Community anti-poaching action

Dr Susan Canney, June 2012
The MEP supported a team of foresters to undertake a 10 day mission to find those responsible.
It was very important that we could crack-down immediately on this poaching incident, and good outcomes resulted:

- Boosted morale within DNEF and the Ministry

- Thanks to ICFC’s support, DNEF were able to respond quickly before the poacher’s trail went cold: two turbaned men shot the elephant from a motorbike and then drove off, returning the next day to hack out the tusks. DNEF imprisoned their two accomplices, and investigations are underway to discover the identity of the two poachers.

- All the information discovered by DNEF came from our brigades through the community (information that would not be accessible to foresters), demonstrates the effectiveness of our community structures in protecting the elephants.

- DNEF used the mission as an opportunity to explain to local people throughout the elephant range the importance of the elephants both for them and Mali, affirming that “we can work together so as not to let individuals destroy our elephants”.

- The Minister used the incident to give a formal discourse at the “Conseil des Ministres” & inform the top levels of government about the importance of the elephants, the threats, the work of our project, and the recent poaching incident.
Intercommunity meeting on anti-poaching
Training the anti-poaching cells