IUCN Conservation Outlook Assessment 2014 **(archived)**
Finalised on 22 May 2014

Please note: this is an archived Conservation Outlook Assessment for Garamba National Park. To access the most up-to-date Conservation Outlook Assessment for this site, please visit https://www.worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org.

Garamba National Park

SITE INFORMATION

Country:
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Inscribed in: 1980
Criteria:
(vii) (x)

Site description:
The park's immense savannahs, grasslands and woodlands, interspersed with gallery forests along the river banks and the swampy depressions, are home to four large mammals: the elephant, giraffe, hippopotamus and above all the white rhinoceros. Though much larger than the black rhino, it is harmless; only some 30 individuals remain. © UNESCO

SUMMARY

2014 Conservation Outlook

Critical

Garamba National Park has probably already lost one of its principal values – the northern white rhino - and poaching pressure remains intense on elephants and high on all other large herbivore species. As long as the Lord’s Resistance Army remains active in the area, park management capacities will be seriously constrained and it will be extremely difficult to reverse the negative trends. Despite significant international military cooperation it is so far proving impossible to neutralize the LRA. While management capacities have improved progressively over the past 5 years their efforts are compromised by a problem of national security which the park cannot resolve. Furthermore even if the problem of the LRA is resolved in the near future, the issue of commercial hunting by local and international criminal groups will most probably continue to threaten the park’s values and will require sustained strong management to combat it. Finally illegal gold panning in the buffer zones, in a national context of very weak governance, is also a concern in the short and medium term. It already affects values inside the park (through hunting), the destruction of key habitats (gallery forests) in the buffer zone negatively affects the overall ecological integrity of the site, and there is a concern that the activities may spread in to the park.

Current state and trend of VALUES

High Concern
Trend: Data Deficient

The guinea savannahs of the park are intact and therefore maintain their potential for supporting an exceptionally large biomass of large herbivores. The mix of habitat types from the guinea-congolian and sudanian centres of endemism are still present in and around the park, but illegal gold panning in the buffer zones is threatening some areas of important habitats, notably gallery forests where typically moist forest species occur. The emblematic and

endangered animal species are seriously threatened by poaching and population numbers have been reduced to a very low level. Data are insufficient to assess trends over the past 5 years. It will require many years of strong park management to allow these populations to recover.

Overall THREATS

Very High Threat

Poaching for ivory, rhino horn and bushmeat have resulted in drastic reductions in large herbivore populations, and poaching pressure continues to be intense despite significant recent investments in management capacities. However the continued presence of the Lord’s Resistance Army in and around the park seriously undermines park management capacities by creating a climate of insecurity and rendering large areas inaccessible to park staff. Their presence also means that the Congolese army remains present in the area, and they are a major source of poaching. Although illegal gold panning is currently a minor threat to the park itself, it is widespread in the buffer zones and there are likely to be continuing attempts set up illegal camps in the park.

Overall PROTECTION and MANAGEMENT

Some Concern

The site is seriously affected by conflict – notably the presence of the Lord’s Resistance Army in the park and its surroundings. The resolution of this security problem, which negatively impacts the park’s attributes, is largely beyond the control of the management authority. The problem has a transboundary dimension since the LRA move in and out of Ugandan, Congolese, Central African and Sudanese territories to avoid detection. However under African Parks leadership park management effectiveness is improving progressively, although the park remains in a fragile state and the cost has been high in terms of human lives and equipment. A significant increase in financial and technical support to the park from public and private partners in recent years has been of critical importance in preserving the park’s attributes, although this came too late to prevent the probable extinction of the northern white rhino, although there is still a possibility that there are some northern white rhinos left in South Sudan.

FULL ASSESSMENT

Description of values

Values

World Heritage values

- **Large expanse of guinea savannahs with the potential to support an exceptionally high large mammal biomass.**
  Criterion:(vii)

  This is a vast, gently undulating expanse of guinea savannahs and open woodlands with a dense network of permanent water sources and streams feeding into both the Congo catchment (the northern boundary of the park follows the Congo-Nile divide). The abundance of permanent water means that plant productivity is high and can support an exceptionally high biomass of large herbivores. At certain times of the year (May/June) large numbers of elephant move into the park from the surrounding buffer zones (Hunting Domains). Groups of over 500 individuals have been recorded (SoOUV).

