

GNAP Newsletter - July 2023

91 years of Gilé National Park

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View of Mulela river in front of Lice tourist camp ©T.Prin/ FFS-IGF

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

Key Issues - March/June 2023

During March and April, the main roads within the park were impassable due to the heavy rains and the passage of Hurricane Freddy, which caused extensive damage in several regions of Mozambique and neighboring countries. The longer and more time-consuming route outside the GNAP was therefore travelled on many occasions. The Malema River overflowed, covering the bridge and making it impossible for people and vehicles to pass. Although somewhat delayed, this did not prevent the continuation of infrastructure construction and maintenance, ranger enforcement and wildlife observation and community development activities. By May, the situation had stabilized.

- On 22-25 March, GNAP's warden and the head of the Law Enforcement Department LED attended the National Surveillance Meeting organized by ANAC, *Administração Nacional das Áreas de Conservação* (National Administration for the Conservation Areas) in Maputo province;
- PLCM: As part of the *Programa de Liderança para a Conservação de Moçambique* (Mozambique Conservation Leadership Program), the Community Development Department CDD welcomed an intern with a degree in agro-zootechnical engineering from the University of Zambezi. For 6 months, the intern will monitor the activities of CDD technicians in the Buffer Zone;
- At the end of April, members of the cooperatives of *Opola Mawa Orera* and *Opua Oravo Orera* participated in a 3-day training session on Cooperatives management in Pebane District. The training was organized by the *Associação Moçambique para a Promoção do Cooperativismo Moderno* (AMPCM) in partnership with the CDD to outline the guidelines for the legalization of cooperatives and to provide members with the necessary knowledge;
- A new cook has been hired and selection for a new driver is under way;
- In the past 3 months an average of 32 seasonal workers were recruited to support infrastructure development;
- World and national days celebrated by GNAP:
 - World Wildlife Day (3rd of March);
 - International Day of Forests (20th of March);
 - World Water Day (22nd of March);
 - Mozambican Woman's Day (7th of April);
 - 91 years of Gilé National Park (23rd of April);
 - World Malaria Day (25th of April);
 - World Migratory Bird Day (12th of May);
 - World Bee Day (20th of May);
 - International Day for Biological Diversity (21st of May).



Poster for the GNAP birthday celebration ©ANAC

Management and Infrastructures

- Musseia Headquarters:
 - a local company was hired for the construction of 2 new residences for the staff. The brickwork and wooden components are being built on site;
 - guards' kitchen is nearing completion;
 - nursery: grass was cut, the covering of the latrines, interior and exterior painting and plastering of the interior floor of the latrines are completed. Several seedlings were planted;
- Roads:
 - gravel was extracted and laid to reinforce the muddy soils in 4 road sections and water filters created for rainwater drainage;
 - road widening at critical points is completed;
 - 22 km of track was opened up to the hill of Miraué; 45 km of road was lowered in the section from Musseia to the Nakololo control station with a manual levelling machine;
- A visit was made to the site where the *boma** for future buffalo translocation will be installed, and the structural integrity of the existing bridge at the Mulela guard post and the condition of the access road were assessed;

*a type of fence used to enclose livestock in many parts of Africa



Road rehabilitation ©GNAP



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Law Enforcement

- Between March and May, the Department employed an average of 6 rangers per day, carrying out a total of 143 patrols covering respectively more than 9,000 km by car and 3500 km on foot. 113 ambushes and 8 roadblocks were carried out leading to the arrest of 5 illegal loggers, 4 illegal miners and 2

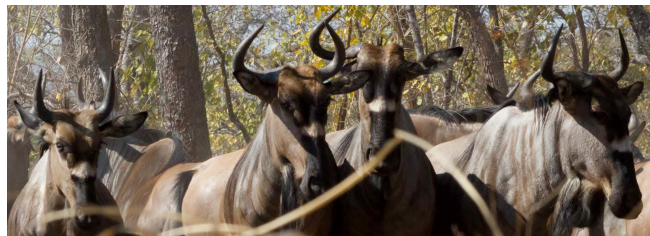
- poachers. Court cases were opened;
- 80 signs of illegal activities were detected. Particularly noteworthy were the operations to arrest illegal miners who attempted to clash with the rangers;
- The following items have been confiscated: 43 traps, 17 gin traps, 7 steel cables, 7 machetes, 6 spears, 6 poaching nets, 1 gun and 12 bicycles;
- Human-wildlife conflict, HWC: operations to mitigate the human-wildlife conflict reported by communities due to elephants that had repeatedly invaded and destroyed crops were recorded. In March, a joint team was set up between GNAP departments and volunteers to deal with conflict mitigation in 4 villages of the south-western Buffer Zone. A total of 18 machambas were destroyed by elephants. 60 deterrent flares have been delivered to the volunteers. The intervention to mitigate the HWC was carried out by a multi-sectoral team represented by the Community Development Department officer, 2 rangers, an SDAE *Serviço Distrital de Atividades Económicas* (District Economic Activities Service) technician, the district commander, community leaders (régulos) and some community members.



