



Tshuapa-Lomami-Lualaba Project
<http://www.bonoboincongo.com/>

Protecting the TL2 Bonobos With Village Support A proposal to WOODTIGER FUND

Terese and John Hart
TL2 project and scientific directors
January 2013

The Year 2013 opened with promise. The head of National Parks confirmed that he is determined to have the Lomami National Park officially declared this year. He had John and I give the morning lecture on the second day of a two-day national conservation seminar. To an assembly of all DR Congo's main conservation NGOs and a representation of major diplomatic missions, we explained the project history with discovery of new distributions of bonobo, okapi and congo peacock as well as the new species of monkey *Cercopithecus lomamiensis* (locally Lesula). We insisted that conservation is imperative if these species are not to all be lost in the mounting bushmeat trade.

This presentation was a tremendous boost as 2012 ended on a frustrating note. We felt financially precarious and a further hole was eaten into our budget in order to support one of our workers, Boni Kanyama, who was attacked by a poacher (photos Annex 1). Through immediate medical intervention he did not lose the use of his hand and in fact, he is back on the ground as one of our most loyal and determined forest monitors.

Boni single-handedly disarmed a poacher who turned his shotgun on our monitoring team. While Boni struggled with the assailant, a second poacher attacked him with a machete. There were two other TL2 workers, but they were fending off other members of the poaching team. Boni did not let go until finally the others were able to come to his rescue.

Unfortunately it was not only medicines we needed; Boni and a courageous village chief who collaborates with us, were both thrown in jail when they came to testify against the poacher. To free them and to make a significant stand against the

bushmeat lobby that had successfully gotten them locked up was a major cost – the whole event cost TL2 close to 5000 USD).

Progress on our objective during 2012 was, nevertheless, steady and promising. Out of a series of trainings, surveys and targeted missions we have built a well-informed strategy and started to put it in place.

The Woodtiger Objective as conceived for 2012: The Lomami Reserve surrounding the new Lomami National Park is created. The Reserve is governed through a Land Management system based on zoning developed together with the local population, local administration and the parks authority.

Progress made in 2012: (pertinent photos in annex 1)

1. Completed a census of the local village populations surrounding the park with emphasis on their use of forest, presence of schools and dispensaries, means of hunting and fishing, area used for hunting and fishing, means of procuring cash, and use of cash. One hundred and twenty-one villages were inventoried
2. Built a new basecamp to represent the project in an area of the Reserve that comprises seven villages that together are the closest villages to an important stretch of the park border (see map). The camp is at a central village, Ngondo. There were three other determining factors for choosing this village area :
 - a. Ramazani, the highest ranking chief for the area understands the need for Community Forests and has been a tremendous ally;
 - b. The isolated location of this string of villages creates an identity that makes them a natural entity to work with;
 - c. Their need for representation at the government level (see '5.' Below) made us a convenient partner for them.
3. Visited the new base camp and the villages in the company of INCEF. This is a village film-making NGO that proposes further work with us.
4. Prospected for a small-scale path/road improvement project. This was the number-one “development” request of the villagers. We would do all the clearing and bridge construction with local labor only. And the final track will have bridges that can be traversed by bicycles or motorbikes, but not 4-wheel vehicles.
5. Drafted a memo on behalf of the village chiefs that they have all signed. The memo brings to the attention of the provincial environment minister the invasion of the forest around the villages by outside hunters. On the basis of this memo, we propose a Community Forest patrolled by the villagers, themselves.

Our long-range view will be to multiply this experience around the Lomami National Park to make a Reserve Area composed of Community Forests that are largely controlled by the local villages of each area.

Our 2013 objective remains basically the same as that of 2012 but now, with the information gained last year, we have a much clearer idea of how to move forward. We also have a more realistic prediction of what we can actually achieve in another twelve months. We feel that it is best to concentrate on a single area now knowing that what we achieve there will be seen elsewhere. Indeed already villages further north are asking for a similar initiative in their own areas. We believe they will realize that control of their forests as a buffer to a park can work in their long-term and even immediate interests.