- **Geographic location within the transition zone between two bio-geographically important centers of endemism (Guinean-Congo and Guinean-Sudanese)**
  Criterion:(x)

  By virtue of its location in the transition zone between two centers of endemism the park and its buffer zones harbor species typical of both the savannah and dense humid forest ecosystems. This transition zone is poorly represented within protected areas elsewhere. Typically savannah species include the Congo or northern savannah giraffe Giraffa camelopardalis congoensis, African elephant Loxodonta africana (both forest and savannah forms), African buffalo Syncerus caffer (both forest and savannah forms), lion

Panthera leo, spotted hyena Crocuta crocuta, Lelwel's hartebeest Alcelaphus buselaphus lelwel, roan antelope Hippotragus equinus bakeri, Thomas' cob kob thomasi, waterbuck Kobus ellipsyprimnus defassa, reedbuck Redunca redunca cottoni and oribi Ourebia ourebi. Large numbers or hippos Hippopotamus amphibius are also present.
Typically dense humid forest species include bongo Tragelaphus euryceros, giant forest hog Hylochoerus meinertzhageni, blue duiker Philantomba monticola, red-flanked duiker Cephalophus rufilatus, yellow backed duiker C. silvicultor, chimpanzee Pan troglodytes schweinfurthi, and 5 species of small diurnal primates : black and white colobus Colobus guereza occidentalis, red colobus Piliocolobus oustaleti oustaleti, agile mangeby Cercocebus agilis, De Brazza monkey Cercopithecus neglectus and the red-tailed monkey Cercopithecus ascanius (IUCN Evaluation).

► **Presence of emblematic, endangered and/or endemic mammal species.**
Criterion:(x)

The park's most important emblematic species was the northern white rhino Ceratotherium simum cottoni, but no individuals have been seen since 2007 (ICCN, 2010) and it is feared that this subspecies species may now be extinct in the wild. It was the world's last remaining population in the wild.
Congo giraffe, endemic to the DRC. This is the only existing population. Currently estimated at 70-80 individuals located in the south of the park, and in the southern buffer zone (Gangala na Bodio Hunting Domain) (ICCN, 2010).

Elephant – this is the DRC's largest remaining population of elephants within a protected area (and one of the largest in Central Africa) and is unique in being an inter-grade between forest and savannah types (ICCN, 2010). The most recent count (May 2012) estimated a population of (awaiting results). They range widely over the park and its 3 surrounding buffer zones (Hunting Domains) (Antonínová, M , 2010.).
Eastern chimpanzees (Pan troglodytes schweinfurthi) – these are known to still occur the gallery forests in the eastern buffer zone, but there is insufficient data on the distribution and the size of different subpopulations in and around the park (AP annual report, 2011).

Other important biodiversity values

- **Large communal nesting sites of the northern carmine bee eater Maerops nubiensis**

  These are exceptionally large flocks of carmine bee eaters which constitute an impressive visual phenomenon.

Assessment information

Threats

Current Threats

Very High Threat

The intensity of elephant poaching is currently a serious threat to all populations of elephants in central Africa. Garamba National Park contains the DRC's largest elephant population which means that there is a strong likelihood of the park being specifically targeted by the local and international criminal networks behind the illegal ivory trade.
The insecurity resulting from the continued presence of the LRA means that large parts of the elephant population's dispersal area (the buffer zones to the south, east and west of the park (ICCN, 2010)) are inaccessible to park guards. Elephants are therefore very vulnerable when they move out of the park. Although searches for any remaining white rhino are ongoing it is probable that this sub species is now extinct in the wild.

