

Project Update: November 2013

We are now done with the first vital component of fieldwork. Here, we have considered the extent and spatial distribution of poaching signs. This is an important step towards adopting and making effective use of spatial monitoring and reporting tool (SMART) in promoting Ugalla anti-poaching efforts. Only signs of poaching offences committed during approximately 5 years prior to the survey were recorded. Nine hundred and seventy-four signs of poaching were encountered. These were categorised into different types of poaching as follows: illegal fishing ($n = 8$ poaching signs); bushmeat hunting ($n = 106$), logging ($n = 602$), honey gathering ($n = 151$), and evidence of poaching – any sign showing presence of poachers, but not identified in other poaching types ($n = 107$). Next step will be data analysis and report writing. Survey of the spatial and temporal distribution of anti-poaching efforts will be conducted in the second phase of the project.



Photo 1. Illegal fishermen's camp, a fish smoking rack was set near the hut



Photo 2. A carcass of an elephant killed by poachers for tusks



Photo 3. Impala in Ugalla Game Reserve, photo taken from a distance



Photo 4. Rangers destroying a carcass of an African buffalo left by bushmeat poachers who ran away from our vehicle



Photo 5. Abandoned poacher belongings and a pile of logs