The 2013 objectives in the pilot area where we are concentrating our community conservation efforts:

1. We accompany the chiefs of the Mangazumbu path in their efforts to create a Community Forest to protect their lands from outside hunters (Memo, annex 2);
2. The TL2 project works with village leaders and the provincial forest counsel (CCPF-M) to set up the rules governing the Community Forest (preliminary framework, annex 3);
3. We show good faith by undertaking a non-mechanized rehabilitation of the Mangazumbu path for easier bicycle and motorbike access (first stage budget attached, annex 4);
4. We do an animal inventory of the Community Forest to serve as a baseline to evaluate change in game presence overtime;
5. We use the Mangazumbu example to further a consciousness among the populations surrounding the park that it is necessary and possible to protect the buffer zone forest, to use it in a way that will preserve its basic wildlife values for future generations and that this can be done maintaining local control with Community Forests (we have sought a first 50,000 USD from USFWS to work with INCEF to promote communication ...via local films ... within the local population surrounding the national park)

Explanation of the Objectives:

1. When we first sent inventory teams along the Mangazumbu road, our TL2 teams received complaints from several of the local chiefs. Outsiders were using the forest that they considered as belonging to their villages without seeking permission. They were over-hunting and over-fishing. Often these interlopers came from far away. Land tenure rules are contradictory as to the rights of the villagers. We see this as an opportunity. We will help the villagers move their complaint up through the provincial government, seeking as a result, the creation of a community forest that they control but that has a set of rules to assure maintenance of game for the long term (hunting seasons, maximum bag, protected species...). They will be responsible for patrolling, but there will also be outside oversight. The memo is the complaint of the chiefs that we are taking to the provincial government. The final page is put in annex here.

2. The necessary meetings have just been started. Minutes are being taken. The Annex 3 was a TL2 suggestion, in very abbreviated form, of what the rules could entail.
3. At the end of last year we sent an engineer , Sony Osoke, out to assess the rehabilitation of the Mangazumbu path. . There are many watercourses and the only bridges that now exist look frighteningly like Dr. Seuss structures. Sony has given us both a complete list of materials and costs as well as a break down into sections of the road. To start he needs a chainsaw and about 6,350 dollars. There will remain about 35,000 needed to complete the job. We have worked with the engineer Sony Osoke before and been very pleased with the quality and economy of his work. Previously we borrowed a chainsaw but have determined that this is ultimately more expensive than buying one as we have recurring need for one. Sony moves out to the field and stays in the villages with very few demands until the work is done.
4. John and his trained teams will carry out the baseline inventory. They will survey the entire area proposed to become Community Forest. We are quite certain that the area will show a very low abundance of animals but that will allow us to put up some targets in terms of protection and re-colonization from the adjacent park.
5. We have proposed to USFWS that they fund the first work by INCEF (community filming project) in the landscape. Our plan is that their first village video will concern the problems of the Mangazumbu community and how a Community Forest can help them resolve the problems. This will also serve to inform not only other villagers but also other conservation colleagues of the work we are trying to do.

The dedicated personnel for the project include Ferdinand Alunga and Charmant Asani who built and run the base at Ngondo. They have been working with the Mangazumbu community for six months now.

Sony Osoke is the engineer who will construct the bridges along the bicycle/motorcycle path we propose rehabilitating. He has made a complete assessment along the path ;

Support people in Kindu include the TL2 point person, Leon Salumu, our motorcycle driver and mechanic, Gilain Kabokabo, and a lawyer, Silas Makonga. Silas will assure that the Community Forest is correctly created with a provincial statute.

Funding notes (available and to be sought):

Our funding base for the entire project so far this year was 200,000. We are expecting a response from USFWS in less than two weeks concerning our request for another 150,000 for our project and 50,000 for INCEF (village videos). We also plan to submit an elephant proposal to USFWS this year that will be for another 150,000 minimum, but would probably not be available until next year. Last year an anonymous donor provided 150,000. We will apply to them again.