- **Commercial hunting**

  Very High Threat
  Inside site
  Outside site

  Commercial hunting over the past 40 years has resulted in significant

declines of all wildlife populations in the site (ICCN, 2010). Using comparable data from 1976 and 2004, elephants declined from 22600 to 6300; buffalos from 53000 to 12200; giraffe from 350 to 184; white rhinos from 490 to 20.
The elephant population is severely threatened by poaching for ivory. This threat has increased dramatically recently (as it has everywhere in Africa).
The Congo giraffe is poached principally for trophies (tail) but also for meat. Cases of giraffe poaching are occasional, but as the population numbers less than 100 individuals every case has a serious impact on the integrity of this last remaining population.
Other large mammals, particularly hippo and buffalo, are regularly targeted by poachers for meat.
Poaching of the northern white rhino, the principal value of the park, for its horn has probably led to its recent extinction (2007).
Poachers from the local communities are regularly involved in commercial hunting of most of the large herbivores, but the most intensive commercial poaching over the past 10 years have come from neighboring Sudan, with Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) soldiers and muharaleen horsemen targeting mainly ivory and rhino horn. More recently the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) appears to have turned to ivory poaching (http://www.african-parks.org/News_31_). Another worrying development recently (April 2012) is the suspected case of poaching of elephants from the air, possibly from a helicopter (AP internal report, AP; http://www.rapac.org).
Poaching by FARDC soldiers is frequent, and several cases of poaching by parks staff have also been recorded over the years (AP internal monthly reports).
The difficulties of stopping commercial hunting have to be seen within the exceptionally difficult security context in north eastern DRC (civil wars in DRC and neighboring Sudan, presence of LRA).

► Mining/ Quarrying

Low Threat
Outside site

Illegal artisanal gold panning occurs in the buffer zones (hunting domains) where habitats (particularly gallery forests) are locally destroyed, and the associated wildlife disappears through habitat loss and hunting. A small number of cases of gold panning within the park have been recorded but these have so far been dealt with rapidly. The activity, which has expanded

rapidly in the buffer zones in recent years, attracts large numbers of people (gold panners, families, traders, and various other hangers-on) to the camps, some of which are very close to the park boundary. As a result low levels of poaching inside the park occur as a direct result of the presence of these mining camps (Aveling, 2010).

► War, Civil Unrest/ Military Exercises

Very High Threat
Inside site
Outside site

The park and its surrounding buffer zones are used as a cover by the Lord's Resistance Army from where it launches lethal attacks on the local populations. The park headquarters at Nagero was also targeted in January 2009, with the death of 10 people, the kidnapping of three children and the loss of more than 1.5 million $US of equipment. Despite efforts by the Ugandan and Congolese armies, with support from the American government and mediation by the south Sudan government, it has so far proved impossible to eliminate this group. Killings and abductions continue to be a regular occurrence. In April 2012 a camp of over 150 LRA was discovered in the southern part of the park. The LRA hunt mammals in the park for food, and there is recent evidence that they have now turned to elephant poaching to fund their operations (http://www.african-parks.org/News).
The savage brutality of this militia maintains a climate of great insecurity in the area and undermines the effectiveness of park management by eroding the morale of park staff and creating no-go areas. The implication of the Congolese army in operations to hunt down the LRA has also had negative impacts on the park as Congolese soldiers have frequently been involved in poaching (Aveling, 2010).
However the paramilitary capacities of the park guards are being progressively improved through training, equipment and leadership provided by African Parks who have been given the mandate by ICCN to manage the park.

Potential Threats

Low Threat

Given the current price of gold, attempts to establish illegal gold panning

camps in the park are likely to continue. The prevailing context of poverty and poor governance in DRC means that dealing with the issue may become socially conflictual particularly if local authorities do not support the park management on this issue. All the World Heritage values of the site are all likely to be affected.

► Mining/ Quarrying

Low Threat
Outside site

Given the current price of gold, and the prevailing context of poverty and poor governance in DRC, there is concern that there will be attempts to set up illegal gold panning camps inside the park. Cases have already been recorded but have so far been dealt with rapidly (Aveling, 2010).

Protection and management

Assessing Protection and Management

► Monitoring

Some Concern

Garamba National Park is one of the rare parks in DRC that has long term data on wildlife population trends. However monitoring has been seriously hampered since the civil war and the arrival of the Lord’s Resistance Army in the region and has meant that in recent years it has not been possible to cover systematically the same areas with monitoring activities in order to obtain easily comparable data. However the monitoring that has been possible provides useful information on trends. Aerial censuses (total counts and systematic sample surveys, depending on the species) are conduced as regularly as the security situation allows.

