

## **Project Update: March 2009**

**Field Dates:** 23/02/2009 to 05/03/2009

**Sites:** Muluwa, Munaka, Rwambwa Mudembi, Nahasyongo

This was a 2 week reconnaissance visit.

We witnessed poisoning at 3 sites. In a trial interview, everyone asked if they knew of Furadan poisoning and if they ate the poisoned birds. All gave a 'Yes' response; they knew of Furadan's toxicity and that they used an efficiently safe method to prepare the meat for

consumption.

Five poachers were seen baiting birds. We talked to two. Most use captive open-billed storks to enhance the baiting. We witnessed, 6 storks eat poisoned snails and die; 71 storks survived after we unintentionally startled them, then again got startled by grazing goats; my scout reported 16 storks had got poisoned and killed a day before; 5 more of an estimated 200 African mourning doves died from baiting. Many flew away after eating the poisonous bait. I hope to establish if the runaways die away from the site in the surveys to come.

**Field Dates:** 27/02/2009 to 05/03/2009

**Sites:** Munaka (Bunyala Rice Scheme main rice planting zone)

We began data collection. A total of 73 dead birds out of 236 were observed after getting intoxicated by Furadan or, upon getting disoriented, were battered, strangled or their limbs dislocated.

Questionnaire and interview from 35 respondents revealed no apparent illness from people eating poisoned birds.

My local assistant is almost perfect using his binoculars and has learnt to photograph using the camera; see attached a number of his trial photos. I also left him a copy of *Birds of Kenya and Northern Tanzania*. The binoculars, camera and the bird guide were all purchased by funds from the Rufford Small Grants Foundation.

For more information please visit the up to date blog focusing on this study at <http://www.stopwildlifepoisoning.wildlifedirect.org> .



Left: Abdim's carcasses. Right: Captive decoys.



Left: Local scout. Right: Watching from a distance.



Left: Poisoned



Left: Poisoning equipment. Right: Dried poisoned meat.