

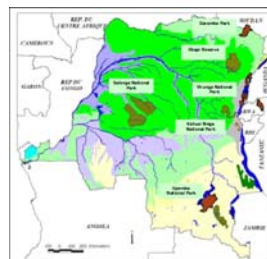
## 2006 Abraham Conservation Awards in DR Congo

### Abraham Conservation Award

The Abraham Conservation Awards acknowledge exceptional and inspirational commitment, dedication, and courageous action by individuals in the defense of threatened wildlife and vulnerable protected areas in some of the most difficult but also some of the most important conservation landscapes of the world. The Abraham Award focuses on individuals, such as local community members, forest park staff, park wardens, and NGO staff, people who are based on the ground, and whose actions, often in the face of personal risk, might otherwise never be known or appreciated.

### The Abraham Awards in DR Congo

Last year the DR Congo was chosen for the first Abraham Awards in Africa because Nancy Abraham, President of the Alexander Abraham Foundation, felt that international recognition was needed for the valiant, grass roots conservation work that continued throughout the prolonged period of armed struggle despite continuing uneven and intermittent support to the ground.



The 2005 Awardees were recognized for their outstanding bravery to defend the parks. Selected from the Congo's protected areas, these exceptional wardens, guards and individuals who collaborated valiantly with the parks, were recognized during three ceremonies held in Kinshasa, Goma and Bukavu. The ceremonies were covered widely by the International and National press and radio.



In 2006, the candidates have been nominated within parks and natural landscapes throughout the country. In a time of political uncertainty, the Abraham Awards make a statement by recognizing, at a national level, exceptional and determined individual actions to protect a common natural heritage. The sixteen 2006 Awardees include park guards, ICCN officers, NGO collaborators, local chiefs in areas adjacent to parks and even one journalist.

These Awardees will be recognized during a ceremony in Kinshasa that will draw local and international attention and underline the social and political role of conservation in the emerging republic, sending a critical message to the new government.