► Implementation of Committee decisions and recommendations

Some Concern

Most of the Committee decisions are being implemented within the constraints of the prevailing security situation in the area.
A concerted multinational effort (Congo, Uganda, Sudan, USA, MONUSCO,

AU) is being made to eliminate the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), but unfortunately with only limited success. LRA rebels still operate in and around the park, the most recent violent incidents in the park dating from June 2012 close to park HQ. The involvement of FARDC soldiers in poaching still occurs. The government has still not resolved the issue of providing rangers with sufficient weapons and ammunition for anti-poaching. Nevertheless anti-poaching effort is increasing and for the first time in over 15 years ground surveillance is being conducted north of the Garamba river, although total coverage of the park is still not possible. The majority of the buffer zones still remain off limits due to insecurity and logistical constraints. The park management is actively engaging with illegal gold mining in the buffer zones, focusing on areas that are important for chimps (part of eastern buffer zone). However gold panning is very widespread, and increasing, and is almost completely uncontrolled by the State, so this continues to be a major challenge for the park.
Relations with local communities are improving thanks to concerted efforts by AP to engage with local community leaders develop outreach activities (health care, schools, road access, employment through HIMO, micro-project, etc.). Key wildlife populations are being monitored within the constraints of the security situation. Elephants, giraffe and lions and have been fitted with GPS collars and there is regular aerial surveillance for the whole park. An aerial count of elephants was conducted in May 2012, the first for three years.

► Legal framework and enforcement

Serious Concern

ICCN has subcontracted the management of the GNP to African Parks. The current agreement runs to September 2013.
The legal framework of the park is clear and globally adequate. The official inclusion in the park of the triangle between the Garamba and Dodo rivers to the south east of the park would be desirable. Given the complementary nature of the different habitats inside and outside of the park (predominantly open grasslands inside the park, predominantly woodlands in the buffer zones) the importance of the 3 buffer zones (Hunting Domains) to the ecological integrity of the whole ecosystem cannot be overemphasised. It would be even more desirable to include the 3 hunting domains into the World Heritage site. The park cannot survive without the existence of the surrounding hunting domains. These act not only as buffer zone, but more

importantly as an area which is seasonally used by elephants. Besides, some species, like the bongo, the chimpanzee and the sitatunga are probably only found in the hunting domains. Protection of these buffer zones, which are not part of the World Heritage property, falls far short of what is necessary to ensure the ecological integrity of the ecosystem as a whole.
Law enforcement remains extremely challenging in view of the current situation of insecurity caused by the presence of LRA rebels, and the Africa-wide upsurge in elephant poaching.
Elements of the FARDC involved in poaching are also a challenge. Of the 232 cases of confirmed elephant poaching between 2006 and 2010 the Congolese army, FARDC, was involved in 144 cases (Aveling, 2010). The occasional case of “internal” poaching by parks staff still occur (AP internal month reports).

► Management system

Some Concern

A draft management plan was submitted to ICCN headquarters at the end of 2010 and is awaiting official approval. In the meantime most of the elements of the plan are being implemented (Draft Management Plan).

► Tourism and interpretation

Mostly Effective

See under “Sustainable finance”. A new tourist lodge was recently completed and efforts to promote tourism are ongoing. Occasional international groups do visit the park but the current climate of insecurity is a major constraint. However an important local market (>1000 expatriates working for a nearby industrial gold mining complex) is being tapped. An area in the buffer zone where chimpanzees occur is being monitored with a view to habituating them for tourism, in collaboration with the local community.

► Education and interpretation programs

Mostly Effective

Regular visits of school parties to the park are organized by park management. The park has acquired a lorry specifically for this purpose. These visits certainly help top enhance an understanding of the values of the

site.

▶ Sustainable use

Data Deficient

No resources may be legally extracted from the park so the question of sustainable use does is not applicable. Resources currently being illegally exploited in the park are large herbivores and gold. Effective law enforcement is required to deal with both these problems.

