

## GNAP Newsletter

March 2023

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View of the Mulela River during the rainy season ©T.Prin/ FFS-IGF

### Key Issues- February 2023

- The 2nd of February GNAP celebrated the World Wetlands Day;
- Between the 15th and the 16th of February, GNAP concluded a further collar operation. The team managed to change 2 GPS collars on elephants Alessandro and Ricardina and equip a new female, Marie. A fourth collar was to be placed on a new individual, without success. This delicate operation required the support of a Robinson R44 helicopter and the help of the FFS-IGF Project Manager, the Mozambique Wildlife Alliance's veterinary and the GNAP rangers;
- On the 23rd February, 44 rangers, the ecological monitoring technician, the human resources manager, the technical advisor and the head of the Law Enforcement Department (LED) attended the opening meeting of the year's activities. The meeting was led by the GNAPs technical advisor representing the warden;
- A new vehicle was picked up in Maputo and added to the GNAP fleet;
- 32 seasonal workers were recruited to support infrastructure development;
- 100 trees were planted at Musseia Headquarters;



Planting trees ©GNAP

## Management and Infrastructures

The main road inside GNAP was impassable due to the rain of the season. The longer, time-consuming route outside the park has been used for the guard posts supply operations and Law Enforcement operations.

- Musseia Headquarters:
  - rehabilitation and extension of the camp's power grid has been carried out by Swiss Solar company, the covering of the rangers' kitchen and the wire mesh at the windows has been completed. A company technician trained the dedicated GNAP staff on the maintenance of the electrical system;
  - 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: grass on the stretch of road between Musseia Headquarters and the Etaga intersection was cut. Toilets in the Muariga section of the Mulela River were created. Roadside trimming and creation of arches on the Bila section and Pope section is in progress. The creation of footbridges on the Napele- Piqueno section is in progress. The raising of the road platform and creation of the toilet on the truck section has been finalized;
- Rain gauges previously installed at the 8 main points of GNAP recorded rainfall that ranged from a maximum of 409 mm in the Etaga area to a minimum in the Malema Cuculo area with 103 mm.



Showing the maintenance of the electrical system ©GNAP

## Law Enforcement

- The Department managed to carry out 60 patrols on foot, 15 patrols by car, 45 ambushes and 3 roadblocks. 9 court cases were opened with the authorities of Pebane and Gilé districts;
- Patrols covered almost 1000 km on foot, 3745 km by car. GNAP deployed an average of 5 rangers per day;
- 13 signs of illegal activities were detected;
- 12 traps, 11 fishing nets and one gin trap have been confiscated;
- The LED distributed a military uniform to all park rangers, complete with blanket, sleeping bag, briefcase, handcuffs and water bottle.



The LED chief speaks to GNAP rangers at opening meeting ©GNAP

## Biodiversity Conservation

- In February, the elephants remained outside the GNAP most of the time, particularly in the western *Coutada* (Buffer Zone) and near the communities;
- No human/wildlife conflict HWC have been recorded;
- GNAP rangers observed mainly kudu (210), waterbucks (133) and bush pigs (100). 94 sable, 83 grey duikers, 45 reedbucks, 34 bushbucks, 21 red duikers, 14 buffaloes 13 warthogs, 11 zebras and 1 klipspringer have been also observed;
- Spoors of kudu, waterbuck, sable, wildebeest, zebra, bushbuck and reedbuck were also recorded;
- No wildlife mortality was recorded in the GNAP in February.



One of the moments during the GPS collaring operation © T. Prin/FFS-IGF

### Community Development

- *Projeto Xadrez* (Chess Project) is training girls in 6 primary schools in the northern Buffer Zone area with the main objective to stimulating them developing logical and flexible thinking, able to find solutions to practical problems in their daily lives and to encourage further studies. In February, a meeting was held with the coach to define a sports development strategy;
- CGNRs (*Comités de Gestão de Recursos Naturais*, Natural Resource Management Committees): meetings with the members of CGNRs were held following the creation of the new committees in 9 communities in order to inform on the legal process for the creation of the committees, the definition of the work schedule for 2023 with a view to increasing the number of women involved in the project, and the revitalization of some previously founded CGNRs;
- NTFPs:
  - The new NTFPs project manager and the Community Development Department consultant held 3 weeks of training in the Buffer Zone communities on mushroom ecology, community organisations and the creation of collaborative groups;
  - Honey: 68 kg of honey has been sold to the GNAP. Beekeeping was monitored in all project areas and priority was given to cleaning apiaries to prevent pest infestation in the hives. Hives with 3 months of observation were opened to monitor honeycomb formation. 81 T-shirts have been distributed to the community beneficiaries;
  - Mushrooms: In February, working tools for processing mushrooms (basins, knives, brushes, soap, bamboo baskets and T-shirts) were distributed to the ladies of the picking groups. An awareness-raising campaign on mushroom ecology and good harvesting practices, to ensure the sustainability of the activity in the current campaign, was implemented: 700 women in the areas covered by the project, benefited. Due to the increasing number of participants, further income-generating initiatives (e.g., peanut butter production) are planned in areas where mushrooms are scarce;
  - Snails: the technical assistance to snail breeders in 2 communities is ongoing. Distribution of watering cans, nets, boots, gloves and mackintoshes to maximise production activity will follow shortly. The nets will prevent the snails from escaping from the pits and the watering cans will maintain site humidity. Producers will be identified by a blue uniform and receive equipment for more systematic monitoring of activity. Snail eggs were identified in a burrow in Mulela, which means that acceptable breeding conditions can be achieved in captivity. Daily monitoring sheets were produced to improve breeding monitoring and identify success factors for replicating the breeding model in other areas;
  - In the framework of the agricultural campaign, fields were cleaned and cassava was planted. 5 hoes were also delivered to one group of farmers;



Group of mushroom pickers during the training ©GNAP

### Forecast for March 2023

- Honey processing house: the purchase of honey processing equipment is planned for next month;
- The maintenance of roads and infrastructure will be ensured;
- Law enforcement and other core activities will be guaranteed.

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