

GNAP Newsletter

November 2022

Here's what has happened in October the GNAP

<https://www.parquenacionaldogile.gov.mz>



Musseia Headquarter aerial view ©T.Prin/ FFS-IGF

Key issues October 2022

- The Warden and the Coordinator of the Maputo National Park Community Development Program, together with GNAP representatives during a courtesy tour visited a primary school, a management committee and a commercial farming program focusing on chili production in 2 communities in the GNAP's Buffer Zone;
- Recruitments: a job vacancy for a Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) project coordinator has been launched and the selection phase is underway. GNAP hired a new infrastructure technician. Interviews of candidates for a driver role are in progress. A tender was opened for work on a new water drill in Musseia Headquarter;
- 34 seasonal workers were recruited to support infrastructure development.



A moment during the visit in the community field ©GNAP

Management and Infrastructure

- Musseia Headquarters: porches were built in front of the garage, carpentry store and ranger kitchen. Firewood and drinking water were brought in. Maintenance of the electrical network and the water supply system from the pump were completed. Ballast stones to open a drainage channel were transported;
- Etaga Guard post: routine activities of cutting fallen trees, processing gravel and transporting sand for road drainage were guaranteed;
- Lice Tourist Camp: maintenance work on the tents with cashew oil paint, cleaning and installation of new pipes was carried out;
- Maintenance of the GNAP fleet was duly carried out;
- Roads: gravel for road maintenance to Malema Cuculo and the Nakololo guard post was trucked in.



Road drainage system ©GNAP

Law Enforcement

The month of October presented some criticism due to uncontrolled fires, perpetrated by local communities. The main reasons are identified in poaching and the cultural context of preparation for the agricultural season, due to which fires set near agriculture lands also spread within the protected area.

- 1 total of 51 patrols on foot and 23 by car were undertaken covering respectively more than 1100 km and 2900 km;
- In the past month, GNAP has been particularly disturbed by the presence of poachers, as that the surveillance team redoubled its efforts, culminating in the capture of 11 poachers, all of whom were forwarded to the judicial authorities for criminal proceedings. 2 individuals caught in the act of setting fire were forwarded to the Public Prosecutor's Office;
- 60 signs of illegal activities were detected. The following items have been confiscated: 25 fishing nets, 8 fishing tools, 24 gin traps, 9 traps, 9 machetes, 17 spears and 2 bicycles;
- 3 roadblocks and 35 ambushes have been performed;
- Human/wildlife conflict: there have been some reports of the presence of a lion near the villages, but investigations by the Department have not produced any evidence;
- At the end of the month, a joint team of 2 provincial technicians and a GNAP ranger monitored and assessed apparently abandoned timber in a location of Gilé District area.



Poacher caught with a 19 kg waterbuck, 3 spears, 3 gintraps, 1 machete and his tools of subsistence and food ©GNAP

Biodiversity Conservation

- Elephants remained mainly in the western side of the park and in its Buffer Zone in October;
- Priority species: buffalo, wildebeest, zebra and elephant signs have been recorded respectively 22, 11, 13 and 3 times and directly sighted 52 times for buffalo, 7 times each for wildebeest and zebra. No direct sight for the elephants;
- 182 waterbucks, 194 kudus, 97 sable, 74 grey duikers, 30 red duikers, 43 bushbucks, 31 reedbucks, 33 wild pigs and 7 warthogs have been observed. Spoors of sables, kudus, waterbucks and bushbucks were also recorded;
- A wild pig and 2 bushbucks were killed by steel cable traps. A young female waterbuck was also killed by a mechanical trap.



Red-throated twispot (*Hypargos niveoguttatus*) ©GNAP

Community Development

- The inauguration and the handover of the Honey House and Mushroom Selection Centre in the Gilé district are underway;
- CGRNs *Comités de Gestão de Recursos Naturais* (Natural Resource Management Committee): social awareness training on the importance of a CGRN especially in decision-making on forest governance is ongoing. Training has been extended to the 13 communities of interest for the opening of new committees;
- NTFPs:
 - Honey: October saw the opening of new apiaries and the placement of 10 new hives;
 - Mushrooms: Due to the unavailability of mushrooms at this time of the year, women's groups have opened fields for agricultural production as an alternative family income;
 - Cashew: 28 general meetings were held to prepare for the cashew sales campaign, in which more than 30 tonnes of cashew nuts are expected to be sold by the joint sales groups around the Buffer Zone.
Our partner *Nitidæ* conducted a workshop to inform the groups involved about the markets and sales criteria and to promote good practices for quality production:



During the cashew sale workshop ©GNAP

Forecast for next months

- Law Enforcement: a ranger training, hold by FFS-IGF and supported by EarthRanger, is planned for November;
- The maintenance of roads and infrastructure will be carrying on;
- Law enforcement and other core activities will be guaranteed.

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