale).

3. Please list both the “outputs” and the “outcomes” of your grant-funded work. Outputs are the products of your efforts (e.g., publication of a report and its distribution, training, number of participants, staff hired, funds raised) while outcomes describe the difference that your efforts have made; the results and changes that correspond to your original goals (e.g., improved organizational infrastructure and stability, policy change, attitude change, behavior change). To the extent possible, both outputs and outcomes should be quantifiable.

OUTPUTS (products) : In all cases where an output was included as an annex in our Final Report to USFWS in 29 June 2009, that report is cited and the output is not included here. The USFWS report was previously sent to the Arcus Foundation and we would be happy to send it again if you request it.

Objective 1a: The outputs below are from activities to generate political backing and general support for effective implementation of hunting controls.

- i. Provincial law creating a hunting season in Maniema (USFWS Final Report—annex 8)
- ii. Provincial law creating a hunting season in Kasai Oriental. – **Annex 1**
- iii. A workshop for the administrators and traditional authorities of Kailo Territory in February 2009 -- **Annex 2** is letter of information regarding this workshop to the governor of Maniema. Present at this meeting were the Territorial Administrator, the Chief from each of the four sectors (Ngengele, Langa, Songola, Ambwe), a deputy representing the territory in the provincial parliament, the Chief for the city of Kailo, and the head of the ANR for Maniema.

- iv. A larger workshop 11 April 2009. There were a total of 150 people present and we facilitated attendance by all the groupement and locality chiefs from the west bank of the Lualaba of Kailo province. (USFWS report – annex 6)
- v. Over the past year we have had meetings with politico-administrative and military leaders in the capitals of all three provinces whose land is included within the TL2 landscape. We have put a particular emphasis on Maniema, but feel that we have had good success in Kasai Oriental as well. – **Annex 3** includes photos of a few of these meetings. Other photos are included in separate annexes. Many of these meetings also included discussion of a protected area in the TL2 landscape. Elephant poaching continues to be a problem in Orientale province and we will now be increasing our efforts there.
- vi. A single trip was made to Mbuji Mayi where, despite the apparent backlash to the Sankuru Reserve in and around Lodja and Lomela, Terese was well received by the governor who promised to sign a provincial law to control hunting (**Annex 1**) A report of this trip is included as Annex 5 in the USFWS report.
- vii. As mentioned above, a special effort is now needed in Orientale Province because of elephant hunting. This hunting is mainly orchestrated by the army. A recent meeting in Kisangani with the General in charge of the FARDC in Orientale Province was not reassuring. – **Annex 4**. Following the letter in Annex 4 we have gotten accounts from two protected areas, Garamba and RFO, both World Heritage Sites confirming, that Kifwa’s military are poaching elephants within the Sites.

Objective 1b: The outputs referenced below are from training sessions, capacity building of local enforcers, and erection of an information network. Together these greatly reduced bonobo and elephant poaching. Also in annex is a report showing how we monitored poaching and the commercialization of bushmeat both before and after public education and implementation of hunting laws. This report quantifies the impact of Maniema’s 2009 closed hunting season.

- i. On April 10th there was a training session for environmental agents in Kailo province to prepare them for enforcement of hunting laws (USFWS report – included in Annex 6)
- ii. A brochure presenting protected species and hunting laws was passed out to chiefs and elders of villages. It had plastic covers and months later it was still brought out to show us in distant villages. This brochure was in French and Swahili; a similar brochure will be created for Orientale Province in Lingala as well. (USFWS report – Annex 2)
- iii. Local participation in the enforcement of hunting laws came at various different levels. –**Annex 5**.
 - Monitors were trained and hired to record merchandise coming into Kindu before and after the hunting ban.
 - Market women were trained and hired to inform bushmeat sellers of the upcoming interdiction.
 - Villager leaders informed hunters on their land of the laws and required foreign hunters to leave.
 - Members of the TL2 team held sessions in almost all villages of the Bangengele sector and the Balanga sector informing people of the reasons for the hunting ban and need to respect the law protecting certain species even during the open hunting season.
- iv. The ban on hunting was announced and explained through a series of radio shows. One before the closed hunting season and one after the closed season. The first radio show is – **Annex 6**.
- v. The monitoring report –**Annex7**. This includes the rationale for the monitoring program, the people involved in the bushmeat trade, a cartographic overview of bushmeat hunting in Kailo

Territory and adjacent Katatako Kombe, the methods used before and after the hunting law came into effect and the results of the monitoring. This program lasted for most of the duration of the Arcus grant.