▶ Staff training and development

Some Concern

Park staff has been strengthened through retirement of pension-age guards and recruitment and training of over 30 new guards. Staff numbers currently stand at 237. Investments in staff training and development are ongoing, but these efforts need to be continued (Draft Management Plan, 2011).

▶ Sustainable finance

Some Concern

Funding for the park is higher than at any time over the past 25 years. In 2010 the park had a 5 year budget of 7.173.000 € and 2.137.000 $US (from EC, World Bank, Spain, AP and other private foundations / NGOs.). Revenue from tourism is very small and currently contributes insignificantly to financing park management costs. For the foreseeable future the park will be dependent on international funding agencies.

▶ Boundaries

Mostly Effective

The eastern, southern and western boundaries of the park follow large rivers and are therefore clearly recognizable. The northern boundary is the international frontier with Sudan, of which part also forms the southern boundary of Sudan’s Lantoto NP. As mentioned above effective protection of the buffer zones is essential to the integrity of the whole ecosystem. Currently these buffer zones are not adequately protected.

► Management effectiveness

Serious Concern

No formal management effectiveness assessment, using one of the recognized management effectiveness assessment, tools is available. However it is likely that effectiveness is improving progressively thanks to the considerable investments in equipment, infrastructures, human resources and organization that have occurred since African Parks were given the mandate to manage the park in 2005 . Retirement age guards have been replaced with new, well trained, recruits. Patrol man days reached 29.144 in 2011, an increase of 79% from 2010. However much of the northern sector of the park is still not patrolled on foot because of difficult access and insecurity, although it is covered regularly by aerial patrols (Draft Management Plan, 2011).

► Research

Mostly Effective

GPS collars on elephants, giraffe and lion are providing useful ecological information. Vegetation studies had been initiated in collaboration with Kisangani University. Chimpanzees are monitored at Gbere (in the buffer zone near the eastern boundary of the park).

► Integration into regional and national planning systems

Some Concern

Wherever possible the park’s strategy for support for community development takes into consideration the concerns of local “Collectivités”. Development initiatives must be compatible with the conservation objectives of the park. However the park’s community development initiatives must be viewed in the context of the enormous development needs of this province, very weak regional planning capacities, widespread poverty, and the general absence of functioning State structures (communications, schooling, health care, justice, etc…).

► Relationships with local people

Some Concern

This has traditionally been a weak aspect of Garamba National Park management over the past 20 years. However under the management of African Parks a considerable effort has been made to improve relations with the local communities. FFI is a partner of African Parks and ICCN in Garamba, and is spearheading the community conservation programme. This is being achieved through various outreach activities including the funding of micro-projects, the organization of regular school visits to the park, improved access to health care (including vaccination campaigns and the construction and management of a small hospital), and improvement of road access to markets. These efforts should be seen in the context of the extreme isolation/poverty of this part of the Oriental Province and the extreme levels of insecurity in which local communities live. The park is perceived by the local people as a pole of development and support. Park authorities and partners have showed their commitment not only to the conservation of this unique site, but also to the fate of local populations living in extremely difficult conditions.

Overall assessment of protection and management

Some Concern

The site is seriously affected by conflict – notably the presence of the Lord’s Resistance Army in the park and its surroundings. The resolution of this security problem, which negatively impacts the park’s attributes, is largely beyond the control of the management authority. The problem has a transboundary dimension since the LRA move in and out of Ugandan, Congolese, Central African and Sudanese territories to avoid detection. However under African Parks leadership park management effectiveness is improving progressively, although the park remains in a fragile state and the cost has been high in terms of human lives and equipment. A significant increase in financial and technical support to the park from public and private partners in recent years has been of critical importance in preserving the park’s attributes, although this came too late to prevent the probable extinction of the northern white rhino, although there is still a possibility that there are some northern white rhinos left in South Sudan.

