

International Elephant Foundation

Final Report: Rabongo Ranger Post



Recovery of Murchison Falls National Park Programme

July 2019

Executive Summary

The Recovery of Murchison Falls project has made considerable in-roads into expanding the foundations of protected area management, including the completion of the Rabongo ranger post, the road connecting to the new ranger post site, the refurbishment and installation of radio towers, installation of solar power in the sector command posts and procurement and shipping of the repeaters and radio handsets.

The six-man Rabongo ranger post is complete and fully operational. The 1 km track is basic but manageable for now. The ranger post includes guttering and two 10,000-gallon water tanks, as well as an ablution block. Within one week of the ranger post being opened, a poacher gang was found in the area and arrested. Since then others have also been arrested poaching in the region. The site provides protection for the digital radio tower and the ability to triangulate ranger patrols between Waiga, Got Labwor and Mupina ranger posts.

Two radio towers have been restored and installed, one in Kololo in the north of the park, the other in Rabongo. In time we will likely add a third in Ayago 3 to improve radio coverage along the river region. The radio towers were restored and erected by Mutoni Construction who also built the Rabongo ranger post.

With guidance from the Forgotten Parks Foundation, UCF has procured two repeaters and 30 radio handsets for Murchison Falls, as well as four radios for Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) cars.

Solar power has been installed in Kololo, Got Labwor and Punu Rii Ranger Posts. A solar kit has also been procured and delivered to Murchison Falls ready to be installed at the Rabongo tower.

Uganda Conservation Foundation (UCF) has also focused on ranger training, especially with regards to communications and the establishment of the Joint Operations Command Centre and Quick Reaction Force. This included training carried out by the British Military. There have been three waves of British Military training in Murchison Falls over the past year largely concentrating on junior leadership for non-commissioned officers. These courses provided foundation level ranger requirements including patrolling techniques, reporting, communications, first aid and navigation. In June 2019 UCF hosted a team of 35 soldiers from 4-Rifles Regiment. Their focus went beyond junior leadership to include training for the Joint Operations Centre, establishing the Quick Reaction Force and communications.

Time line of activities

On the 25th Feb 2018 UWA and UCF formally confirmed the site of the Rabongo ranger post.



On the 5th March the scope of works was advertised and shared with registered construction firms. Once the project was fully funded the contracts were signed with Mutoni Construction who won the tender process. Due to considerable rains, construction started on the 7th January, 2019. The ranger post was completed and fully operational on the 29th April, 2019.

The ranger post was fitted with a seven-gun cabinet for safe storage of weaponry and ammunitions.

The ranger post provides a significant expansion of anti-poaching capability in southern Murchison Falls, expanding UWA's area under management protection and control to approximately 60% of the south of the park. From Rabongo, the six rangers can provide regional protection whilst supporting larger patrols with Got Labwor, Waiga and Mupina ranger posts.

The impact of the ranger post will be seen over time, however, an aerial survey, sponsored by UCF and funded in part by the International Elephant Foundation, was carried out in 2019 to provide baseline animal population numbers in addition to habitat information and locations of human habitation.

Financials:

Rabongo Hills RP	Tusk Trust 2018	IEF	Total Raised	Expenses 1	Resource 1	Balance 1	Expenses 2	Resource 2	Balance 2	Expenses 3	Resource 3	Balance 3	Expenses 4	Resource 4	Balance 4
Project Lead	1350	1000	2350		1,000	1,350			1,350	-	400	950		950	-
Tender, M&E, Commissioning			0			-			-			-			-
UCF	675	150	825		1,980	(1,155)		240	(1,395)	-		(1,395)		405	(1,800)
Car rental	700	500	1200		1,200	-		400	(400)	-		(400)			(400)
Fuel	500	500	1000	244		756	197		559	-		559	6		553
Accommodation	750	300	1050	222		828	209		619	-		619	-		619
Food & Water	300	200	500	239		261	58		202	-		202	-		202
Communications (PL)	200	100	300	14		286	14		272	-		272	-		272
UCF	5625	5250	10875			10,875			10,875	-		10,875			10,875
Tent hire x4			0			-			-	-		-			-
Construction	25000	26500	51500	22,936		28,564			28,564	9,175		19,389	11,468		7,921
Ranger Support			0	5		(5)			(5)	-		(5)	3		(8)
Signage	0	500	500			500			500	-		500	106		394
Solar Power			0			-			-	-		-			-
Digital Radios			0			-			-	-		-			-
Road construction			0	569		(569)			(569)	-		(569)			(569)
Total	35100	35000	70100	24,231	4,180	41,689	477	640	40,572	9,175	400	30,998	11,583	1,355	18,060

Exchange Rate

Expenses 1

Expenses 2

Expenses 3

Expenses 4

Note: Captures all expenses prior to 31st Dec 2018 resource form 0045

Note: trip 24th to 30th Jan 2019. Resource from 0044

Note: 20% progress payment to Mutoni

Note: 25% progress payment to Mutoni, sign post, JO salary, MK PL for 2 days, Bank charges and local transport

Authorised by:

Project finished.

Authority provided to transfer UCF: \$10,875	10875
Total	10875
Remaining	7,185
5% remaining to be paid to Mutoni	2294
Bank charges	10
Remaining	4881

Remainder to Waiga RP construction.

The project is complete and left a construction phase excess of \$4881 which was passed onto Waiga and the JOC deliverables.

Solar power has not been added yet.



The completed Rabongo Ranger Post. A six-man ranger post and ablution block. The tent was the old ranger post.