

GNAP Newsletter - August 2023

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Mt. Pope seen from the helicopter @T.Prin/FFS-IGF

Key Issues - July 2023

- GNAP had the honor of hosting Mr. de Loisy, FFS-IGF Director General. In addition to touring the park and meeting the staff, a delegation joined him to visit one of the Buffer Zone communities, where he met the Environmental Club members in school and visited the beekeepers and lady mushroom pickers as part of the NTFPs project.
- In July Mrs. Nhantumbo, the new head of the PROMOVE-*Biodiversidade* project (managed by Biofund), and her colleagues visited GNAP. It was an opportunity to carry out an annual evaluation of the nature conservation activities that have been implemented. The project, established by the European Union, will provide financial support for protected areas in the Zambézia region for the period 2020-2025 with a budget of almost EUR 2.4 million.
- GNAP/Community Development Department CDD held the 2023 Integrated Health Fair IHF in one of the communities on the outskirts of the Buffer Zone. A 17-member team of technicians from various fields and medical specialists have been involved. The fair was attended by 1,703 people of different ages from the 6 communities; community leaders and primary and basic school coordinators were also present. The IHF is an FFS-IGF and AFD, *Agence Française de Développement* (French Development Agency) funded program that aims to bring basic services to improve the lives of communities in the Buffer Zone. Within this framework, it provides health services: nutrition, maternal and child health, general consultations, clinical consultations, pharmacy, extended immunization program, birth registration and social work services, registry/notary services and legal support on Gender Based Violence.
- Two new drivers have been contracted.
- 37 seasonal workers were recruited to support infrastructure development.
- World Ranger Day 2023: the 31st of July was an occasion to thank our rangers, who are always ready to protect the natural heritage and its conservation, fight illegal activities and enforce the law. Many of the 53 GNAP rangers come from the Zambézia region and in particular from the communities around the Buffer Zone: this proximity to the territory and constant contact with the local populations reinforce the attempt to create an identity of belonging to the park and its resources.



A ranger with one of the confiscated traps ©FFS-IGF

Management and Infrastructures

- Musseia Headquarters :
 - construction and finishing work on the 2 residences is nearing completion ;
 - a water tower was built. Water connection of the rangers' kitchen has been completed ;
 - lighting fixtures on the side facades of the refectory have been installed. The sewage system in the ladies' houses has been repaired ;
 - damaged wooden planks in the walkway have been replaced ;
 - the multi-purpose sawing machine in the carpentry workshop has been installed.
- Roads :
 - local workforce was hired to clean and cut tree tops on the road from the Mulela administrative post to Nakujuca and to rehabilitate the existing bridge at the Mulela guard' post. Workers held the traditional ceremony for the restoration of the Mulela bridge, restoration that is almost completed ;
 - 4 road sections received maintenance and levelling of road surface bulges.



Water tank ©GNAP



One of the two painted residences ©GNAP

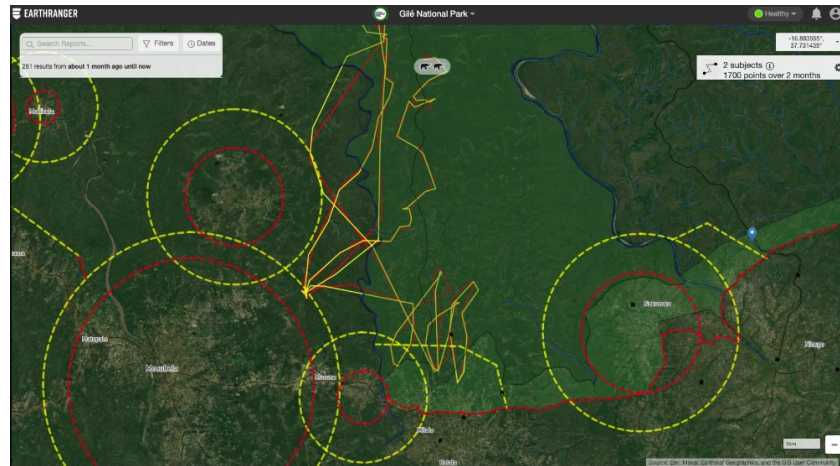


Rehabilitation of the Mulela bridge ©GNAP

Law Enforcement

- The Law Enforcement Department carried out a total of 58 patrols on foot and 19 by car covering respectively around 1,700 km and 4,500 km. 40 ambushes and 4 roadblocks were also carried out leading to the arrest of 3 illegal fishers and one poacher. 5 court cases were opened.
- 30 signs of illegal activities mainly related to poaching and illegal fishing were detected.
- 48 traps, 19 steel cables, 12 fishing nets, 2 fishing tools, 8 gin traps, 4 machetes, 3 guns and 2 spears have been confiscated.

