

Gilé National Park

Newsletter September 2020



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Fire season in GNAP

Key Issues- September 2020

- According to the guidelines dictated by the ANAC (*Administração Nacional das Áreas de Conservação*) after the upgrade of the Gilé Reserve into a National Park (see May Newsletter for details), our official acronym from now on is GNAP (PNAG in Portuguese) or abbreviated Gilé NAP (PNA Gilé);
- Ending of the COSV-EU Project (2016-2020) in partnership with the Government, the IGF Foundation and Carbonsink for strengthening the financial sustainability and biodiversity of the Gilé NAP;
- The Community Development Department held a meeting with the leaders (*Régulos*) of the Mucuna and Ratata communities to address issues related to the protection of biodiversity, with particular focus on illegal logging and the increase in gemstone mining activities;
- Opening of fire breakers and controlled burning management through cold fires: Cold fires campaigns are brought forward before and during the start of fire season. They are critical in reducing the amount of dead wood and inflammable grasslands which would otherwise increase the spread and the temperature of bushfires during the peak of fire season;
- Gilé NAP Ranger candidates: the candidates have been selected and their arrived for the finalization of the basic course for forest and wildlife training is expected in the next weeks;
- In September, 60 seasonal workers were recruited to support infrastructure development. 6 candidates (4 ladies) were selected from neighboring communities for the preparation of meals during the selection and training of new Rangers.

Management and Infrastructure

- 2 bridges have been built with local material on the Namurrua-Malema Serra road section;
- Around 180 km of roads have been cleared from fallen trees;
- Musseia Headquarters: septic toilet tanks have been installed for the 2 single houses. The driver's Pavilion construction is still in progress; Areas dedicated to the selection of the new Rangers have been cleaned and completed (also in Lice Tourist Camp);
- Mulela Camp: The well and the water pump have been finished; the sinks have been installed;
- Painting of buildings in Mulela, Nakololo, Namurrua and Etaga Camps has been concluded.
- The routine activities and maintenance have been carried on.



New well and the Ranger's building in Mulela Camp

Law Enforcement

GNAP Rangers and SDAE *Serviço Distrital de Actividades Económicas* (District Economic Activities Service) carried out a joint 4-day patrol aimed at monitoring the conflicts related to illegal logging.

The main objectives of the collaboration are the identification of access routes that could be used illegally and the detection of firearms and the promotion of meetings with the Buffer zone communities.

- The exchange of experience between the Gilé NAP and the Quirimbas National Park, QNP is ongoing (see August Newsletter for details). The QNP Rangers are fully integrated and collaborating positively;
- A total of 38 patrols were undertaken in September covering more than 2,100 km on foot;
- In September, 53 signs of illegal activities were detected;
- The following items were confiscated: 35 fishing nets, 14 steel cables, 10 gin traps, 1 machete and a 1 bicycle;
- 5 poachers, 2 illegal fishermen and 1 illegal miner were arrested.



An arrested poacher with his tools

Biodiversity Conservation

- Elephants continued to stay close to Lice Tourist Camp: the current controlled fires within the Park are likely to keep the group more static;
- In September, Gilé NP responded to no cases of Human/wildlife conflict;
- Animal directly observed in September: kudus, duikers, sables, waterbucks, zebras, wildebeests, reedbucks, bush-bucks, suni (small antelopes) and a warthog;
- Spoons of buffaloes, elephants, waterbucks, sables, zebra and kudus were also recorded.



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Female Kudus

Community Development

- Human/wildlife conflict: 4 pilot zones have been identified in the Buffer Zone's community area in order to offer a model for learning new techniques to facilitate the process of mitigation of the Human/wildlife conflict.

The main issue is usually given by the elephant invasions.

First, the most affected cultivated fields (machambas) have been identified; then, about 22 "chilly burning bricks" (blocos de queima), effective against elephants, have been prepared and stored to be used when needed.

The bricks are prepared with pitch, tobacco, fine sawdust, chili pepper and elephant dung.

The volunteer facilitators reported satisfactory results;



GNAP technician and volunteers during the *machambas* delimitation

- "SCAMBIO" (Program to provide agriculture tools in exchange for gin traps and others poaching instruments – see May Newsletter for details): a total of 161 poaching tools were collected, more than 160 agricultural tools were delivered to the community management Committees;
- Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) Project:
 - A meeting with the director of Mozgoodtrade, a private company specialized in the sale of national biological products, has been held;
 - 37 exponents from 2 communities participated in the NTFP awareness meetings. The training was focused on the link between production and biodiversity; ecology on mushrooms and beekeeping activity; presentation of collection and processing of dried mushrooms project; evaluate the interest of the community;
 - Mushrooms: An economic Business Plan for the production and sale of dried mushrooms has been designed;
 - Honey: In September, 17 catch boxes have been delivered to 6 different Buffer zone's communities. Catch boxes are used to capture wild swarms (migratory swarms) and, being smaller than hives, they can be placed in different locations easily.



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Delivery of catch boxes by GNAP staff

Forecast for October 2020

- Due to the current situation regarding the Covid19, all not-essential visits to Gilé NAP are temporarily suspended;
- The building of new infrastructures and maintenance of the existing one, will carrying on;
- Law enforcement and other core activities will be, however, guaranteed.

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