

## Project Update: May 2011

Species of roan would find their preferred habitats shrinking to narrow bands close to Yala River. More often they are affected by changes in species composition in grass-wards and shifts between perennial and annual grasses. Roan antelope are specialist feeders with habitat requirements which despite research may not be understood. They are susceptible to anthrax together with predation which is a secondary factor. The potential areas for roan antelope populations are the terrain of Ramogi Hills which is few hundred metres away from the Lake Kanyaboli of Yala wetland. The location is suitable for the animals as the presence of water body within the locality.

It is unlikely that roan will be present in areas without suitable water supplies but the situation could arise where animals have been recently displaced from their regular drinking places (Hawinga and Kadenge areas) by an influx of people and domestic livestock. With the effective awareness created and under normal rainfall conditions, roan populations in Yala wetland are expected to increase at more than 10% per annum from current 74 in Kenya and, accordingly, the populations can sustain illegal off-takes of about 10% annually before their effective growth rate becomes zero. With the decrease of illegal hunting, roan populations will maintain growth rates of about 10% and hence increase in number. The development of local community monitoring systems and the method of inference from monitoring has greatly improved the data information of the roan antelope.

