

Gilé National Park

Newsletter August 2020



Key Issues- August 2020

- The Quirimbas National Park's Warden visited Gilé NP together with the Deputy Warden, the Deputy Head of the Law Enforcement Department and a delegation of Rangers. The aim of the visit was to create a joint venture and exchange experience for a period of 2 months. The visit renewed the continuity of the good relations that exist between the two conservation areas;
- The Head of the Community Development Department and a Gilé NP Technician attended a training promoted by FNDS - *Fundo Nacional de Desenvolvimento Sustentável* (National Sustainable Development Fund) and Moz-FIP for the launch of SUSTENTA Comunidade project (a financing opportunity for community-based organizations) in the city of Mocuba. The Gilé NP was invited to share its experience on the NTFPs topic highlighting the importance of inclusive management models where the role of communities is indispensable.
- In August, 46 seasonal workers were recruited to support infrastructure development.



PN Quirimbas Warden meets the PN Gilé Rangers during the parade.

Management and Infrastructure

- 116 km of roads between Mulela and Namurrua were graded and cleared;
- 70 km of the main road have been cleared from fallen trees;
- Musseia Headquarters: 2 single houses have been completed. Pavilion for drivers and guards: although this building has suffered a slowdown due to a lack of material, the finalization of the works is scheduled for the end of September. Warehouse painting.
- The routine activities and maintenance have been carried on.



One of the 2 single houses and the warehouse

Law Enforcement

Two trucks carrying *umbila* wood logs were confiscated by the authorities of PN Gilé thanks to the support of the *Polícia de Proteção dos Recursos Naturais e Meio Ambiente* (Police for the protection of natural resources and the environment).

The resulting investigations, carried out in collaboration with AQUA - *Agência Nacional para Avaliação da Qualidade Ambiental* (National Agency for Environmental Quality Assessment), confirmed the allegations of illegality punishable by the national law.

- A total of 24 patrols were undertaken in August covering more than 1500 km on foot, around 2.200 km by car and 15 km by canoe;
- In August, 51 signs of illegal activities (mainly related to illegal fishing) were detected;
- 3 roadblocks and 8 ambushes were performed;
- The following items were confiscated: 71 fishing nets and 7 fishing cages; 13 traps, 8 spears, 3 steel cables and 14 bicycles;
- 2 poachers, 2 illegal fishermen and 3 illegal loggers were arrested. 7 legal processes were opened.



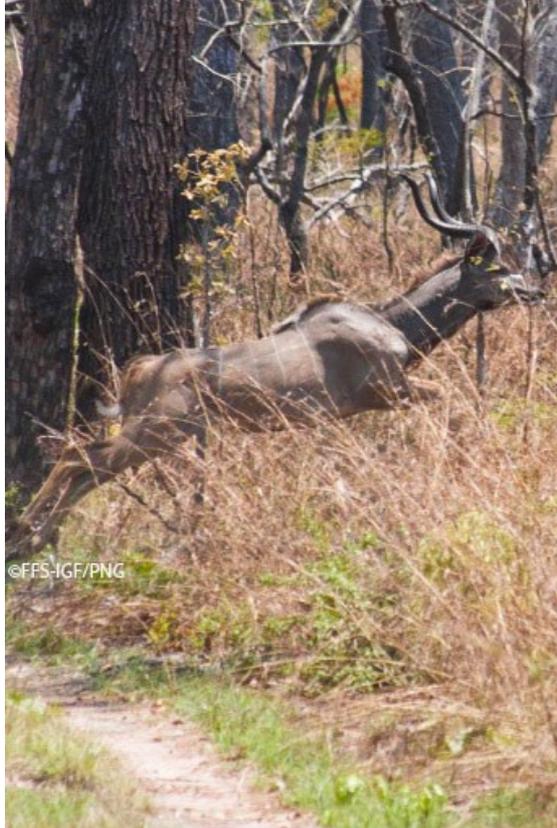
Confiscated trucks and traps (SCAMBIO project, see Community Development session)

Biodiversity Conservation

- Elephants stayed close to Lice Tourist Camp and did not come close to the community; the Rangers observed the elephants on 3 occasions;
- In August, Gilé NP responded to no cases of Human/wildlife conflict;

The low vegetation continues to make favorable the observation of wildlife: buffaloes, zebras and wildebeests have been observed several times.

- Other animals have been directly observed in August such as: kudus, waterbucks, duikers, bush bucks, bush pigs, warthogs, reedbucks, and a crocodile;
- Spoors of zebras, buffaloes, kudus, wildebeests, elephants, sables and waterbucks were also recorded.



Kudu bull

Community Development

- Human/wildlife conflict: after the training held in June the volunteers carried out a series of preventive activities such as production of burning blocks and the sealing of the machambas (cultivated fields). The first 30 days produced satisfactory results as no elephant invasion was recorded. 5 Pilot Zones were chosen which hopefully can be used as a model to replicate in other farms and machambas to reduce elephant pressure;
- "SCAMBIO" (Program to provide agriculture tools in exchange for gin traps and others poaching instruments – see May Newsletter for details): a total of 78 poaching tools were withdrawn, 167 agricultural tools agricultural were delivered to the management Committees of the engaged communities;
- Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) Project:
 - Honey: an exchange of experiences between technicians and beneficiaries in the school apiary, has been held in the communities of the Buffer Zone. The purpose was to improve the beekeeping management (such as organization of the combs, the level of honey ripening, the reserves and the development of the swarms) and to identifying strengths and weaknesses in order to improve the skills.



Volunteers during the Human/wildlife mitigation conflict training



Forecast for September 2020

- The selection and follow up training of 30 new Rangers will hopefully begin at the end of September. Uncertainty on start dates is due to Covid-19 international travel restrictions that affect the arrival of the South African Wildlife College trainers who will lead the selection and aid the training procedures;
- The Gile' NP Monitoring Officer and the Community Development Technical Advisor will re-enter Mozambique and resume their duties within the Park;
- Law enforcement and other core activities will be guaranteed.

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