- vi. A recent trip to Opala (oct 09) set in motion a renewed effort to stop elephant poaching in the northern TL2 landscape. –**Annex 8** is the report from that meeting.

Objective 2a : The outputs below concern not only recommendations of an area for protection on the basis of bonobo distribution, the distribution of other larger mammals, human settlement and human use, but also the results of our work with ICCN, other partners and authorities in Maniema to come up with an official process for designation of protected areas. This is the process we will follow for designation of a protected area in the TL2 landscape and involves broad public review.

- i. Mapped distribution based on field data for bonobo , elephant , and human settlements in the TL2 landscape: a compilation as of June 2009 (USFWS report – figures 3,4,7); an updated analysis as of October 2009 -- **Annex 9**.
- ii. Mapped rendition of two different proposals for protected areas in the TL2 landscape. –**Annex 9**.
- iii. A Box in the State of the Forest (now published) (USFWS report – annex 13).
- iv. A table developed with ICCN, the Maniema ministry of the Environment, and conservationists working in DR Congo that lays out the steps necessary for formation of a protected area in DR Congo. ICCN plans to formalize this process. – **Annex 10**.
- v. The minutes of one of the meetings that contributed to the table in Annex 10. This meeting was held with the technical department of ICCN at its base – Avenue Batetela, Gombe, Kinshasa. -- **Annex 11**.
- vi. In September 09, Maniema’s provincial Minister of the Environment called a meeting of authorities from the territory of Kailo and the governor’s office. He was worried that the reopening of the hunting season would negatively impact the area along the Lomami that is designated for eventual protection. This meeting was to identify the correct steps to take to avoid a continued loss of animals, including bonobo from the critical area. – **Annex 12**.
- vii. The chefs from several villages and a chef de groupement agree to help locate a southern border to the park. Agreement and photo – **Annex 13**.

Objective 2b : The outputs below follow our campaign to build support for a TL2 protected area within Congo at all levels. At first it was mainly our teams alone that visited all surrounding villages, but to an ever greater extent, in Maniema province, state and traditional authorities are speaking with their own population to build consensus for park delimitation. We have also met in Kinshasa with groups of native Maniema, Orientale, or Kasai Oriental groups. And the national Minister of the Environment (MECNT) in a television interview mentioned the eventual national park as being on his agenda.

- i. TL2 team leaders followed all the bicycle paths and foot paths in the TL2 area, visiting villages to discuss the idea of conservation and the need for a protected area (two are in annex 3 to the USFWS report) reporting the Watambola Nord sector and part of the Bangengele sector. I add here another recent report from the Balanga sector – **Annex 14**.
- ii. Report of the minister of the environment’s delegation to the Balanga and the Bagengele to speak of a protected area –**Annex 15**.
- iii. Meetings in Kinshasa with people from Kasai Oriental and Maniema who are in Kinshasa for professional reasons but maintain strong contacts with the “homeland”. –**Annex 16** is the report of a recent meeting with people from Kailo territory.

- iv. A report of the September 09 meetings in Orientale Province that were initiated by John (TL2 Scientific Director) and the ICCN Chefs de Bureau from Orientale and from Kindu. –**Annex 17**.
- v. Letter of support for the park from the Provincial Minister of the environment in Maniema suggesting a meeting between him and his Orientale counterpart. –**Annex 18**.

OUTCOMES (impacts)

Objective 1a :

Our efforts to revitalize hunting controls and their implementation overlapped three provinces: Maniema, Kasai Oriental and Orientale.

Maniema Province: We have seen a very clear progression in government attitudes over the past year. It has involved a move from suspicion of our project to open collaboration. This is clear not only in the implementation and enforcement of hunting controls over the past year, but also in readiness for a national park within the province.