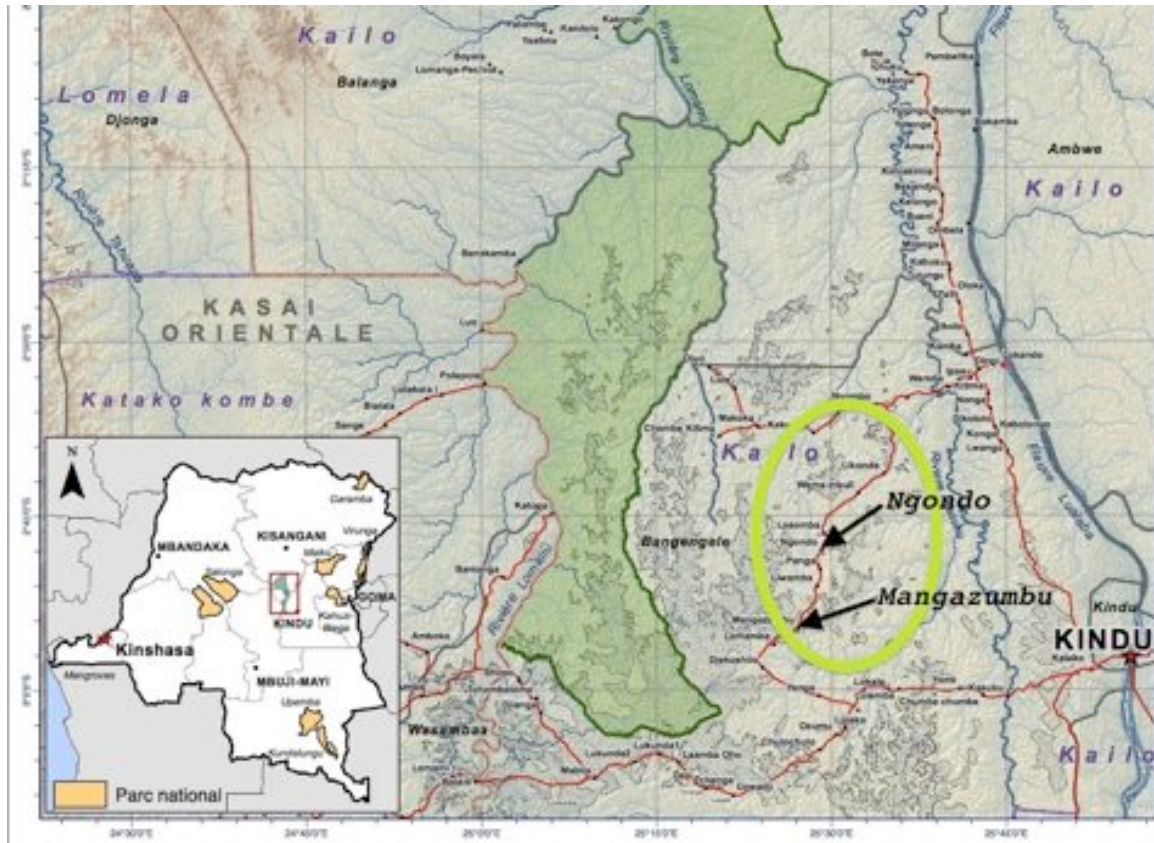
A list of funds used last year,2012, is shown in Annex 5. Woodtiger fund gave us an exceptional boost of an additional 40,000 to the original 80,000 dollar pledge. In other words we used 120,000 from Woodtiger last year. The additional 40,000 was given in response to a particular plea when we hit a financial crisis mid-year. We understood that the additional funds were an advance on the pledge for 2013. Understanding the exceptional donation made last year, we, nevertheless, ask if it is possible for Woodtiger Fund to maintain the 80,000 USD originally pledged for 2013. This would allow us to keep good faith with the communities of Mangazumbu and start rehabilitation of the bicycle/motorcycle path that would reconnect them to the outside world. A budget for the requested 80,000 is included below.

