

GNAP Newsletter

April 2022

Here's what has happened in the last few months in the GNAP

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Aerial view of GNAP © FFS-IGF

This Newsletter is dedicated to Célsio Piampão Duarte, who recently passed away. Célsio worked in the Gilé National Park as Officer in charge of Infrastructure in the Operations Department since 2016. Not only did he play a key role in his work, but he was also a focal point for the communities. The whole GNAP's Team joins in the grief of his family and friends and remembers him with affection.

Key Issues- January/March 2022

- Since December 2021, João Juvêncio Muchanga is the new Warden of Gilé National Park. Mr. Muchanga is a Forest Engineer and he has dedicated his life to the study and management of ecosystems, climate change and eco-tourism;
- The Department of Law Enforcement held the first general meeting of GNAP rangers led by the Warden. It was attended by the Heads of Departments, Human Resources and 50 rangers;
- GNAP delegation attended the meeting at the SPDAZ offices (*Serviços Provinciais de Ambiente-Zambézia*, Provincial Environment Services-Zambézia) on the topics of environmental education, management of the protected area, elaboration of a plan for joint activities such as coordination for the celebration of World Forest Day (celebrated on the 21st of March);
- In February and March, GNAP undertook the selection of candidates for the vacancy of Community Development Technician and the recruiting process for guards. An advertisement for the recruitment of a snail consultant within the NTFPs Project was also launched;
- 58 seasonal workers were recruited to support infrastructure development.



The GNAP Warden in Musseia Headquarters ©GNAP

Management and Infrastructure

- Musseia Headquarters: in addition to routine maintenance, March's heavy rains forced infrastructure employees to further reinforce the roofs of offices, staff houses, walkways and toilets;
- Guard post: the rainy season has created difficulties in accessing the guard posts inside GNAP.

- However the functioning of the wells was restored and 5 kitchens were built;
- Lice Tourist Camp: a tent required repair after being damaged by a tree fall;
- Due to the rainy season, access to the inner routes of GNAP was not always possible with jeeps. Sometimes tractors were used to carry out the necessary supply activities;
- About 40 km of internal roads were rehabilitated, levelled and cleared of fallen trees.



Tent damaged by a tree, Lice Tourist Camp ©GNAP

Law Enforcement

Despite heavy seasonal rains, the Department carried out the routine patrol activities:

- In 3 months, a total of 162 patrols were undertaken covering around 4000 km on foot and 13800 km by car. GNAP deployed an average of 7 rangers per day;
- 56 signs of illegal activities, mainly related to poaching, were detected;
- The following items have been confiscated: 13 gin traps and 5 fishing nets;
- 92 roadblocks and 9 ambushes have been performed;
- Joint patrols carried out with AQUA, *Agência Nacional para Avaliação da Qualidade Ambiental* (National Agency for Environmental Quality Assessment) registered a limited number of illegal intrusions
- 2 poachers were arrested and legal cases have been opened;
- New uniforms provided by ANAC, *Administração Nacional das Áreas de Conservação* (National Administration for the Conservation Areas) have been distributed to officers and rangers;



A moment during the first general meeting of GNAP rangers ©GNAP

Biodiversity Conservation

- Elephants stayed mainly outside the GNAP in February and March;
- Human/wildlife conflict HWC: no cases of HWC were recorded in the period January to March;
- Thanks to the Earthranger monitoring system, it was reported that the collar of a buffalo had stopped transmitting in early March. Therefore, a team of 3 rangers led by the head of the Law Enforcement Department went to the site to investigate. The team detected traces of activity from a large herd, but fortunately found no signs of human presence, nor the reference collar or buffalo carcass. After due investigation, the team concluded that the collar's GPS satellite had probably stopped emitting its signal due to dead batteries or an accident unrelated to poaching;



Buffalo herd ©FFS-IGF

- Animals directly observed were mainly waterbucks, kudo (about 500 direct observations for each species) and sable (256 direct observations). 98 wild pigs, 71 grey duikers, 61 red duikers, 68 zebras, 56 reedbucks, 42 buffalo, 42 bushbucks, 36 wildebeest and 28 warthogs have been sighted;
- Spoor of zebra, buffalo, wildebeest, sable, kudo, waterbuck, bushbuck, reedbuck and warthog were also recorded.

Community Development

- As part of the *PROMOVE-Biodiversidade* Project implemented by RADEZA and coordinated by the GNAP Community Development Department, community leaders received a training on the principles

of biodiversity conservation of the community *Coutada* and its supervision. Using visual aids, suitable even for the illiterate, the seminar was well attended;

- Meetings:
 - GNAP, represented by the Head of the Community Development Department, attended a meeting at the offices of CEPDZ *Centro de Estudos para o Desenvolvimento da Zambézia* (Centre for Studies for the Development of Zambézia) in Quelimane. The purpose of the meeting was to coordinate the activities planned for the year 2022 and review the documentary "SCAMBIO" officially launched on the 3rd of March, World Wildlife Day;
 - The screening to identify the beneficiaries of the *PROMOVE-Biodiversidade* Project was undertaken at GNAP Headquarters. The meeting, led by the Warden, with the participation of the Head of the Community Development Department and RADEZA technicians, aimed to identify beneficiaries for the implementation of conservation agriculture, community nurseries and environmental education activities. The last phase of the meeting took place in Musseia community where the team interacted with beneficiaries from previous projects, including some members of the CGRNs *Comités de Gestão de Recursos Naturais* (Natural Resource Management)
- NTFPs:
 - Honey: In January, 3 community facilitators collected more than 26 kg of honey. Two processing zones were established. This is the first time that beekeeping activities have been carried out without field assistance from the project beneficiaries but only by following the recommendations of the NTFPs technicians.
For the marketing of honey, 620 jars were purchased and about 750 labels printed.
The month of February was dedicated to the purchase of necessary material such as uniforms, hives and catching boxes. In March, 50 jars of honey were sent to Nampula. Meetings between beekeepers from different communities are ongoing;
 - Mushrooms: In January, the Pebane District Administration recognized as legal entities the associations for the sustainable use management of honey and mushroom activities launched at the end of 2021 Opola Mawa Orera and Opua Orao Orera. This is the first step towards opening a bank account.
In March, only one group started to process mushrooms: climatic conditions meant that there were no mushrooms in the bush. The dry season in January and February followed by heavy rains did not allow the mushrooms to grow.



Drying mushrooms ©B.Guillot/FFS-IGF

Forecast for next months

- NTFPs: In order to ensure greater quantities of honey, the hives will be mapped in April to establish a plan for unifying the weakest ones;
- The maintenance of roads and infrastructure will be carrying on;
- Law enforcement and other core activities will be guaranteed.

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