As illustration of this: In November 2008, two TL2 teams were arrested by the ANR (Congolese equivalent to FBI) in a small village in Maniema. The ANR had been sent out from Kindu on 6 motorcycles because TL2 teams had presumably been looking for diamonds, buying forest illegally and digging up graves looking for gold. All charges were dropped once the team leader, Dino, was taken to Kindu where he explained our mission. Since that time we have had numerous meetings with administrators and one large meeting of 150 persons in Kindu to explain the importance of the forest for bonobo and conservation to all the smaller chiefs who came in by bicycle and dugout from the outlying parts of Kailo territory. We explained the need to control hunting and particularly the illegal killing of totally protected species such as bonobo. Following these meetings and continued lobbying the governor declared a three month hunting season.

At the end of the closed hunting season and less than a year after the ANR arrested our teams, a mission led by the Provincial Minister of the Environment composed of an elected deputy, a representative of the governor's office, a traditional chief and the Administrator of Kailo Territory made a circuit to the two concerned sectors to talk about hunting controls, hunting methods and a future national park.

Kasai Oriental: It is harder to judge what impact we might have had at the provincial level in Kasai Oriental as only one trip was made to the capital, Mbuji Mayi, May 2009 and that is far to the south of TL2 and well outside the forest zone. So we were actually surprised when the governor passed a law to close hunting for half a year as he promised during our visit. The part of this province we have followed closely is the sector of Watambola Nord in the Territory of Katako Kombe. This sector borders the Lomami River and has the largest bonobo population of any area within Kasai Oriental.

An initial challenge in Kasai Oriental came from the widespread negative reaction to the Sankuru Reserve, a Reserve created in 2007 without any technical advice from TL2 although we had already inventoried some of the designated zone. The Reserve includes much of two territories, Katako Kombe and Lomela, although; except for the sector of Watambola Nord they have low conservation value with relatively low populations of fauna and high human population. Despite the fact that some groups have lumped TL2 with the groups backing the Sankuru Reserve, we have felt welcomed in Watambola Nord, both by local NGOs, the population and the chiefs. This is due to a few things. The TL2 teams have

developed good relations with the two sector chiefs. At our base of Katopa on the Lomami River we maintain a constant presence. Our presence is seen as a source of revenue as we buy farm produce and employ people in a number of jobs as well as a source of other advantages such as medical help, school supplies etc.

The chief of Kahodi accompanied Terese to Katako Kombe to meet the Administrator of the Territory. Gaston, who is the official representative of all local NGOs in Katko Kombe, and Hon. Lambert Elonge a provincial deputy from Katako Kombe accompanied Terese to Mbuji Mayi, to see the governor of the Province.

Orientale: The Orientale Province has a lower human population in the vicinity of the conservation landscape. It also harbors the only significant elephant population of the landscape. Unfortunately, there is a persistent elephant poaching problem. Although our first contacts with politico-military authorities were in Orientale, over the last year we have concentrated our efforts in the south, particularly Maniema where the bonobo population and the human population are both higher. We have, nevertheless, kept a presence at our northern research camp and have thus been able to follow pressure on the elephant population. The pressure originates from the FARDC. Early in October the ICCN Chef de Bureau and a TL2 team leader together visited the territorial administrator in Opala in order to denounce the village chief in Obenge who lodges and protects elephant poachers. They were well received in Opala and after their visit a special delegation was organized to investigate the poaching problem in Obenge. This, however, is being held up by an infiltration of military and military weapons towards the TL2 and the future park.

Objective 1b:

Hunting is the major threat to biodiversity within the TL2 landscape. Bonobo are not spared and elephants are specifically targeted such that when we arrived only a remnant population remained of between 500 and 1000 elephants. We have made progress particularly in protecting bonobo and in reducing all bushmeat hunting in key areas.

