

## Project Update: May 2015

On May 8<sup>th</sup> 2015 the project got underway. The team have established a base camp on the east bank of the Okavango River in Bwabwata National Park Core Area opposite Mahangu National Park. The field crew consists of myself, Lita Matheus – the Head Conservation Scientist from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), Ale Olvieri – an MSc Conservation Science student from Imperial College London who has joined the project to help collect and analyse the data, and Hausiku Annacletha – an MET ranger who is acting as our guide. The experimental design has been modified and refined and now consists of four training stations spread over a kilometre of river. Each of the training stations has been fitted with a camera trap to record all visitations and training events. Two of the training stations are electrified intermittently on five day cycles. This set up will hopefully give us a more accurate measure of training success i.e. at what rate do the crocodiles stop approaching a) bells with shocks and b) bells without shocks. This phase of the research will be run until the beginning of July 2015.



Left: A training station up and running. Middle: The team arrive on the Okavango River, about 500 m upstream of the Botswana border in Bwabwata National Park. The opposite bank is Mahangu National Park. Right: Lita Matheus and Patrick Aust setting up a training station. Photo by Ale Olvieri.