The Budget below is based on a 2013 contribution of 80,000 USD although we are aware that Woodtiger made an exceptional mid-year contribution in 2012. If 40,000 cannot be added to restore the contribution to the original intended amount, all items below will be reduced.

WOODTIGER 2013 CONTRIBUTION TO THE TL2 PROJECT, LUKURU FOUNDATION

CATEGORY	BUDGET ITEM	US DOLLARS
Personnel		
	Local project personnel	15600
	Regional project personnel (contribution)	14000
Operations		
	TL2 Mangazumbu base at Ngondo village (food, travel,	16000
	Kindu base (contribution)	1000
Special projects		
	Lobby for Community Forest	3000
	Rehabilitate bicycle route for the Mangazumbu villages (contribution)	25000
Overhead	10%	7400
	TOTAL	82000

Figure 1. The Mangazumbu villages are along an isolated path that was cut into the forest in 1948 and completely abandoned in 1960. It is precarious trying to even push goods on a bicycle because of the deep streams and absence of bridges.



By the end of 2012 we had built a TL2 field base (a mud-adobe house, baraza, kitchen and outbuildings) at Ngondo, we worked with the villagers to assess their forests and we worked with the chiefs to determine the basis for a long term collaboration leading to a community forest reserve able to act as a protective buffer for the Lomami National Park (dark green).

Annexes:

1. Photos – of conditions, set-backs and progress;
2. Last page of a memo from the chiefs to the government explaining forest invasion;
3. Proposed steps on how to proceed with creation of a community forest;
4. First stage budget for bicycle path;
5. Funds raised in 2012.

Annex 1. Photos



Boni in improvised tourniquet after the poacher's attack.



Asani pushes his bicycle across one of Magazumbu's many bridges.



Ferdinand at a village meeting at Lokoko



Sat Ibata of INCEF filming preliminary village interviews along Mangazumbu path.