Hunting of bonobos and bushmeat: To get a quantitative assessment on our ability to reduce bushmeat hunting and the hunting of bonobos we set up a monitoring program. Basically, it needed to know the initial state of the bushmeat market and how it changed once the law forbidding hunting went into effect. The monitoring program actually did far more than that. It was initiated in April to be an education program as well as an evaluation of the effectiveness of the no-hunting season. In fact it is likely that the reason the no-hunting season and protection of bonobo were so well adhered to is less because of enforcement, for which there is little state capacity, than because of the continuous and wide-spread passage of information. This was done from hunters to retail sellers and happened in the most remote hunting camps all the way to the central market in Kindu. Signs were put up and radio two call-in radio shows were put on the air. Our teams were involved in education, as were some influential Maniema authorities (ministers and deputies as well as the governor himself), bushmeat transporters, bushmeat vendors and village chiefs.

Key to the evaluation of the laws' impact was the training of the teams that were put on the ground to measure it. Local people were used at check points and, importantly, they were trained and they had regular feed-back and ground evaluation. The strength of the team was a group of people who had been working with TL2 already for two years and some of them with John Hart before that.

The monitoring report in annex here (**Annex7**) explains the program and results in detail.

Elephant poaching: Here the offenders are another group of people – the military of FARDC. When we first started this project the main problem was from a group of MayiMayi rebels that used the distant

village of Obenge as a final hide out and moved out ivory. It was with assistance from the FARDC that they were removed. Since that time however, and with the rising price of ivory, poaching has restarted and this time with the military assistance, including high ranking FARDC. Other parks in Orientale Province report the same disastrous involvement of the FARDC so we were not surprised that the General was not the least bit helpful. It is clear that a much larger effort with important international support will be necessary to really cut elephant poaching in DR Congo.

Objective 2a:

Our first recommendation for a National Park (USFWS report) was based mainly on the distribution of elephants and bonobo and the desire to maximize their ability to re-inhabit areas where they had been hunted to near extinction. We are continuing to modify our recommendations, or rather to suggest other alternatives taking current human distribution and forest use into account. We are acutely aware that a protected area is only as important as the protection that it assures to the forest and its animals. It must have the widest support possible from local and regional human populations.

We have wanted our recommendations to be based on a solid understanding not only of the biology of the TL2 landscape but also of the social realities. It is because of the latter that we have developed alternative limits for a national park (**Annex 9**). A third proposal, could be two smaller integral zones , one in the north and one in the south, that are united only via a Reserve that included both of them. These proposals with their pros and cons have to be evaluated by the local administrations and the ICCN who must weigh the strengths and weaknesses of each. I have summarized these as we see them so far in Table 1 below. The critical elements are:

- i. The administration of a protected area
- ii. The acceptance of a protected area by surrounding populations
- iii. Long term conservation of the fauna and flora the protected area is meant to protect.

Proposed integral protection zone	Settlements internal to integral zone that would need to be moved	Accessibility for guard patrols and park development	Ability for animals to migrate through park areas	Border-to-area ratio for national park	Possible challenges posed by human population
One large park	present and resettlement necessary	poor	Very good	Low (preferred)	Likelihood of undetected poaching and immigration
One park with a narrow strip connecting two centers	Few, no resettlement needed	good	good	High (easier penetration)	Likelihood of hunting across border into park
Two separate parks within a reserve	Few, no resettlement needed	good	moderate	High (easier penetration)	Likelihood of zone between park being occluded for animal migration

Table 1. The advantages and disadvantages of three different national park configurations that would alter connectivity and border-to-area ratios.

In order to facilitate park creation the alternatives must be fully explored locally. If the limits for the national park require resettling some communities in new places it will add to the expense and the time required and would have to be done based on agreement between the authorities and the communities. A clear understanding of the resistance and the support for this option is important and who might facilitate it if it seems reasonable.

It is likely that park delimitation will move quickly in the southern part of Maniema province and in Orientale province. The area that needs discussing is the area between the two where there are some villages in one of the suggested park configurations. These are small villages and some are recent immigrants into the area (**Annex 14**).

No matter which Park model is chosen it will be important to aim development opportunities such that people are drawn away from the National Park by offering advantages at a distance. Likewise, the families of park guards should be offered lodging outside of the park and Reserve borders to avoid the sort of situation that exists in the RFO where families attract commercial interests and wives and other relatives seek their own livelihood often turning to bushmeat commerce or other forest based enterprise.

