

GNAP Newsletter - September 2023

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Mount Pope along the road to GNAP ©X. Gasselín

Key Issues - August/September 2023

- The Warden and Head of the Administration and Finance Department of GNAP participated to the Gilé district meeting directed by the General Director of the SDAE *Serviço Distrital de Atividades Económicas* (District Economic Activities Service). The activities carried out by the partners GNAP-Nitidã-AMPCM (*Associação Moçambicana de Promoção do Cooperativismo Moderno*, Mozambican Association for the Promotion of Modern Cooperativism) in the first half of 2023 and the prospects for the second half of the year were presented;
- From 26th of August to 11th of September, Mr. Gasselín and Mr. Michard filmed a report on GNAP for Canal+ (Seasons channel). Filming included a tour of the national park, anti-poaching patrols with rangers, visits to community programs, participation in the capture of an elephant for a collar change and much more;
- To prepare for the transfer of 200 buffaloes to the GNAP, postponed until 2024 due to the damage caused by Cyclone Freddy, the head of the François Sommer Foundation's Africa project carried out a field assessment in the Marromeu National Reserve. The objective was to identify a potential route to allow translocation trucks to cross a 20-meter-long canal on a bridge that had become impassable and to determine the new capture areas. Potential sites were explored and a meeting took place with the new administrator of the Marromeu NR, Mr. Garrife;
- PLCM* intern presented the activities she participated in during her 6-month internship in GNAP. Ms. Raima was assigned to the community department, where she worked with the mushroom group, beekeepers and farmers, a CGRN (Natural Resources Management Committee) around the park, and led the installation of a pilot organic farm in the Musseia Headquarters nursery. She also had the opportunity to visit other departments, such as law enforcement and human resources;
- An average of 34 seasonal workers per month were recruited in August and September;

*Leadership Program for Conservation in Mozambique- *Programa de Liderança para Conservação de Moçambique*



A moment during an interview for the documentary ©FFS-IGF/C.Lupaka

GNAP radio system consisting of 5 radio antennas and 4 repeaters (digital VF radio with GPS tracking) have been installed. The entire GNAP territory is now covered and a control room in Musseia Headquarters allows to monitor the teams on missions in the field in real time. The operation was financed by the European Union under the PROMOVE-Biodiversidade program (Biofund);

- Musseia Headquarters:
 - an overhead tank with a capacity of 5,000 litres to supply water to the staff houses has been installed. Water leaks in sinks in accommodations and kitchens have been repaired; Water load has been secured;
 - water and electricity have been connected in the 2 new staff residences;
 - maintenance of the electrical system in the 3 offices, food warehouse and ladies' home has been carried out;
 - the firewood has been arranged;
 - the garage roof and a new motorcycle storage area have been built;
 - the radio communication signal in the repeaters has been strengthened.
 - Nursery: the planting and watering of various seedlings, filling of bags with soil and creation of flowerbeds for planting vegetables is ongoing.
- Guard' posts: construction of toilets and water supply are underway at 3 different spots;
- Roads:
 - cutting of fallen trees on the road from Musseia HQ to Mulela and Namurrua has been carried out;
 - the route delimitation for the opening of the trail on the southern border of GNAP has been set;
 - the path from the Nakololo guard post to Mount Nasseco has been opened.



Setting up the radio system ©GNAP

Law Enforcement

- A 3-day joint patrol with AQUA (*Agência Nacional para Avaliação da Qualidade Ambiental*, National Agency for Environmental Quality Assessment) in 4 districts, was carried out. The objective was to discourage illegal tree logging and poaching, raising awareness among operators to report intrusions into the protected area and by monitoring sawmills in the vicinity of the Buffer Zone. Roadblocks and monitoring operations were carried out followed by the confiscation of pod mahogany wooden boards and a fine for lack of specific documentation;
- The Law Enforcement Department deployed, on average, 6 rangers per month carrying out a total of 105 patrols on foot and 32 by car. Patrols covered respectively more than 2,700 km and 6,070 km in 2 months. An average of 40 ambushes and 6 roadblocks each month were also carried out leading to the arrest of 3 poachers and an illegal miner. 10 court cases were opened;
- Illegal mining: control operations on mining excavation areas in one of the communities near the GNAP were carried out with the aim of verifying the working conditions and the environmental impact following which the activities were stopped;
- 60 signs of illegal activities mainly related to poaching and illegal fishing were detected;
- The following items have been confiscated: 78 traps, 31 gin traps, 29 steel cables, 7 fishing nets, 5 spears, 4 fishing tools, 3 machetes, 1 gun.



