

**Project Update: February 2013**

## **Community and School Conservation Outreach Programme**

### **School Visit – Mt Kenya Educational Centre**

#### **Visit 12th November 2012**

The Aberdares Bongo Wildlife Club schools participating in this visit were Kamburaini Primary School, Kariki Primary School, and Bondeni Primary School. The pupils, community, teachers and patrons had the opportunity to not only see bongo for the first time (a repatriated group of bongo from the USA are located at this centre, at present, with the potential of returning to the wild – if DNA and other tests prove satisfactory). The centre has live demonstration sites showing the benefits of solar, biogas and other alternative cooking fuels. It is also a time for teachers to share experiences and best practice in conservation. There will be the opportunity to take a further group of pupils in February from the Bongo School Wildlife Clubs, from the Mt Kenya and other Aberdare schools.

#### **“Bongo Hotspots” – Giant Painting – Communications Tool. Aberdares and Mt Kenya schools – November /December 2012**

For many of the pupils it has been the first time to actually use watercolours and paint brushes. With this in mind and as art has been removed from the school’s curriculum the pupils really excelled themselves, displaying great creativity and producing giant posters showing all key area “bongo hotspots” with camera trap photographs. The painting can be used as a “communication tool” to the communities to help understand more about the about the work of the BSP, where the critically endangered mountain bongo are currently surviving and the monitoring of these groups by local BSP teams. The activity is also attended by the BSP surveillance team who have the opportunity to include their latest bongo camera trap photographs into this “Giant painting of Bongo in their natural habitat”.

#### **Bongo Surveillance Team Monitoring of Bongo – Bongo Hot spots – Aberdares and Mt Kenya**

##### **ABERDARES – BSP team**

**Aberdares** – Surveillance has been operative in the South Aberdares around the S. Mathioya and Maragua Rivers in these locations bongo signs have been observed, probably some six bongo, but nowhere where they have been residing in any one area. This area is extremely mountainous with difficult terrain to cover.

**Honi Aberdares** – this location has given us some excellent photos of this bongo group - an estimated 18.

**Kanjwiri Aberdares** - There have been no new photographs from the Kanjwiri area in the north, the illegal timber extraction activity has meant the bongo have now moved to a higher region nearer the moorland where their tracks have been observed, by two surveillance trips made to collect camera trap memory cards over this period.

**Mt Kenya /Ragati** - Our team continue to monitor the two Ragati area cameras on a fortnightly basis. Camera Two has good photos of a bongo in this area and further tracks were observed nearby, some six bongo estimated. The camera no one has had the shutter problem as explained by excessive rains and moisture at these levels. Tracks of bongo were observed here also. Together they make up the estimated 12 to 15 bongo in this area, which is great news.