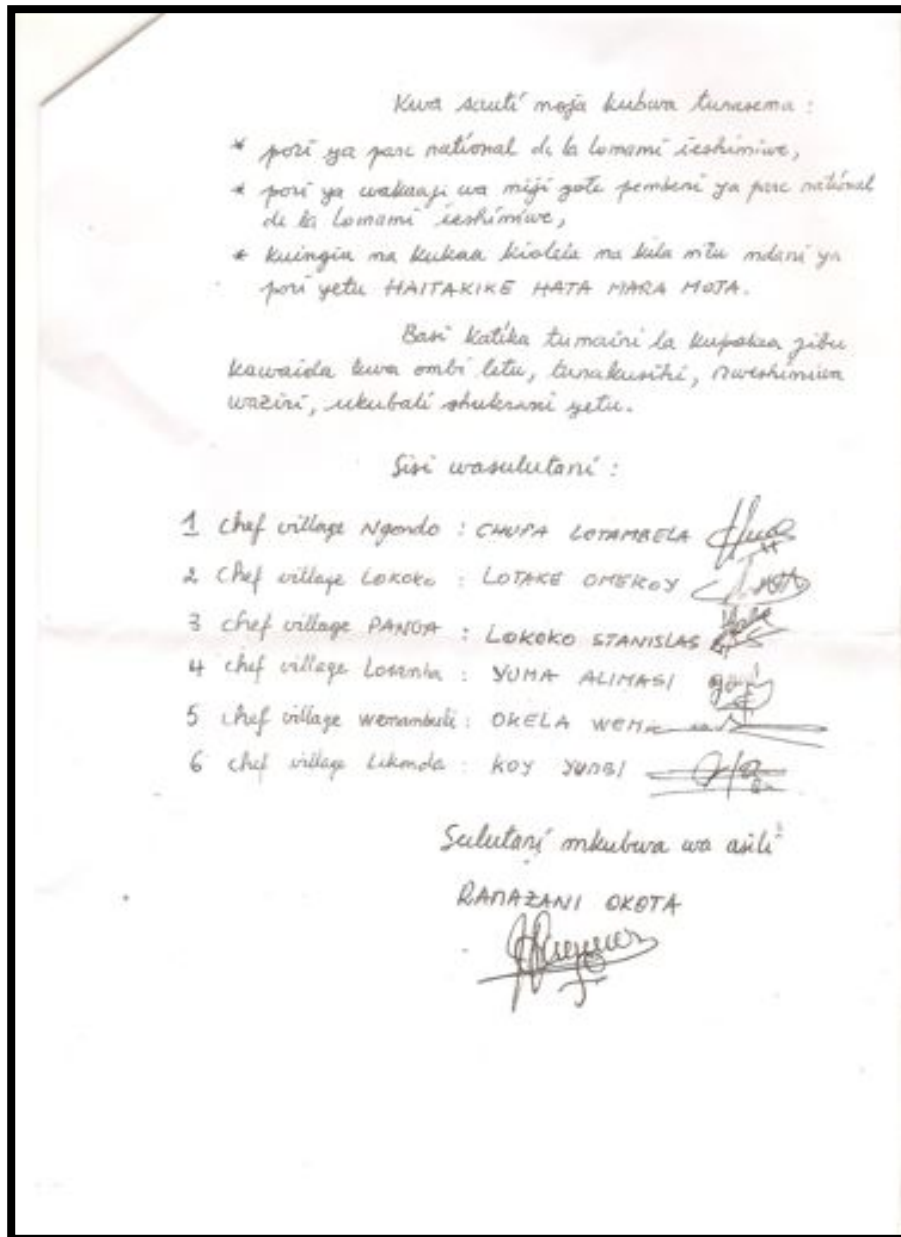


Ferdinand organized meeting of chief's for my November visit at Ngondo base



The team meets in Kindu. From left to right: Sony, Asani, Leon, Chief Ramazani, and Ferdinand

Annex 2. Last page of the Chiefs' Memo



The above is the last page of a three-page memo written in Swahili by the seven chiefs along the Mangazumbu path. They address the provincial Minister of the Environment, putting forth their complaint of small scale but increasing invasion by “foreign” hunters of forest that is traditionally theirs. These hunters are exploiting the forest for the bushmeat trade and risk leaving the local villagers empty forest – thus forcing them to hunt in the national park. The TL2 project is accompanying the chiefs in their attempt to get a favorable reaction from the government and specifically a provincially recognized community forest.

Annex 3

Réglementation potentielle d'une forêt protégée entre Lomongo et Mangazumbu qui comprend une partie importante des forêts sur la bordure sud-est du futur Parc National de la Lomami

OBJECTIF POUR LA FORÊT PROTÉGÉE	RÈGLE (à discuter localement)	IMPLICATION POPULATION	IMPLICATION PROJET TL2 (sur terrain)	IMPLICATION ICCN	IMPLICATION L'ÉTAT
Assurer une faune naturelle et abondante en perpétuité	Chasse fermée d'au moins 6 mois par an	Annoncé par le comité des chefs/notables ; patrouilleurs locaux	Sensibilisation, formation et participation aux patrouilles	Participation aux patrouilles locales, arrestation des illégaux	Mandat créant une forêt protégée de nature communautaire
	Seuls chasseurs sont les autochtones	Patrouilleurs locaux	Sensibilisation, formation et participation aux patrouilles	Arrestation des allochtones	
	Pas de chasse nocturne	Contrôle par comité des chefs/notables	Sensibilisation		
	Ni champs, ni camps permanents	Patrouilleurs locaux	Sensibilisation, formation et participation aux patrouilles	Arrestation des illégaux	
	Seuls outils de chasse sont la propriété des autochtones	Contrôle par comité des chefs/notables	Sensibilisation, formation		
	Il y a un maximum de pièges permis par chasseur et de dimensions contrôlées	Contrôle par comité des chefs/notables	Sensibilisation, formation		

