

## GNAP Newsletter

*Gilé National Park wishes you Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

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Aerial view of GNAP ©T.Prin/ FFS-IGF

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

**September-November 23**

**Key Issues**

- GNAP received a technician from ANAC *Administração Nacional das Áreas de Conservação* (National Administration for the Conservation Areas) who shared with the team the new General Staff Regulations for State Officials and Agents;
- In November, the coordinator of GNAP and FFS project manager, welcomed the head of projects/partnerships and funding for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) of the AFD - *Agence Française de Développement*- French Development Agency and the biodiversity, climate and CSO project manager, a visit to GNAP.
- In October, a 6-day exchange of experiences took place between ANAC and GNAP with the institutions of the protected areas of Namibia. The GNAP was represented by the senior technician for the Community Development Department. The exchange of experiences aimed to train the technicians of the ANAC and the GNAP in matters of community development, management of human and wildlife conflicts and sharing of benefits for the communities and visiting the Etosha National Park (Namibia);
- GNAP monitoring technician and 6 rangers have visited Gorongosa National Park (PNG) for a 6-days exchange visit on control room procedures, with the aim of learning how the Smart patrol system works and combining it with the EarthRanger software and the Cybertracker application for better management of patrol work, monitoring of wildlife and illegal activities, as well as with the aim of deepening data analysis and database structure to improve data collection forms and learn the correct communication procedures with the operational teams;
- The III Coordination Seminar between GNAP and the Magistrates took place in November in the City of Mocuba, with the aim of promoting the strengthening of collaboration and greater inter-institutional interaction;
- PLCM *Programa de Liderança para a Conservação de Moçambique* (Mozambique Conservation Leadership Program): In September our intern presented the activities she participated in during her 6-month internship in GNAP Community Development Department CDD. She carried out collaboration with mushroom groups, beekeepers, farmers and in one of the CGRNs *Comités de Gestão de Recursos Naturais* (Natural Resources Management Committee) and led the installation of a pilot organic farm in the Musseia nursery. She also had the opportunity to join other departments activities, such as Law Enforcement Department LED and Human Resources;
- Buffalo translocation: to prepare for the translocation of 200 buffaloes to GNAP, postponed until 2024 due to the damage caused by Cyclone Freddy, a field assessment in the Marromeu National Reserve have been carried out. The task was to find a way for the removal trucks to cross a 20-metre-long canal over a bridge that had become impassable, to determine potential sites and new trapping area;
- The 22nd of September was the World Rhino Day: rhino populations were present in Mozambique, and in Zambézia as well, more than a century ago but was wiped out and risks disappearing all over the continent. GNAP's logo is the black rhino. This choice renews GNAP's commitment to

conservation, serves as a reminder and holds out the hope that one day our contribution may lead to seeing these majestic animals again, at least in protected area;

- An average of 34 seasonal workers per month were recruited to support infrastructure development.



Poster for the World Rhino Day ©ANAC

## Management and Infrastructures

- A new well for drinking water in GNAP has been installed. For several days in October, a drilling company drilled a well near the Musseia Headquarters. Located at a depth of over 40 meters, this well will allow all teams to access drinking water thanks to a solar-powered pump system;
- 5 radio antennas (digital VF radio with GPS tracking) have been installed in GNAP. Real-time communication is now possible throughout the park thanks to an operations control centre in Musseia Headquarters, which allows to monitor teams on patrol in real time. The project was funded by the European Union as part of the PROMOVE-*Biodiversidade* program (Biofund);
- GNAP participated to the delivery ceremony of 6 water supply points in 6 communities carried out by our partner RADEZA;
- Musseia Headquarters:
  - an elevated tank with a capacity of 5,000 litres was installed;
  - the garage roof was replaced, and a new motorbike storage area was built;
  - the office walls have begun to be repainted;
  - radio communication signal on the repeaters has been improved;
  - routine camp maintenance activities have been carried out;
  - termites in the water pipes have been removed;
  - seedlings in the nursery have been planted and the bedding for planting vegetables has been prepared.
- Etaga guard post: the works to open a water well and the construction of a kitchen have begun. A rain gauge has been installed;
- Nacujucu guard post: construction of toilets and the opening of a water well began in September;
- Mulela guard post: the showers have been refurbished and a septic tank has been installed;
- The rain gauges were also installed in 2 antenna posts;
- Roads:
  - 70 km of a 4-meter-wide track to delimit the southern border of the park was opened. The interest of this work is twofold: on the one hand, to reduce population pressure on wildlife by physically delimiting the park (avoiding encroachments, illegal hunting, etc.) and, on the other, this track will be used in fight against poaching by rangers.



