

Gilé National Reserve

Newsletter January & February 2020



View from Mount Pope

This newsletter, as well as all efforts provided for the protection and development of Gilé National Reserve, are dedicated to José dos Santos Dias Mohamede, former Warden of the Reserve, who passed away the 22nd of January in the city of Pemba. José was warden of Gilé National Reserve since January 2013 and during all this time he dedicated his work in developing the Reserve and building up the team. His death leaves a great void in all of us and for conservation throughout Mozambique.

Key Issues- JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2020

- Mr. Raimundo Vasco Matusse took up his position as Gilé National Reserve (GNR) Warden. The presentation ceremony took place the 21st of February in the Musseia Administrative Headquarters in the presence of Doctor Paula Chauque (ANAC Human Resource Manager), Claudia Sucá (Human Resources Consultant), the Provincial Representative for Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development and all GNR staff (heads of departments, rangers, guards and technicians);
- The GNR Warden attended a FNDS meeting in Quelimane;
- The GNR Warden attended an ANAC course in Maputo about corruption in Protected Areas.



The new Warden R.V. Matusse during the investiture ceremony with Her Excellency Ivete Maibase, Minister of Land and Environment

Management and Infrastructure

Due to the heavy rainfall and to the strong winds of the past rainy season, at the beginning of the year it was necessary to assess and repair the damage caused to the road network, to the bridges and to the GNR camps.

The following maintenance work began towards the end of the rains:

- Road at 2 km from Mulela Administrative post has been repaired;
- Addition of stabilizing soil and stones and improvement of drainage system has been completed on the main road until km 15;
- A ford over river Namicio on the Mulela-Lice track from the outpost to the tourist camp of Lice has been constructed;

- Road repair and stream crossings have been completed from Musseia towards Nakololo;
- Pillars on the bridge over the Mulela River have been constructed;
- Mobilization of material for the rehabilitation of 4 bridges (Naplomodho and Niwarione Rivers; Nagonha- Mulela River, Malema River);
- Musseia Headquarters: in preparation for the ranger selection process scheduled for April through which 30 new rangers will be selected, the abandoned campsite adjacent to the main entry gate of Musseia camp, was rehabilitated and the following facilities were built: 2 latrines; 1 kitchen; 2 wooden walkways to facilitate access to the river; The campsite was cleared and prepared ready for the installation of the large 150 person tent that will be rented to support the exercise;
- Lice Camp: In preparation for the Training process scheduled for May, the old Lice campsite was rehabilitated and the current tourist camp is undergoing regular maintenance. During the training exercise Trainers will be lodged at the Tourist camp while the trainees will pitch their tent in the old campsite. To facilitate lectures, a classroom with benches and tables was built;
- The application to the BIOPAMA grant was finalized: If successful the funding will support the purchase of an installation of a 10m³ fuel tank and pump in the Reserve Administrative Headquarters.



Improvement of drainage and filling, road Mulela- Lice

Law Enforcement

Despite the difficulties caused by the past rainy season, it was possible to carry out several routine patrols, which led to positive operating results:

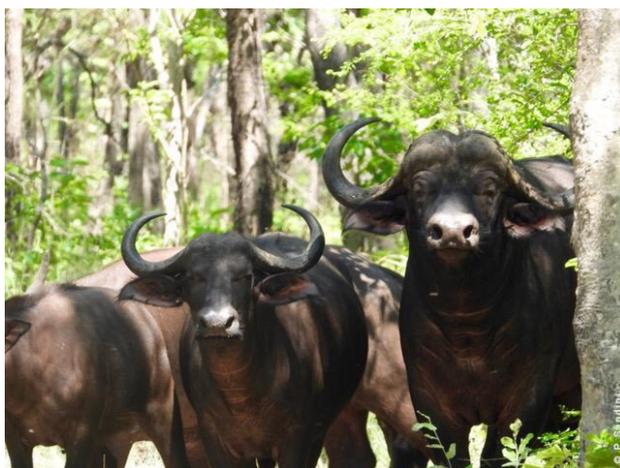
- A total of 23 patrols were undertaken in January of which: 10 foot patrols, 9 car patrols and 4 motorcycle patrols. Six ambushes and 4 roadblocks were also carried out;
- A total of 35 patrols were undertaken in February of which: 17 foot patrols, 18 car patrols and 5 motorcycles patrols. Five ambushes and 6 roadblocks were also carried out;
- In January, 9 signs of illegal activities were detected of which: 7 related to illegal timber logging, 3 related to poaching;
- Five arrests were made;
- Nine legal processes were opened: 8 were submitted to Pebane's District Attorney's office, 1 was submitted in Gilé 's District Attorney's office;
- In January the following items were confiscated: 7 vehicles, of which 1 car and 6 trucks. The trucks were loaded with illegally harvested wood for a total of 498 logs. A 12-gauge shotgun, 2 spears and 1 machete have been confiscated;
- In February, 2 steel cables were deactivated and 16 arch of fishing cages were destroyed along the River Mulela in the Musseia area;
- In February the following items were confiscated: 11 gin traps, 11 fish traps, 11 cable snares.