IMPLICATION PROJET TL2 : Sensibilisation pour création du comité des chefs/notables, base line de la faune pour pouvoir suivre succès de la forêt protégée ; sensibilisation pour encourager participation ; facilitation des discussions sur place dans les villages ; chercher un soutien pour les patrouilles locales ; participer à la rédaction d'une réglementation

IMPLICATION ICCN : Participation aux patrouilles pour arrestation des allochtones et des illégaux, participation à la rédaction d'une réglementation ; suivre les cas d'illégalité au niveau de la justice

IMPLICATION DE L'ÉTAT PROVINCIAL: Mandat original et agrément de réglementation

IMPLICATION DE LA POPULATION LOCALE : Création d'un comité des notables représentant chaque localité, discussion de la réglementation appropriée pour assurer la faune en perpétuité et surtout la grande faune et les espèces totalement protégées ; discussion de la manière d'assurer que les règles sont prise en compte – quelles punitions nécessaires, les patrouilles fait par qui et avec référence à qui

Processus

1. Mandat de la province pour créer une forêt protégée provinciale avec limites, réglementation, et système pour la mettre en marche aussi bien que les modalités des relations avec ICCN – dans la Zone Mangazumbu jusqu'à Likonda
2. Délimitation participative
3. Rédaction participative d'une réglementation
4. Concevoir et chercher un mandat collectif pour les contrôles de la réglementation et la mise en œuvre des contrôles prévus.
5. Finaliser les responsabilités de l'ICCN pour ce qui concerne la mise en œuvre des contrôles
6. Mandat final de la province donnant un statut légal à 2 à 5.

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Above is a first estimation of the minimal steps involved in creating a Community Forest. Although there is a legal precedent for this it has never been done anywhere other than in Equateur Province and there it was done as agricultural zoning. This is likely to elicit a great deal of discussion – and argument – particularly as it gives rights to a rural, otherwise disenfranchised population.

As I write this, a series of meetings in Kindu is occurring between a lawyer, Silas Makonga, a representative of national parks, Dedieu Bya'ombwe and our workers Ferdinand Alunga and Leon Salumu in order to iron out a legal process and clarify the responsibilities of all the stakeholders.

Annex 4. First stage budget for rehabilitation of bicycle path

The total cost of the path repairs will be more about 47,000 USD based on the entire path north from Mangazumbu (PK 44000 – PK 0000). To this must be added the cost of a chain saw. We will buy it in Kinshasa and send it with extra parts to Kindu. It will be about 3,500 USD.

We include below a budget for a first section of the path (PK 44000 – PK 35300) to show how it is calculated. A hand drawn map of entire length of the route was made to show areas of savannah and forest as well as location and size of streams that need bridges.

PROPOSITION BUDGET REHABILITATION INTERCALAIRE : ROUTE MANDAZUMBU du PK44000 au PK35300 (il reste à faire jusqu'à PK 00)

1. Budget d'activités

Activités	Quantité	Tâche	HJ	Taux unitaire	Coût total
Débroussaillage	77500 m2	200 m2	392	3	1176
Abattage + Dégagement	117 U	7 U	827	3	2481
Décapage	34800	90	387	3	1161
Dessouchage	642 U	10 U	64	3	192
S/Total 1					5010
Pont ZOMBO					550
Pont OPEMBE					550
Pont MIEMA					550
Pont OSANGA					550
S/Total 2					2200
Ponceaux (05)					1250
S/Total 3					1250
Brouettes	pièce		03	150	450
Pelles	pièce		30	5	150
Houe	pièce		30	3	150
Hache locale	pièce		20	3	60
Lime	pièce		15	2	30
Décamètre (50 m)	kg		03	10	30
Clous de 12 cm	kg		15	3.8	57
Clous de 10 cm	pièce		15	3.8	57
Bottines	pièce		03	15	45
S/Total 4					1329
Carburant	Litre		200	2.7	540
SAE 90	Litre		20	3.5	70

