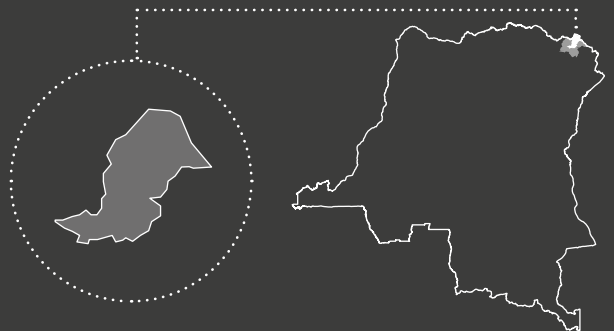




Garamba National Park

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

Institut Congolais pour la Conservation
de la Nature (ICCN)



AFRICAN PARKS
PROJECT SINCE 2005

AREA 5,133 KM²



Garamba's Story

Garamba National Park in the north-eastern Democratic Republic of Congo is one of Africa's oldest national parks and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The park shares nearly 200 km of border with South Sudan and forms the anchor of the broader Garamba landscape, which includes three adjacent hunting zones covering a total of 15,000km². Around 100,000 people live in the zones around the park. Garamba experienced

a turbulent past: Rebel activity, civil war and militarised ivory poaching had devastating impacts on local communities and led to steep declines in wildlife populations, particularly elephant, as well as the local extinction of the northern white rhino. In 2005, the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN) and African Parks concluded a management partnership for Garamba, to jointly work towards stabilising and reviving the park.



Biodiversity

Garamba National Park is home to the only notable elephant and giraffe populations in the region and is one of the most critically important ecological landscapes in Africa. Vast undulating grassland savannah are found amidst dense dry forest. With abundant food and water resources, the park provides excellent habitat for a full suite of large herbivores, from hippo to roan antelope.

African Parks' journey in this landscape has not been easy, and the park teams have faced immense challenges over the years. Once home to over 20,000 elephant and thousands of other species, Garamba endured many years of poaching, leading to plummeting wildlife numbers by the turn of the century. Elephant poaching was at an all-time high in 2014, with over 130 poached in one year. While we have learnt some extremely hard lessons along the way, and through working together with the Congolese Government and our other partners, the Garamba landscape is finally seeing stability. Through an effective conservation law enforcement strategy using world-class technology, elephant poaching has almost entirely stopped. In the past five years, fewer than 15 elephants have been poached, and population

numbers are again on the rise. Through the development of socio-economic initiatives in and around Garamba, illegal activity has decreased and the benefits of stability are being realised for both wildlife and people. In 2023, with effective park protection in place, sixteen southern white rhino were introduced to replace the functionally extinct northern white rhino and to establish a safe breeding node for rhino, contributing to rhino conservation on the continent.

In addition, research to better understand pastoral dynamics and nomadic movements in the region has been undertaken to help manage and engage with pastoralist groups. This positive engagement has had a direct impact on improving security and biodiversity conservation in the park. As a result, over 20,000 animals from 23 species are thriving in the park including savannah species such as lion, buffalo, giraffe, Ugandan kob, as well as forest species such as chimpanzee, giant forest hog, bongo, tree pangolin, sitatunga, and golden cat. Almost all species populations are showing stable or growing numbers. In addition, the last remaining population of critically endangered Kordofan giraffe in the DRC continues to grow.

People

Roughly 100,000 people live around the park, in a region with little economic opportunity. Community development is central to the long-term sustainability of Garamba National Park, with a key focus on education, healthcare and alternative livelihoods. Garamba directly employs over 500 full-time local staff, and the park's community team works with surrounding communities on a variety of

socio-economic projects and environmental awareness programmes, such as Camp Dungu, which hosted over 800 people in 2023. More than 13,000 community members were engaged in awareness-raising sessions run by the park in 2023, and almost 20,000 people received healthcare through the African Parks-supported hospital, as well as mobile clinics servicing the broader landscape.



Highlights

- ✔ In 2021, a solar energy programme was launched with the construction of mini-grids supplying power to communities in Faradje and Tadu, two key centres adjoining the Garamba Complex, improving the lives of thousands of people. Almost 50 percent of the connections are households, the remainder is made up of infrastructure, such as small businesses and administrative and municipal buildings
- ✔ The Farmer Field School Programme trains local farmers in sustainable agriculture and market gardening. These farmers in turn are committed to training ten more farmers in their community. So far, over 2,000 farmers have been trained.
- ✔ The critically endangered Kordofan giraffe population, which is the last remaining in the DRC, has increased beyond 90 individuals, from 22 in 2012.
- ✔ Elephant poaching has almost completely stopped.






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African Parks is a non-profit conservation organisation that assumes responsibility for the rehabilitation and long-term management of national parks and protected areas in partnership with governments and local communities. Currently 22 national parks and protected areas are under management covering over 20 million hectares in 12 countries: Angola, Benin, Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Visit www.africanparks.org to learn more.



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