- Human-wildlife conflict, HWC: Thanks to the EarthRanger system, which tracks data received in real time (wildlife sightings, illegal activities, GPS position of the collared animal), GNAP has been implementing a virtual barrier system called 'Geofences', which allows us to monitor the presence of elephants in villages close to the Buffer Zone. Every time a collared elephant crosses a geofence, a 'geofence break alert' is sent via WhatsApp and e-mail with date, time, location, village name and name of the elephant. 2 alert levels are set: red priority (critical area: village center/crop area) and medium /yellow priority (3 to 5 km from the critical area). The future goal is to have a dedicated HWC mitigation technician who can support the communities by showing up in the field, alerting one person in each community to warn them of the elephants' arrival, and also providing training on removal and deterrence to ward off the elephants.



An example of the virtual barriers on the map ©FFS-IGF

Conservation and Science

- GNAP's Monitoring Department along with the FFS-IGF Project Manager and the Ecological and Law Enforcement Monitoring Officer (now part of the staff following an internship sponsored by the PLCM program*), with the support of Mozambique Wildlife Alliance veterinary and the aerial facilities, changed a GPS collar on the elephant Achille.
- The monitored elephants moved to the northern part of the Buffer Zone. 3 of them made some incursions near communities.
- In July, GNAP rangers directly observed 295 waterbucks, 285 kudus, 168 buffaloes, 150 sables, 81 grey duikers, 79 bush pigs, 70 reedbucks, 38 bushbucks, 29 zebras, 16 warthogs, 6 wildebeests and 5 red duikers.
- Spoors of elephant, zebra, wildebeest, buffalo, sable, kudu, waterbuck, bushbuck and reedbuck were also recorded.
- A buffalo carcass was found: sex, age and cause of death of the animal are unknown, but the death is estimated to have occurred a month before it was found. A waterbuck was found dead, the sex and age of the animal is unknown, but its death is estimated to have been caused by a mechanical trap. A kudu carcass was also found, probably 2 months old; sex, age and cause of death of the animal are unknown.

*Programa de Liderança para a Conservação de Moçambique (Mozambique Conservation Leadership Program, sponsored by Biofund)



Liliana, monitoring officer of GNAP during the collaring operation ©FFS-IGF

Community Development and Sustainable Livelihoods

- Nursery: June saw the monitoring and management of seedling pots installed in 8 communities. The collection of seeds also followed.
- Agriculture campaign: the management of beans, peas, cassava and the counting of peanuts

- production and sale continued.
- CGRNs: The Gilé District's authorities approved the establishment of 5 new CGRNs *Comités de Gestão de Recursos Naturais* (Natural Resources Management Committees). 290 "*Manuais de Boas Práticas de Recolha de PFM*" ("NTFPs Good Harvesting Practice Manuals") in the previously established CGRNs were delivered.
- *Projeto Xadrez* (Chess Project): chess training sessions in primary schools in the Buffer Zone resumed. At the beginning of the month, 7 complete chess sets and 14 "ABC chess manuals" were delivered to reinforce the practice of the sport in the schools involved in the initiative.



During a chess match ©GNAP

- NTFPs
 - Honey: 169 kg of sugar were purchased for beekeepers in all the communities covered by the NTFPs project, to meet the need to feed the swarms as the dry season approaches and to make up for the shortage of nectar and pollen in the forest. Apiaries were cleaned, the hives and catching boxes were monitored to check the condition of the swarms and honey production. 164 notebooks and pens were distributed to beekeepers to record data on hive monitoring and honey production. 5 kg of honey were collected from the Musseia school apiary. 15 liters of honey were packaged for sale at a craft fair in Pemba town and 75 jars will be sold at the Musseia Headquarters. Training on apiary management and equipment were given. 4 communities were visited by a technician with the aim of exchanging experiences among CDD employees in beehive management and honey production.
 - Mushrooms: the mushroom collecting groups received training on income management and savings strategy. In June, the monitoring of mushrooms processed in the current year followed, in order to ensure product quality and reduce losses due to poor storage. 88 bowls and 190 "NTFPs Good Harvesting Practice Manuals" were delivered.
 - Snails: during the month, technical assistance was provided to snail farmers in 3 communities. The group of breeders held a meeting to decide on the end of the income from the first sale of snails and decided to save money for the purchase of a sprayer for the cashew spraying business.



GNAP's honey ©GNAP



Dried mushrooms ©GNAP

Forecast for August-September 2023

- Due to accessibility problems for the vehicles in Marromeu Special Reserve, the translocation of 200 buffaloes have been postponed to 2024;
- A film crew will be present in the park to shoot a documentary on GNAP;
- Law enforcement and other core activities will be guaranteed.



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