

GNAP Newsletter

February 2023

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Mulela River view ©T.Prin/ FFS-IGF

Key Issues- January 2023

- The Fondation François Sommer-International Foundation for Wildlife Management FFS-IGF has been listed in the new IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) list of civil society organizations (CSOs) active in developing countries. In this framework, the Foundation is creating partnerships with the European Union and the AFD, *Agence Française de Développement* (French Development Agency);
- The 31st of January, GNAP celebrated the International Zebra Day. In 2012, 15 zebras were reintroduced, another translocation of 50 zebras was performed in 2018. Today GNAP counts a population of over 60 zebras;
- 32 seasonal workers were recruited to support infrastructure development.

Management and Infrastructures

- 2 computers for the infrastructure technician and the warehouse manager, a printer and a camera were purchased by the Department;
- Musseia Headquarters: light bulbs in the staff houses, warehouses, rangers' camp and office toilets were replaced as well as damaged mosquito nets. The construction of 2 temporary latrines, made from local materials, in the rangers' camp has been completed. The floors of the office verandas have been waterproofed with cashew oil. Grass was cut in the field and nursery;
- Etaga guard post: the entrance has been cleaned of fallen trees;
- Lice Tourist Camp: tourist tents were waterproofed with cashew oil;
- Roads and bridges: the road section along the Nakuca River have been levelled and the concrete base was completed. The road between Nakololo guard post- Musseia - Lice Tourist Camp and between Mulela guard post and Lice TP has been cleaned of fallen trees. A critical point on Nabila River was improved with stones and split cobbles placed on the ground. An unstable spot on the Muarriga section was lowered and secured.



Roads and bridges maintenance ©GNAP

Law Enforcement

In January the work of the Law Enforcement Department proceeded without any constraints: several animals were observed, the rangers followed some poacher tracks and one of them has been arrested.

A patrol carried out an inspection at an illegal semiprecious stone mining site and came across 4 illegal miners. After the investigation, the team interacted with the village authority and asked her to sensitize the population to stop practicing illegal and degrading activity for the ecosystem, soil and water. Follow-up will be carried out soon.

- 55 patrols, 30 ambushes and 2 roadblocks in the Buffer Zone have been implemented;
- Patrols covered more than 1260 km on foot, 4800 km by car. GNAP deployed an average of 6 rangers per day;
- 13 signs of illegal activities, mainly related to poaching and mining, were detected;
- 9 traps, 2 machetes, 2 gin traps, 2 cable traps, 3 fishing nets have been confiscated;



The poacher arrested by the LED with his tools and the confiscated meat, ©GNAP

Biodiversity Conservation

- Elephants remained outside GNAP and its Buffer Zone, close to the communities, throughout the month;
- Human/wildlife conflict HWC: 4 cases of HWC due to elephants were recorded in January (see at Community Development paragraph);
- GNAP rangers recorded an encounter with 155 kudus, 93 grey duikers 83 waterbucks, 47 sable, 45 bushbucks, 41 reedbucks, 20 zebras, 18 wild pigs, 8 red duikers, 5 warthogs, 4 buffaloes, 1 wildebeest and 1 klipspringer;
- Spoors of kudu, waterbuck, sable, zebra, buffalo, wildebeest, and reedbuck were also recorded;
- An adult female waterbuck has been found dead killed by a cable trap. A male waterbuck was also found dead in a river: cause of death and age are unknown.



Crawshay's Zebra (*Equus quagga crawshay*) in GNAP ©P.Sandini/FFS-IGF

Community Development

- CGNRs': approximately 70 NUIT, *Número Único de Identificação Fiscal* (Unique Tax Identification Number) were registered for the founding members and governing bodies of 14 CGNRs, *Comités de Gestão de Recursos Naturais* (Natural Resource Management Committees);
- Human/wildlife conflict, HWC: GNAP, with the support of Mocubela SDAE *Serviço Distrital de Atividades Económicas* (District Economic Activities Service) and the Mocubela District Government implemented

- an HWC mitigation plan with the active deployment of 96 fireworks used by volunteers to scare off elephants. In the areas with the highest incidence of cases, little damage was recorded;
- Agricultural campaign: the Community Development Department redistributed 470 kg of peanut seeds and 96 kg of pea seeds to cope with the fields sown in December, whose seeds had a lower germination rate than recommended. This activity allowed the planned utilization of the fields to be recovered;
- NTFPs:
 - Honey: in January, 6 different areas of the Buffer Zone, where honey harvesting activity is ongoing, have been monitored. Beekeeping activities were prioritized to avoid pest infestations in the hives and several bee populations were fed with syrups;
 - Mushrooms: harvesting groups have started to collect mushrooms for processing and sale using sustainable techniques. The groups were monitored by Community Development Department technicians and their group leaders. About 200 kg of dehydrated or dried mushrooms are expected to be produced in the first quarter of the year 2023;
 - Cashew: GNAP distributed nearly 3,000 cashew seedlings in 4 communities in the NTFPs program to support communities in the value chain. The activity was interrupted due to transport conditions but will be finished soon;
 - Snails: 2 snail breeding sites were monitored, and experiments were conducted to keep the snails in captivity by feeding them with leaves, mushrooms and putting water in the snail pits to ensure moisture. This procedure proved to ensure rapid growth of the snails.



Collected mushroom ©GNAP



A farmer shows one of the breaded snails ©GNAP

Forecast for February 2023

- A new collaring operation is scheduled around mid-month;
- Inauguration and handover of the Honey House and Mushroom Sorting Centre;
- The maintenance of roads and infrastructure will be ensured;
- Law enforcement and other core activities will be guaranteed.

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