Ranger in patrol @X. Gasselín

Conservation and Science

- World Elephant Day 23: the theme of this year was "*Ending the Illegal Wildlife Trade*". The efforts of GNAP rangers and the collaboration with local communities are indispensable in the fight against illegal actions and poaching. To protect the increasingly elephant population, GNAP currently monitors 5 elephants: 3 females -Cécile, Ricardina and Marie - and 2 males - Alessandro and Achille-, whose collars were recently replaced;
- GNAP celebrated the World Rhino Day (22nd of September). 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 a black rhino. This choice renews our 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 areas;



Herd of elephants in GNAP ©FFS-IGF

- In the months of August and September the monitored elephants were in the south-west area of the park and its Buffer Zone with incursions into neighbouring villages. In fact, 9 human/wildlife conflicts have been recorded in the districts of Pebane and Mocubela. In September, 9 accidents were recorded in the southern area of GNAP in 2 communities. Elephants caused damage on 13 farms;
- During the 2 months some species were sighted directly with numbers as high as 642 kudus, 585 waterbucks, 467 sables and 252 common duikers. Other sightings: 186 reedbucks, 159 bushbucks, 155 wild pigs, 143 buffalo, 93 wildebeest, 40 warthogs and 40 zebras. The rarest sightings were 11 elephants, 8 red duikers and 1 klipspringer;
- Spoors of elephant, zebra, wildebeest, sable, kudu, waterbuck, bushbuck and reedbuck were also recorded;
- 1 male bushbuck, 1 male sable and 1 female warthog carcasses, hit by mechanical traps, were found. 2 buffalo were found dead: the cause of death of the animals is unknown. According to the remains, 5 common duikers were shot with a 12-gauge gun, and it was not possible to identify the sex and age of the affected animals. The carcass of a waterbuck was found into a gin trap, it was an adult and the sex of the animal is not known.

Community Development and Sustainable Livelihoods

- 383 participants from 17 communities received updates on the sustainable use of NTFPs, the quality of processed mushrooms, income management and saving strategy and agricultural campaign;
- Agricultural campaign: preparations of fields managed by women's groups from 6 communities for the 2023-24 campaign and monitoring of old pea fields have been carried out. Management activities for beans, peas and cassava crops continued. Conferences were also held on conservation agriculture and wildfires;
- Community nurseries: in August, 13,750 pots were purchased to produce seedlings of native timber, medicinal and fruit species. Cleaning, seed replacement and watering were also handled. In

September the seed harvest was underway;

- **SCAMBIO** project: In September there was an exchange of 5 hoes, 3 machetes, 4 rakes exchanged for 8 mouse traps in exchange for agricultural tools and seeds;
- **Projeto Xadrez** (Chess Project): chess training continued in the schools involved in the program in August and September. The girls participating in the project also received training on how to carry out field investigations, recognize tree and medicinal species, and meetings aimed at raising awareness on the sustainable use of NTFPs, on uncontrolled fires, illegal mining/poaching, early marriages, and pregnancies:



Playing chess © C. Lupaka/GNAP

- **NTFPs**

- **Honey:**

In August, 880 beekeeping tools had already been delivered, including galoshes, hoes, machetes, rakes, vases, t-shirts and 9,250 kg of fat. 15 kg of raw wax and nails were distributed among the communities involved to reinforce the fixing of the hives in the apiaries.

The apiaries were cleaned, the hives and capture boxes were monitored to check the state of the swarms and techniques were applied such as merging the swarms, reducing the space in the hive, raw wax to encourage good development of the bees and honey production.

Almost 17 kg of raw honey were collected in September from 4 communities.

7 mechanical scales, 100 separators, 50 shelves, 60 buckets and 23 collection boxes were distributed to the technicians of the PFM II project.

- **Mushrooms:** almost 42 kg of mushrooms were accepted after the last quality control and sent to MozGoodTrade. 123 t-shirts were delivered to the mushroom picking ladies from 8 communities;

- **Snails:** In August, 410 adult specimens were sold. Technical assistance was provided to snail farmers in 3 communities. In September, construction of a new home to raise the young snails began.



Honey harvesting in Musseia ©GNAP

Forecast for October 2023

- Celebration of International Day of Rural Women;
- Law enforcement and other core activities will be guaranteed.



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