GNAP Newsletter

June 2022

Here's what has happened in April and May in the GNAP

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Mount Gilé seen from the northern GNAP ©B.Guillot/ FFS-IGF

Key Issues- April/May 2022

- The 23rd of April, Gilé National Park celebrated its 90th Anniversary!
- GNAP had the pleasure of hosting ANAC delegation (*Administração Nacional das Áreas de Conservação*, National Administration of Conservation Areas), an FNDS technician (*Fundo Nacional de Desenvolvimento Sustentável*, National Sustainable Development Fund) as part of an evaluation visit under the Protected Area Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) and the FFS-IGF Project Coordinator;
- The Law Enforcement Department Manager, attended the "Training Seminar on Harmonization of Forest Surveillance Procedures" held in Mocuba, organized by AQUA (*Agência Nacional para Avaliação da Qualidade Ambiental*, National Agency for Environmental Quality Assessment). The meeting aimed at analyzing the current forest and wildlife inspection process and the role of each actor in the chain of action. GNAP held a presentation on the protected area conservation in relationship with free areas and remember the productive joint work with AQUA;
- In April, the Law Enforcement Department, together with the Community Development Department and the participation of the Mocubela district government, trained 10 volunteers from 3 communities of the Buffer Zone on the mitigation of human-wildlife conflict on the correct use of deterrent flares;
- The recruitment process for guards and the Community Development Technicians has been completed. The tender process for the candidature of an Infrastructure Technician is in progress;
- As part of staff capacity building, GNAP trained 3 technicians on the development of the State Management System at the invitation of the Provincial Environmental Services, held in Mocuba;
- 59 seasonal workers were recruited to support infrastructure development in the past 2 months.

Management and Infrastructures

After the rainy season, many activities included the rehabilitation of roads and bridges.

- Musseia Headquarters: the operation and routine maintenance of the camp was ensured. In addition, a drain for washing vehicles was constructed;
- Lice Tourist Camp: maintenance included grass cutting, cleaning and tent maintenance;;
- 3 km of track to Mount Nachipe was opened and 6 km of road to Lice Tourist Camp was cleaned of tall grass and fallen trees;
- The bridge over the Malema River has been repaired;
- A nursery for the production of native species for the reforestation of GNAP has been established.

Road to Mt. Nachipe ©GNAP

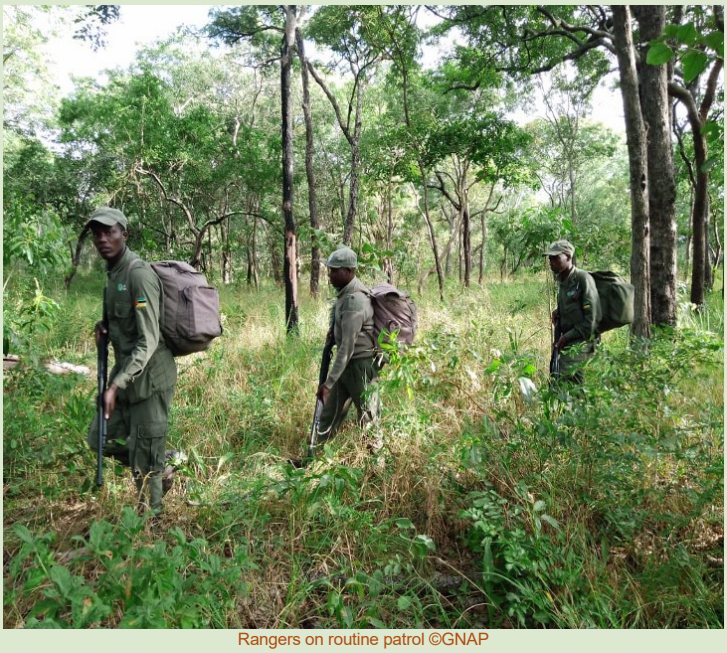
Plantlets in the nursery ©GNAP

Law Enforcement

Patrol operations were carried out despite difficulties due to high grass, flooded rivers and impassable roads. These phenomena slowed down routine activities, however, the Department managed to carry out several routine patrols, 54 ambushes and 7 roadblocks.

The poaching situation recorded was limited: 6 poachers were arrested and sent to the relevant authorities.

- In April and May, a total of 111 patrols were undertaken covering 677 km by motorbike, almost 1800 km on foot, 6,000 km by car. GNAP deployed an average of 5 rangers per day;
- 72 signs of illegal activities, mainly related to poaching, were detected;
- 24 gin traps, 10 spears, 5 cable traps, 1 machete, 1 gun, 8 fishing nets and 9 fishing tools have been confiscated;
- As part of the *SCAMBIO* project in cooperation with the Community Development Department, 2 firearms were handed in by 2 women from the communities, In May, 176 agricultural inputs were distributed in exchange of poaching tools.



Rangers on routine patrol ©GNAP

Biodiversity Conservation

- In May, the elephants remained outside the GNAP most of the time, particularly in the western *Coutada* (Buffer Zone) and near the communities;
- The main buffalo herd remained around Mount Pope;
- Human/wildlife conflict HWC: Conflicts with wildlife have been recorded in several communities in recent months. To mitigate the human-elephant conflict, GNAP offers training on different tools to repel or prevent elephants from trespassing on farmland;
- Despite the damaged roads and tall grasses, GNAP rangers have observed 446 kudos, 431 waterbucks, 216 sable, 91 wild pigs, 75 buffalo, 70 grey duikers, 59 red duikers, 51 warthogs, 54 reedbucks, 47 bushbucks, 36 zebras have been directly sighted;
- Spoors of elephant, zebra, buffalo, wildebeest, sable, kudo, waterbuck, bushbuck, reedbuck were also recorded.

Hamerkop (*Scopus umbretta*), April 22, ©GNAP

Community Development

- 157 trees were planted by students of a community school as part of the beekeeper-led reforestation program. The aim was to provide students with a pragmatic view of the link between honey production and the protection of biodiversity. The long-term goal is to develop a forest area with high nectar and pollen productivity;
- GNAP commemorated the International Biological Diversity Day on the 22nd of May;
- CGNRs' training:
  - 300 members from the CGNRs (*Comités de Gestão de Recursos Naturais,* Natural Resource Management Committees) participated in the training on natural resource conservation and advocacy knowledge invited by the Centre for Development Studies in Zambézia;
- NTFPs:
  - Mushrooms: Weather conditions are compromising this year's mushroom production. The production level seems much lower than last year. In addition, poor road conditions have slowed down the delivery of processed products.
    In April, 6 people received training in correct harvesting and processing practices. About 50 women started collecting savings schemes, called '*poupança*', to finance their local projects.
    In May, 18 meetings were held with the mushroom harvesting/ processing groups.
  - Honey: in April, 82 hives were opened in 2 different areas of the Buffer Zone: around 70 trained beekeepers participated.
    A general monitoring of the management of the most productive hives was carried out in May.
    GNAP celebrated World Bee Day the 20th of May.

A swarm of East African bees (*Apis sutellata*) seen from the inside of the hive ©B.Guillot/FFS-IGF

Forecast for June

- NTFPs: the start of mushroom picking for the 2022 season is scheduled for June;
- The maintenance of roads and infrastructure will be carrying on;
- Law enforcement and other core activities will be guaranteed.

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