▶ Assessment of the effectiveness of protection and management in

addressing threats outside the site

Some Concern

As long as the Lord’s Resistance Army remains in existence, and active in the area, the parks values will be seriously threatened. This is a national security problem that park management has very little capacity to influence. The capacity of the park is also seriously hampered by the fact that the Government of DRC is not providing weapons and ammunition. Unfortunately the presence of the Congolese army does little to resolve the security situation, and their presence contributes to the poaching problem. However park management provides important input (local knowledge and skills) for the current joint military operations (Uganda, Congo, USA) that are underway to address the issue of the LRA.
Illegal gold panning in the buffer zones is increasing rapidly and constitutes a major concern for the park since the protection of the buffer zones is essential to the ecological integrity of the ecosystem to which the park belongs. Strong political leadership to deal with this problem is lacking. Park management therefore finds itself in an isolated position as it tries to deal with the problem.

State and trend of values

Assessing the current state and trend of values

World Heritage values

- **Large expanse of guinea savannahs with the potential to support an exceptionally high large mammal biomass.**

Good
Trend:Stable

All large herbivores are threatened by poaching. The white rhino is probably already extinct and the elephant population is under intense pressure from ivory poaching. Since 2004 the security situation has prevented the systematic collection of monitoring data across the whole park. Aerial censuses of different species have been conducted as and when possible, and in general only over the southern part of the park. It is therefore difficult to assess the trends over the past 5 years with precision. However it is

probable that the populations of large herbivores have fluctuated at or below the low levels that that were recorded in 2004. A systematic sampling aerial count of elephants was conducted in May. The survey considers the elephant population to be around 1,600 individuals, a reduction of more than 50% compared to the last survey in 2007 (the population was calculated to be 3,600 individuals) and 85% in comparison to the survey in 1995 prior to inscription of the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger (SOC Report 2013).
Current giraffe numbers for the DRC are estimated at less than 80 Kordofan giraffe, found exclusively in the Garamba National Park and adjacent hunting reserves (Marais et al., 2012).

► Geographic location within the transition zone between two bio-geographically important centers of endemism (Guinean-Congo and Guinean-Sudanese)

Low Concern
Trend:Data Deficient

The mix of habitat types from the two centers of endemism are still present, although it should be noted that the three buffer zones (which are not part of the World Heritage property) are critical to the maintenance of the full range of habitat types typical of this transition zone. Illegal gold panning in the buffer zones is negatively impacting certain important habitat types, particularly gallery forests which contain many typically moist forest species. However there is insufficient data on the geographic scope of these activities to assess overall trends (Aveling, 2010).

► Presence of emblematic, endangered and/or endemic mammal species.

Critical
Trend:Data Deficient

The vast expanse of gently undulating grasslands and open woodlands, with a dense network of permanent water sources, ensures high vegetation productivity and hence an abundant year-round supply of food for large herbivores. This productivity is what gives the landscape the potential to support an exceptionally high large mammal biomass (Draft Management Plan, 2011)

Other important biodiversity values

▶ Large communal nesting sites of the northern carmine bee eater Maerops nubiensis

These are exceptionally large flocks of carmine bee eaters which constitute an impressive visual phenomenon.

Summary of the Values

▶ Assessment of the current state and trend of World Heritage values

High Concern

Trend: Data Deficient

The guinea savannahs of the park are intact and therefore maintain their potential for supporting an exceptionally large biomass of large herbivores. The mix of habitat types from the guinea-congolian and sudanian centres of endemism are still present in and around the park, but illegal gold panning in the buffer zones is threatening some areas of important habitats, notably gallery forests where typically moist forest species occur. The emblematic and endangered animal species are seriously threatened by poaching and population numbers have been reduced to a very low level. Data are insufficient to assess trends over the past 5 years. It will require many years of strong park management to allow these populations to recover.

▶ Assessment of the current state and trend of other important biodiversity values

Good

Trend: Stable

The large communal nesting sites of the northern carmine bee eater Maerops nubiensis are intact and not threatened.

Additional information

Key conservation issues

▶ Gold minning

Local

Artisanal, and mostly illegal, gold mining has increased rapidly in recent years and is continuing to intensify around Garamba National Park. The anarchic nature of this activity is a consequence of the breakdown in law and order and the severe socio-economic decline brought on by years of mismanagement and civil strife in the country. While park management can continue to enforce the law in the park, the problem is likely to persist as long as there is no high level political will to address this issue.