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Conservation and Science

- In the 3-month reference period, 5 monitored elephants moved into villages outside the Buffer Zone and then returned to its northern zone in May, except for one, which remains outside the park. Footprints of 3 elephant calves were recorded during the HWC operation, indicating the growing population of this large mammal in the region. (See about HWC in the Law Enforcement chapter);
- Community technicians received training on the use of the Earth Ranger tool to report wildlife activities in the field. In the coming months, it is expected that the use of this tool will facilitate access to information on activities developed around the Buffer Zone;
- GNAP rangers directly observed an average of 156 waterbucks and 220 kudus each month. 431 sables, 269 bush pigs, 256 grey duikers, 149 zebras, 137 reedbucks, 106 bushbucks, 73 buffaloes, 32 warthogs, 11 red duikers and 2 klipspringers have been observed. A report from the communities about the presence of a lion was also recorded;
- Spoors of kudu, waterbuck, sable, wildebeest, zebra, bushbuck and reedbuck were also recorded.
- 2 grey duikers were found dead: from the traces it is suspected that a 12-gauge weapon was used; the carcasses of a male sable and a waterbuck were also found whose causes of death are unknown.



Wildebeests ©FFS-IGF

Community Development and Sustainable Livelihoods

NTFPs:

- Nursery: 800 seedlings were planted in the nursery at Musseia Headquarters. The first distribution of tools for the establishment of community nurseries took place at the beginning of March. This was followed in April and May by the establishment of nurseries in the project communities. The initiative aimed to maximize GNAP's efforts in biodiversity conservation through community outreach;
- Honey: beehives and catch boxes were monitored in all project implementation areas to check the status of swarms, honeycomb formation, and the need to apply management techniques such as cleaning and unifying swarms. Between March and May 62 kg of honey were collected from 5 communities. Construction work on the honey processing house of the Vassele community is almost complete, built with local materials and involving local manpower:



Monitoring beehives ©GNAP

- **Mushrooms:** The passage of Cyclone Freddy in Zambézia province affected the implementation of the mushroom project. Access roads became inaccessible, limiting access to the northern part of the park and the process of distributing working material. However, from the beginning of the harvest campaign until the end of May, 52 kg of mushrooms were processed in the project communities. Data on the ecological productivity of the mushroom is being collected in coordination with our partner Nitidæ. In May, the Mujaiane mushroom processing center was handed over;
- **Snails:** Technical assistance was provided to snail breeders in 2 communities and work material and plastic boxes for transporting snails were distributed. Pits and breeding were also monitored during the service. Due to the excessive humidity and the risk of flooding of the existing pits, the construction of a better snail farm was deemed necessary. Thus, the snail breeders opted for a model made of clay blocks;



Cleaning mushrooms ©GNAP



Mujaiane mushroom processing center ©GNAP

- **Agriculture campaign:** 120 bags of 50 kg each were delivered to 38 groups for the storage of peanuts produced in the 2023 campaign. 158 kg of bean seeds were delivered to 4 communities to test production and a possible new source of income. 6 hoes were delivered to the ladies of 2 project communities. The peanut harvest took place in the last week of April;
- **CGRNs:** the process of establishing 15 new CGRNs *Comités de Gestão de Recursos Naturais* (Natural Resources Management Committees) continued in April and May;
- 15 schools in the Buffer Zone received training to revitalize and activate environmental clubs.

Forecast for June-July 2023

- Preparation for the translocation of 200 buffaloes will continue;
- The 2 new residences and the guard's kitchen will be completed. The maintenance of roads and infrastructure will be ensured;
- Celebration of the World Environment Day;
- Law enforcement and other core activities will be guaranteed.



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