

## Lukuru Wildlife Research Foundation

G-PGM-1409-1008 | \$400,000

Grant Approved: December 12, 2014

Conservation of the Lomami Protected Area and Management of Surrounding Community Forests

### NARRATIVE REPORT

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**Report Due Date:** 1/31/2016  
**Reporting Period Start Date:** 1/1/2015  
**Reporting Period End Date:** 12/31/2015

#### Activities to Date:

##### ACTIVITIES:

1.1 The bushmeat commerce was followed:

a. We recorded bushmeat transport into Kindu over one month at two choke points during open hunting season. This was not possible during closed season as people devised other routes (night travel, by-passes) to move meat to market.

b. Our undercover unit, PALL (Programme d'Application des Loi dans la Lomami) followed the sale of protected species in markets and transport of bushmeat during closed season.

c. Our surveillance missions recorded hunting inside and outside of the park.

1.2 Our outreach team covered bushmeat through baraza discussions and village projection of films through the Maniema buffer zone.

1.3 PALL (undercover unit) kept records of arrests; the reports from surveillance missions also include records of hunters apprehended.

1.4 We published blog posts about bushmeat hunting and protected species killing in 2015.

2.1a Adam Phillipson made a trip to the buffer zone to determine a way forward with community tenure and hunting reserves.

2.1b A special team was set up and developed fish ponds, a village level alternative to hunting, in two Bangengele villages.

2.3 Our outreach team accompanied Balanga villages to mark park limits. In Maniema 'tambikos' took place to reinforce community tenure.

3.1 Camera trap grids consisting of 20 cameras set at 1 km distance from each other were followed on three monitoring blocks for 75 days each.

3.2 The Mpechi block for bonobo monitoring was established; the path grid is opened, nest accumulation counts will start in 2016.

3.3 Plant inventories were carried out in three different habitats.

4.1 A training session was held for botany students and further training occurred in the field (1 congolese and 2 foreign botany-trainers).

4.2 Five foreign student volunteers or interns visited TL2.

4.3 Our project organized the training of 25 new park guards.

4.4 Many local people were hired and a number advanced to higher positions.

#### Outcomes:

outcome 1 - Greater understanding of the threat from bushmeat trade, its threat to the park and to protected species such as bonobo:

Our month-long study of bushmeat entering Kindu shows that in 2015 (compared to 2009) the amount has diminished and a larger proportion is coming from outside the park. Furthermore our monitoring/surveillance reports show that large mammal populations within the park are not decreasing. Surveillance and PALL investigations, however, show that some hunting still does occur in the park and bonobos are still hunted around the park. There are also elephant poachers in the north.

outcome 2 - increased collaboration of bufferzone populations to protect the park and work towards management of their own forests.

A combination of factors has helped in the south where the buffer zone population is greatest and closest to the park. Increased outreach, alternative activities and protection from criminals seem to be the most important. Greater collaboration is seen in village requests to help manage the buffer zone. In the north we have met with Opala's civil society, but we need to build up our presence before making real progress with the buffer zone populations.

outcome 3: The importance of the TL2 area is better understood.

internationally: "Protected Areas of Central Africa 2015" included PNL as a national park. This is a statement of confidence and its importance, as the Park is not yet gazetted.

nationally: The park proposal is in the Prime Minister's office; apparently it has passed review and should be signed soon.

locally: Local chiefs have asked us to assist them to better demarcate the park; we receive no local requests to remove the park.

outcome 4 - the tl2 project fosters and trains more people.

We receive more requests from Congolese University graduates to be interns than ever before. Also, we already have two international researchers and two volunteers, financing their own projects, planning to come in 2016.

#### Indicators and Progress:

INDICATORS, associated with activity code above and, where possible, with uploaded means of verification "MOV" or further explanation.

1.1a MOV\_Before the 2015 closed hunting season in Maniema province we assessed bushmeat commerce into Kindu from two choke points which allowed comparison with the amount of commerce in 2009.

1.1b MOV\_arrests facilitated by PALL, table and photo.

1.1c MOV\_ maps of surveillance missions and hunting sign in one sector. For all sectors see cooperative agreement report.

1.2 MOV\_villages exposed to INCEF films about hunting, some responses of villagers concerning hunting

1.3\_ see 1.1b and 1.1c also MOV photo

1.4 MOV\_ one 2015 post concerning bushmeat and another specifically bonobo bushmeat.

<http://www.bonoboincongo.com/2015/04/28/ebola-empties-villages-bushmeat-empties-forests/>

<http://www.bonoboincongo.com/2015/03/22/bonobo-meat-at-kindu-market-rate/>

3.1 Bonobo nest accumulation was completed in the Bafundo block this year but has not yet been fully analyzed; MOV\_camera traps set out in new E15 block in northern province with Bonobo videos:

<http://www.bonoboincongo.com/2015/11/17/bonobos-in-the-baies/> ;

Mpechi block is set up for bonobo nest accumulation studies this year. Camera trap analysis for population assessment getting under way.

3.3a MOV\_Three habitats inventoried for plants in south: sand soils, stream dissected and clay soils.

3.3b MOV\_Also two international herbaria collaborate for TL2 collections and identifications.