▶ Improving protection of the buffer zones

Local

The 3 buffer zones, which together cover a surface area 1.7 times larger than the park itself, are critical to the preservation of the site’s values. Elephants range widely in the buffer zones and much of the habitat diversity characteristic of the guinea-sudanian and congolian transition zone is located here. If good protection cannot be assured for these areas the long term viability of the parks values will be compromised. Given the remoteness and size of the areas in question very significant additional management resources will be required. The collaboration of local communities living in the buffer zones will be critical to ensuring sustainable management of the resources.

▶ Commercial Hunting

Local

If the LRA can be neutralized and the Congolese army withdrawn from the region, park management’s ability to combat commercial hunting will be greatly enhanced. Although their capacities have been strengthened over the past 5 years thanks to significant injections of funds, equipment and human resources, huge challenges remain and external support must continue to be

mobilized in order to ensure that effective park management covers not only the whole of the park, but also the buffer zones which are so important for the protection of the site's values. The global nature of the ivory trade is driving the current onslaught on Africa's elephants and GNP's elephant population (one of the largest remaining in central Africa) is bound to come under further intense pressure from poachers.

▶ **Presence of armed militia**

National

As long as the Lord's Resistance Army remain active in the park and its surroundings, park management's ability to tackle any of the other conservation issues will continue to be compromised. The regional dimension of this problem makes it a particularly difficult one to resolve. Furthermore as long as the LRA are active the Congolese army, which is also involved in commercial poaching, will remain billeted in significant numbers in the region.

Benefits

Understanding Benefits

▶ **Water provision (importance for water quantity and quality)**

The abundance of permanent water sources is a unique feature of the site and is one of the key contributing factors for the park's capacity to support a very high biomass of large herbivores.

▶ **Outdoor recreation and tourism**

The park has very significant tourist potential, but is prevented from maximizing this potential because of the security situation. Key tourist attractions are: a vast undulating, grassland-dominated landscape; a variety of large herbivore species, including spectacularly large herds of elephants at certain times of the year; large communal nesting sites of carmine bee eaters; hippos and crocodiles in the rivers. This is one of very few sites in central Africa where this kind of tourist potential exists.

▶

Is the protected area valued for its nature conservation?,
Does management of the site provide jobs (e.g. for managers or rangers)?

The site is highly valued for its unique biodiversity values resulting from its location in the transition zone between the guinea-sudanian and congolien zones of endemism. Typically savannah and moist forest species are all found within the site. The elephant population is one of the largest remaining in central Africa and is unique in being an inter-grade between forest and savannah types. It is also the last remaining site where the Congo or northern savannah giraffe is found.
It is also valued for its historic significance – it is one of Africa's oldest national parks.
The park provides employment (permanent and temporary) for many hundreds of people. It also contributes to the socio-economic welfare of local populations through road maintenance, health infrastructures and services, education, and micro-projects.

Summary of benefits

The national and global benefits in terms of nature conservation (unique mixture of savannah and forest species), and the potential benefits in terms of recreation (tourism) are of high importance. However these benefits are at risk because of the inability to resolve the problem of armed militia.

Projects

Compilation of active conservation projects

№	Organization/individuals	Project duration	Brief description of Active Projects

1	African Parks	Since 2008 African Parks (AP) has had the mandate from ICCN to manage Garamba National Park. The contract runs until September 2013. AP mobilizes its own sources of funding (AP Foundations), and also manages funds provided by the European Commission, Spanish Cooperation, World Bank, and various private foundations and NGOs. Current levels of funding are the highest they have been for over 20 years. Activities cover all aspects of park management: reorganisation of all park management structures, building and rehabilitating infrastructures, equipping and training guards, anti-poaching, community conservation, tourism development, research and monitoring,

Compilation of potential site needs

№	Site need title	Brief description of potential site needs	Support needed for following years
1	Sustained funding	All park management activities require sustained funding at least at the current levels for many years to come. Better surveillance of the buffer zones is vital and this will require a significant increase in resources, particularly vehicles and manpower.	

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