Objective 2b:

What it means to build support and consensus for a protected area in the TL2 landscape has changed over the last year, particularly in Maniema, as the project has become more known at all levels. Local media, meetings, and diverse “word of mouth” approaches have been essential ways to communicate with local stakeholders.

An eventual national park along the Lomami River has been spoken about as a given by the national minister of the environment and the ADG of the ICCN. We feel that we have good collaboration from all the local chiefs in Maniema in the Bangengele sector and many in the Balanga sector. At this point we also have the support of the key elected and appointed authorities in Maniema. We also have definite key supporters in Orientale and Kasai Oriental that will help us when we are able to bring a bigger initiative to these provinces. In Orientale it should be soon in order to allow the National Park to move forward and to counter the elephant poaching.

At this point we would not recommend any of Watambola Nord (Kasai) as a National Park because of the presence of a string of villages, but the fact that many Tetela of Kasai cross the Lomami to hunt in the area where we do want to have integral protection shows how important this area should be as a buffer zone and as a location for at least one guard post. It should also have directed and enforced hunting controls and deforestation controls that are enforced here but not necessarily pushed throughout the Sankuru Reserve. Hopefully development advantages can come to the people of Watambola Nord as we hope they will to villages in other parts of the buffer zone. These would include dispensaries, primary schools and secondary school scholarships for successful students. Here as elsewhere though, we would strongly encourage development aid that encourages immigration away from sensitive areas.

We now know where the raw points are where further outreach is needed before a final park proposal can be promoted. The most important area is the Balanga chefferie of Maniema. This is easier than it was a year ago as more local authorities are ready, even eager to work with us. It is no longer a political

liability to be associated with project TL2, indeed it is the opposite. There are also numerous local NGOs that would like to be involved.

The ideas of the TL2 project are becoming widely accepted as the value of a conservation presence is recognized. Resistance, where it occurs, is based on two things : profit (elephants and bushmeat) and a fear of loss of alternatives or traditional wealth (Balanaga). The former is easier to approach because much of the profit is not local and the heavy bushmeat hunting had been going on long enough that the loss of forest resources is recognized by all. The second has to be approached strategically and the solutions that are found must truly be locally acceptable.

4. Please describe any unanticipated setbacks or opportunities that you encountered during the grant period. How was your funded work affected and how did you respond?

Mainly in that many opportunities present themselves that we did not budget for --- this is positive but we are often strapped for cash. The opportunities are being presented by officials and collaborators. Another problem is the delay in delivering funds from UNOPS. They have divided funds into three monthly packages, saving a portion to be given after the final report is turned in. We could operate with this method but producing a report every three months is difficult and the last report what was asked for locally was not even in our proposal. We produced it but it caused our report to be late, and now two weeks after it was approved – still no funds.

5. What are the key lessons you learned from this work?

We are learning a lot about working from a grass-roots base and in close collaboration with villages. Again and again it becomes clear to us how important our own presence on the ground and in negotiations at all levels can be. There is so much that is negotiable and so much that is not as it first appears to be. On the other hand it is important to be able to be scarce, to know when a decision is a Congolese decision. We are only learning to be able to balance the two.

6. If your work involved collaboration with other organizations, please describe how collaboration either added to or detracted from your ability to meet your objectives.

ICCN is our key collaborator. Although a weak institution with a derisory budget from the government, we are working with some good and competent people. We are very optimistic about their contribution to the conservation effort. They are essential as the representative of the national government and the ADG speaks well, the ADT looks ahead and understands what is needed to make conservation work on the ground , we find the two chefs de bureau that we deal with committed and energetic.

SOS Nature is a local collaborating NGO. It has potential with some enthusiastic and competent staff. At this point it still has some organizational problems, but was able to resolve immediate problems during the first trimester and we hope as much for the second.