4.1, 4.2 MOV\_Botany training and students continue training on site with three professional mentors; congolese students and ICCN interns trained on surveillance and camera trap work; foreign interns and researchers also spent time on project this year and more planning to work in TL2 in 2016.

4.3 We paid for and organized with ICCN a guard training for 25 park guards.. see co-op agreement for MOV

4.4 MOV\_most of our field hires and some cadre are local.

#### Unanticipated Results:

##### UNANTICIPATED RESULTS:

The following results were associated with the second anticipated outcome, but were not the activities originally proposed and thus did not provide the suggested results. Although we feel very good about the direction we are moving with the Balanga and Bangengele villagers, it is not what we predicted and we are still not able to set a probable time when their buffer zones will have the formal protection we feel is necessary.

Collaboration with the villages has become a permanent part of most aspects of work.

- 2.1a MOV\_minutes from two meetings held with Adam Phillipson in the Balanga and Bangengele sectors in which fish ponds and the buffer zone are brought up with my summary and notes on follow-up.
- 2.1b MOV\_in response to the desires expressed above a fish pond expert was brought in and construction of ponds initiated in two villages with plans to expand.
- 2.2 MOV\_a meeting to inform the judicial authorities of Kindu of bushmeat laws and totally protected species\_a first step towards collaboration.
- 2.3 MOV\_Bangengele hold tambiko to prohibit "foreign" hunters, Balanga express need for tambiko

Lessons Learned:

DIFFICULT LESSONS:

(1) need to have a much larger undercover effort and coordinated government/military response in an area that is for conservation, but also the home base of criminals. Our team leader in Tshopo and his military escort were shot at three times by criminals during 2015. The same criminals have now, within the last two weeks, burned one village and thrashed all the men in another village. This has happened as we are increasing our undercover efforts and our collaboration with the military is improving. We have greatly improved our ability to organize reactions with provincial authorities.

(2) need to NOT count on bi-lateral partners for any particular contribution to the park, even if they commit themselves beforehand to act. GFA did not execute the principal activities they said they would be responsible for in 2015. Instead we have taken on two of their proposed tasks because they are essential to the development of the park.

PROGRESSIVE LEARNING:

The actual steps necessary to allow villages to have more conservation oriented control over their buffer zone lands is hard to predict in advance. One thing is clear the more close contact and regular communication that exists -- the better.


This contact is unique, however, in every sector in which it occurs. We have made progress in Maniema, particularly on the east side of the Lomami, now we must move west and north.

**INTERNAL REVIEW**


Report Reminders

No Emails


**REPORT DOCUMENTS**

 1.1.a\_Arcus final 2015\_Bushmeat commerce along road to Kindu 2009 and 20...

**Misc. Documentation**  
Added by Terese Hart at 5:07 AM on February 2, 2016


 4.4\_Arcus final 2015\_map showing distribution of local hires.jpg

**Misc. Documentation**  
Added by Terese Hart at 8:16 PM on February 1, 2016

 4.1\_4.2\_Arcus final 2015\_training.docx

**Misc. Documentation**

Added by Terese Hart at 8:15 PM on February 1, 2016

 3.3b\_Arcus final 2015\_Gereau et Sosef\_Lomami plant IDs.xls


**Misc. Documentation**

Added by Terese Hart at 8:03 PM on February 1, 2016

 3.3a\_Arcus final 2015\_botanical report from second botanical plot sessio...

**Misc. Documentation**

Added by Terese Hart at 8:03 PM on February 1, 2016

 3.1\_Arcus final 2015\_camera trap analytical methods.docx


**Misc. Documentation**

Added by Terese Hart at 8:03 PM on February 1, 2016

 2.3\_Arcus final 2015\_Balanga elders express need tambiko to control buff...

**Misc. Documentation**

Added by Terese Hart at 7:54 PM on February 1, 2016

 2.2\_Arcus final 2015\_meeting of jurors and magistrates.docx


**Misc. Documentation**

Added by Terese Hart at 7:52 PM on February 1, 2016

 2.1b. Arcus Final 2015\_fish pond consultant spends month in area and pla...

**Misc. Documentation**

Added by Terese Hart at 7:51 PM on February 1, 2016

 2.1a Arcus final 2015\_visit of Arcus 2015.docx


**Misc. Documentation**

Added by Terese Hart at 7:44 PM on February 1, 2016

 1.3 Arcus final 2015\_minister and PNLomai warden address press about bon...

**Misc. Documentation**

Added by Terese Hart at 7:43 PM on February 1, 2016

 1.2Arcus\_final 2015\_villages where INCEF films were shown.docx


**Misc. Documentation**

Added by Terese Hart at 7:43 PM on February 1, 2016

 1.2 Arcus final 2015\_outreach team questions after film.docx

**Misc. Documentation**

Added by Terese Hart at 7:42 PM on February 1, 2016

 1.1b\_arrests made by Pall\_protected species.docx


**Misc. Documentation**

Added by Terese Hart at 11:35 AM on February 1, 2016

 1.1b Arcus final 2015\_hunter arrested with 4 bonobos.jpg

**Misc. Documentation**

Added by Terese Hart at 11:35 AM on February 1, 2016

 1.1.c surveillance and hunting sign in Lomami Loidjo secteur of park 201...

**Misc. Documentation**

Added by Terese Hart at 11:35 AM on February 1, 2016

HISTORY

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