

## **Project Update: October 2012**

### **School Bongo Wildlife Clubs - "Patron's Train the Trainer"**

**13 Oct 2012**

With the support of Rufford Small grants we were able to set up an initial Train the Trainer day - 13 Oct 2012, for the Patrons of the Bongo School Wildlife Clubs (of which there are 14 associated schools at this time).

This was held centrally over 2 days at Naro Moru Campground. The logistics of getting the entire group together, takes time as the furthest school is over 8 hours travelling time by Matatu. It was positive to see all school/community areas were represented. Eburu, Aberdares, SW Mau and Mt Kenya

The Patrons are teachers, headmasters or community members. Their role is vital for the success of the conservation programme. Most individuals have been supporting the Bongo Clubs conservation programme, working closely with Peter Munene, the school coordinator over the last few years. It the first time as a Patrons group, they have had the opportunity to meet and share "as a team" the challenges, best practices, and solutions of involving the communities, and pupils in a conservation programme. The focus over the coming months will be to go through the outputs from the meeting, and prioritise projects. It will be necessary to develop conservation educational material to help structure the programme in more formal way. Whilst maintaining the individual school's needs and objectives. During the Patron's session - we updated the team on the Bongo Surveillance Activity in the field and how the monitoring programme was progressing in the various areas. See below more details.

### **Bongo Surveillance Update**

#### **The objective of the Bongo Surveillance programme:-**

1. Maintain core surveillance of the Aberdares and Mt Kenya.
2. Engage local communities adjacent to known bongo populations to continuously monitor their local herds
3. Educate local communities about the bongo specifically, and conservation generally, through the bongo schools wildlife clubs programme
4. Maintain a network of animal triggered camera-traps, which enable population sizes to be estimated through individual photo-identification.
5. Record and maintain a mapping record of forest surveillance - including illegal activity.

### **Kanjwiri - BSP Team - Aberdares N Camera Trap (Bongo) - Monitoring September/Oct 2012**

The new camera trap located in Kanjwiri as attached, indicates bongo are still surviving in this area which is very good news. However, this is a challenge, with illegal activity occurring within this forest area. This is being reported to KWS.

**Honi Aberdares BSP Team - Camera Trap - Monitoring September/Oct 2012**

We have "Camera trap evidence also of the Honi Bongo group- Aberdares" Particularly good news, there is a new born.

**Mt Kenya BSP Team - Camera Trap - Monitoring September/Oct 2012**

So far in this period of monitoring, the Mt Kenya camera traps as shown no new bongo photographs. The BSP trackers have photographs of bongo dung. This indicates they have been present in the area, previously which is promising news.