7. What efforts are you taking to sustain this work beyond the grant period?

In terms of commitment: GTZ is interested in a long term commitment to TL2 although we are not certain when it might begin. We have had discussions with their representative in the ministry and with a GTZ consultant. John Flynn of USAID-CBFP has mentioned an interest in pushing for TL2 to become a

CBFP landscape, making it eligible for funding. If I understand correctly, this could not happen until 2011. We are working with World Bank and ICCN to bring some funds to TL2, this hopefully will be in 2010. It has to be ICCN that requests these GEF 3 funds, so we are stand-by although I shall be meeting with the ADT of the ICCN at the end of the week to talk about needs.

In terms of finances: Currently we are moving into our next year with financing from USFWS (130 K since September 09) and from DFID/UNOPS which comes to us in trimester allotments of 67,500 K of which 10K goes to ICCN and 15K goes to the local NGO, SOS Nature. The DFID/UNOPS funds will continue for two years. We have an outstanding 80k proposal to the Susan Wallace foundation (new foundation and that might not be its name). Finally we have a grant pending with the Mohamed bin Zayed foundation for 25K.

Organization Financials: *Please attach a copy of your organization's balance sheet and income and expense statement for the year that most closely corresponds to the grant period. If not available, please state when you will be able to provide it.*

Attached – **Annex 19**

Feedback

The Arcus Foundation is always interested in hearing from our grantees. Please tell us what you think of our grant process and your communications with us. If you have suggestions for how we can improve our work with grantees and applicants, please let us know.

This is not a suggestion, but rather an observation and a request for advice. Hunting is the main threat in the TL2 landscape. We are particularly concerned with the wanton killing of protected species and ,of these, the two most known and hunted are the bonobo and the forest elephant. We have seen that it is possible to have a large impact on the hunting of bonobo at a local level. This is because the hunters and the networks are local. Trying to reduce elephant poaching is much more frustrating. It is the Congolese Army at high levels that is involved. As shown in this report the general in charge of the army in Orientale Province was not helpful and we suspect that he may be orchestrating the poaching. Do you have any ideas on how we could push to bring pressure on the national government?

Acknowledgements:

The TL2 project has been possible with the faith, encouragement and support of many people and organizations. Nancy Abraham, facilitated our first application to the Arcus Foundation, and provided a matching grant through the Abraham Foundation. The Arcus Foundation has consistently supported the TL2 project as it grew from a team of explorers to a multi-province conservation effort involving politicians, traditional chiefs, village leaders, local NGOs and the national conservation institute. Throughout these three years the Abraham Foundation has offered constant encouragement and given the extra push towards the necessary contacts and follow-ups to assure a solid financial base.

The Lukuru Foundation, through its president Jo Thompson, generously offered their organizational umbrella from the beginning. Jo has fully appreciated the scale of the project and Lukuru Foundation took much less than the 10% overhead of the original agreement. In addition a portion of overhead

covers salary for the TL2 project director. As the project progressed Lukuru has taken an increasingly active role in administration. Our thanks for this essential guidance.

Listed below are the primary organizations that have provided support:

ARCUS FOUNDATION -- Also provided a second grant that has launched phase two.

ALEXANDER ABRAHAM FOUNDATION – Assistance, encouragement and diverse services as well as financial aid.

US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, Great Ape Conservation Fund -- An extension grant that doubled the amount of the original grant assured the successful completion of phase one of the TL2 project.

WALLACE GLOBAL FUND – This grant covered the costs of moving the center of our operations south into the most important bonobo population.

CANADIAN APE ALLIANCE – Provided funds for a first training session and one of their members, Nick January, has continued to offer critical assistance with GIS

IOWA GREAT APE TRUST – Offered critical start-up funds to assure the satellite communications necessary for launching the project down the Lomami River.

EDITH McBEAN – took a particular interest in the discovery of a new monkey species and offered help in establishing our first research camp, Losekola, to follow this monkey in the wild.

DFID – this is the first major new funding to help establish phase two of the project.

The Primary Staff include the following

Terese Hart	Project Director
John Hart	Scientific Director
Willy Mekombo	Financial and Administrative Assistant
Dino Tshwa	Senior Team Leader and Data Analysis
Maurice Emetshu	Senior Team Leader
Crispin Kibambe	Team Leader
Christian Urom	Team Leader
Bernard Ikembelo	Team Leader
Leon Salumu	Base Manager - Kindu