SAE 40	Litre		10	3.5	35
S/Total 5					645
Chefs d'équipe piste : 2 pers x 30 jours	HJ	60		8	480
Chefs d'équipe ponts: 1 pers x 22 jours	HJ	22		8	176
Conducteur des travaux :1 pers					1360
Machiniste :1 pers					400
Aide machiniste :1pers					150
S/Total 6					2566
Imprévu					500
S/Total 7					500
Restauration 3 pers		60		10	600
S/Total 8					600
TOTAL GENERAL					14100

2. Plan d'exécution des travaux de la piste (en ordre d'exécution)

N°	Activité	HJ	HJ Prévu	Durée	Coût en \$
	Opération - préparation				
1	Achat matériels			01 jour	1329
	Achat carburant et lubrifiant			01 jour	645
2	Achat vivres équipe Ir SONY			01 jour	600
3	Débroussaillage	392	75	05 jours	1176
4	Décapage	387	75	06 jours	1161
5	Dessouchage	642	75	09 jours	192
	2 chefs d'équipe	60	60		480
	1 machiniste				400
	1 aide machiniste				150
	Imprévu				200
	S/Total 1 (première tranche)			23 jours	6333

3. Plan d'exécution des travaux ouvrage d'art (4 ponts)—après 20 jours

N°	Activité	HJ	HJ Prévu	Durée	Coût en \$
6	Abattage + Dégagement	827	75	11 jours	2481
7	Ponts (2)	210	26	8 jours	1100
8	Une partie paiement conducteur des travaux				700
	1 chef d'équipe				176
	Imprévu				200
	S/Total 2(deuxième tranche)				4657

4. Plan d'exécution des travaux des ponceaux (5 ponceaux)

N°	Activité	HJ	HJ Prévu	Durée	Coût en \$
8	Ponceaux (5)	40x5=200	40	5 jours	1250
9	Ponts (2)	210	26	8 jours	1100
	Solde paiement conducteur des travaux				660
	Imprévu				100
	S/Total 3(troisième tranche)				3110

5. Remarque :

Après vérification de toutes les prévisions nous nous sommes rendus compte qu'il y a eu quelques omissions que la somme de l'imprévu pourra aider. Il s'agit de :

- Marteau : 04 x 15\$ = 60\$
- Pied de biche : 02 x 10\$ = 20\$
- Chef équipe pont : 01 x 176 = 176\$

Fait à Kindu, le 31/01/2013

Conducteur des travaux
TL2
Ingénieur SONY OSOKE
ALUNGA

Appui finalisation

Ferdinand

Annex 5. Funds raised and used by the TL2 Project in 2012

Month 2012	Source	Amount USD	Note
January	Several	275,610	Balance from December 2011
March	Woodtiger	80,000	
April-June	GFA	58,000	GFA=Consultants See below
July	Abraham	10,000	
July	Woodtiger	40,000	Exceptional advance
July	anonymous	5,000	
July	USFWS	200,000	Great Ape grant
September-November	GIZ	19,000	Law enforcement monitoring
November-December	GFA	19,000	Contract with GFA
various	Paypal	3,000	approximate
	TOTAL	709,610	

Explanation: The only donors here that you might not know are GFA and perhaps GIZ. The German Bank KfW has expressed an interest in investing in the TL2 landscape. We are very pleased about this. As a result GIZ has made some funds available (GIZ is to Germany rather like USAID to the USA...as we understand it). GFA, a consulting firm, was also sent to write a proposal for KfW. GFA, in turn, gave us some funds and used our information. Although we feel the proposition that GFA wrote was not particularly good, we are still hopeful that the bank will invest in the future Park and take on the essential recurring costs such as guard salaries, etc.