One of the confiscated trucks

Biodiversity Conservation

- The 4 collared elephants, part of herd of about 30 animals, have been moving west, outside the GNR. The area is still heavily forested and the herd has repeatedly raiding
- crops in the local communities. A mitigation process of the human-wildlife conflict is underway.
- Towards the end of February one of the satellite tracking collars displayed abnormal activity indicating a possible problem with the elephant called “Julietta”. The recovery team spent 1 night in the field and found the collar at the displayed GPS location. The collar had slipped due to failure of its fastening system but is fully operational and will be deployed again in 2020.
- Two remote camera traps were deployed with the intention of getting an image of a leopard on camera. At the time of deployment there were fresh leopard tracks seen in the area. The two cameras were in place for 10 days and results provided evidence of approximately 3 wildebeests and a troop of baboons.



Buffaloes

Community Development

- The coordination meeting of the Community Department was held. The tasks and activities have been defined.
- Since 2017, FFS-IGF is undertaking a large program co-financed by the French Development Agency on Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP). Activities carried out for the months were:

Mushrooms:

- In January, 17 women from neighbouring communities attended the Workshop organized by the Community Department in the buffer zone community of Vassele. They were taught how to brush, cut and clean the mushrooms.
- In February, mushroom picking was implemented to promote good harvesting practices and motivate 127 women from 5 communities. Collection tools were distributed to 165 women from 5 communities.
- Two consultancies promoting the correct drying procedures were held in the buffer zone.
- Honey:
- In January, the Community Department developed and distributed new tools, such as buckets, brushes, levers, fumigators, boots and overalls with protective net, to monitor beekeeping activity.
- At the end of February, a training was held in Musseia. The training was provided by the NITIDAE and AGRIMEL as part of a partnership with the GNR who provided technical assistance. The training was attended by GNR’s field technicians as well as by beneficiaries and focused on best harvesting practices and on the correct post harvesting processes.
- Snail breeding:

- Two snail breeding facilities were promoted with the support from the Technical Administrative Post of Mulela in Pebane District.
- Film: In January, the Community Department together with representatives from the French Development Agency carried out interviews and filmed beneficiaries and technicians during the environmental community activities.

These activities include but are not limited to such as the mushroom picking and beehive maintenance.

- A public tender process, for the handover of two multipurpose mills, was finalized.
- The main objective was to select 2 beneficiaries at district level in the Gilé District that would manage processing facilities to be established in Vassale and another in Naheche.
- Environmental and participative educational activities were carried out in 2 schools (Pipine and Mucucune) involving around 60 students and their teachers; 350 GNR manuals were distributed.
- February 15th is known worldwide as Pangolin Day. A Community meeting was held in the community of Munhado to raise awareness on this specie and to promote the protection of this endangered mammal which is amongst the most illegally traded worldwide.
- This initiative raised interest and had high attendance from both students and teachers hosting over 80 participants.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between GNR and the Gilé District Health Services, was finalized. The main objective is to support the health sector for communities in the GNR buffer zone and to contribute to the reduction of premature marriages, HIV AIDS incidence and chronic malnutrition.



Mushroom picking in Musseia



A moment during the beekeeping training



Distribution of the RNG manual at the Pangolin Day

Forecast for March 2020

- Seven hours of helicopter flight are scheduled between the 22nd and 24th of March. This will be crucial in supporting law enforcement but will also improve the reserve's wildlife monitoring capabilities as well as support other activities such as roadmapping, encroachment monitoring.
- New, improved, and geo-referenced databases for Wildlife Monitoring and Law Enforcement will be created and adopted.
- Improved field forms will be created and adopted by Rangers on patrol.