Antenna's system installation ©FFS-IGF

## Law Enforcement

- The past few months have seen an increase in uncontrolled burning perpetrated by local communities within the park and its Buffer Zone. Burning is a rural, cultural, customary practice, widely used to clear agricultural fields, open trails, and increase the visibility of the forest, facilitating poaching;
- Between September and November, the LED employed an average of 6 rangers per day, carrying out a total of 193 patrols covering respectively more than 10,500 km by car and almost 3,500 km on foot. 136 ambushes and 12 roadblocks were carried out leading to the arrest of one illegal fisherman, 2 illegal miners and 12 poachers. Court cases were opened;
- In October, the LED following inspection and investigation, stopped the excavation activities of a mining company based in the northern Buffer Zone that were considered illegal. The communities involved in the illegal action have been warned and made aware of the consequences on their environment;
- 53 signs of illegal activities were detected mainly related to poaching and illegal fishing;
- The following items have been confiscated: 144 traps, 40 steel cables, 70 gin traps, 14 poaching nets, 13 machetes, 11 spears, 7 poaching nets, 5 fishing tools and one fishing net;
- Human-wildlife conflict, HWC: in the months in question, 9 incidents were recorded in the southern area of GNAP in 2 communities where elephants destroyed 13 cultivated fields.



A moment during the visit to the Gorongosa NP's control room ©GNAP

## Conservation and Science

- In the 3-months reference period, elephants moved into the southern-west Buffer Zone often visiting the community crop fields (see about HWC in the Law Enforcement chapter);
- The most observed animals during patrols were kudus (684) and waterbucks (652). 361 common duikers, 331 sables, 232 reedbucks, 189 bush pigs and 171 bushbucks have been directly observed. 93 buffaloes, 75 warthogs and 60 zebras were sighted. The rarest sightings refer to red duikers (15), wildebeests - 11 specimens in September and November, 11 elephants observed directly only in September and a solitary klipspringer;
- Spoors of zebra, buffalo, wildebeest, sable, kudu, waterbuck, bushbuck, and reedbuck were also recorded;
- 2 warthogs, 1 female kudu, 1 waterbuck, 1 duiker were found killed by gin traps; 1 duiker was caught by in a poaching net. The carcasses of a male sable, a male kudu and a male waterbuck were also found, the causes of death of which are unknown.



Kudu ©T. C. Buruwate/FFS-IGF

## Community Development and Sustainable Livelihoods

- International Day of Rural Women was celebrated the 14th of October. Daily living conditions in rural areas of the country and Zambézia are challenging, and they can be even more so for women and girls. For years now GNAP has involved communities in development projects. The 2023 theme was "*Rural Women Cultivating Good Food for All.*" One example of an activity run entirely by women is the collection and production of dried mushrooms as part of the NTFPs project. Besides providing a viable

alternative to the family diet, it is a source of income for a small but important business (collaboration with *Mozambique Good Trade* company). The project currently involves 927 women who experience their relationship with the resources and the rural environment around them with the awareness of those who enjoy this opportunity:



International Day of Rural Women © C.Lupaka/GNAP

- NTFPs:
  - Honey: between the 17th and 19th of October, a training was held on beekeeping and honey processing for beekeepers in the GNAP's Buffer Zone. This training was given by *Agri-Mel* in partnership with *Nitidæ* within the scope of the NTFPs and was attended by 18 beekeepers, 6 technicians from the CDD and 3 community facilitators. The knowledge learned will serve to improve the beekeeping approach implemented in the communities around GNAP. The NTFPs project currently assists 164 beekeepers from 32 communities and is co-financed by AFD (French Agency of Development) and Fondation François Sommer;
  - Nursery: during this period, the nurseries already installed were managed, the seeds were collected and the number of pots with seeds was increased;
  - Agriculture campaign: management activities for common bean, pigeon pea and cassava continued. Planning and preparation of the fields for the 2023-2024 agricultural campaign also began during the month. Measurements of the current machambas and weighing of the stored seeds were carried out for use in the next campaign;



Seeds of *Afzelia quanzensis* ©GNAP

### Forecast for next months

- Road infrastructure and maintenance works will continue;
- Law enforcement and other core activities will be guaranteed.



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