

GNAP Newsletter - March 24 -

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Rainbow above Gilé National Park ©T. Prin/FFS-IGF

- Key Issues -

- In January, the LED through *Serviço Provincial de Ambiente* (SPA- Environmental Services) of Nampula City recovered a 10 kg pangolin. After 24 hours of acclimatization and a monitoring process, which involved the FFS-IGF project manager and a veterinarian, the animal was reintroduced into the GNAP. This large ant eater, with a 70 cm tongue (half its size) is among the most poached animals in the world. It is classified as critically endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species;
- The documentary "*Gilé source de vie*" - Gilé source of life- directed by Mr. Gasselin and promoted by the Fondation François Sommer was projected in Paris the 6th of February at the Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature' auditorium. This was followed by a debate featuring G. Kleitz from AFD *Agence Française de Développement* (French Development Agency), S. Pinchon from *Parcs de Noé*, X. Rufay from *Biotope* and T. Prin, FFS-IGF project manager. The debate was animated by Mr. Courbois, director of Pôle Nature;
- Between January and February, more than 1,200 seedlings were planted around 10 hectares of deforested area in the GNAP's Buffer Zone, and near the Molocué River -Musseia Headquarters. The Community Development Department CDD and Law Enforcement Department LED, 13 technicians and the PLCM (Leadership Program for Conservation in Mozambique- *Programa de Liderança para Conservação de Moçambique*) program' intern participated;
- 34 seasonal workers per month were recruited to support infrastructure development.



Reintroduction of the pangolin in the park ©GNAP

- Management and Infrastructures -

- 29 Personal Protective Equipment have been delivered to seasonal workers;
- 4 damaged rain gauges at the checkpoints have been replaced;

- Radio antennas (digital VF radio with GPS tracking): a damaged converter on the Monte Chipere repeater antenna has been replaced;
- Musseia Headquarters:
 - loading of water and wood, cutting and cleaning of the high grass, application of mosquito nets, internal painting of the meeting room, office windows and railings, correction of water infiltrations on the roof and improvement of the internal painting of the Warden's home.
 - replacement of damaged wooden walkways;
 - 5 water tanks have been cleaned;
 - control of oil, diesel and water levels in the industrial generator has been carried out;
 - submersible pump and solar panels have been installed;
 - control box and water connection to the existing branch received technical supervision;
- Malema Mujaiane house has been rehabilitated;
- Roads and bridges:
 - km of paths in the marshy section of Nabila 2 have been reinforced;
 - the cutting of fallen trees on paths and roads is underway;
 - extraction of crushed stone for the concreting of the decks of the bridge over the Malema river continued in January and February;
 - 4 walls of the bridge over the Malema River have been constructed.



Water towers and solar panels ©GNAP



Bridge structure ©GNAP

- Law Enforcement -

- Due to heavy rains, high vegetation and mud, patrolling activities were slowed down in February. However, the LED deployed an average of 6 rangers per day, carrying out a total of 92 patrols on foot and 48 patrols by car covering respectively more than 1000 km and 8900 km. 90 ambushes and 8 roadblocks were carried out leading to the arrest of 7 poachers. 6 court cases were opened;
- 39 signs of illegal activities were detected in January and February, mainly related to poaching. A ranger was injured by a gin trap;
- The following items have been confiscated: 38 traps, 11 fishing, 7 machetes, 7 spears tools, 5 gin traps, 4 poaching nets, one steel cable and one shotgun;
- Human-wildlife conflict (HWC): in January and February 15 incidents were recorded in GNAP's area in 4 communities where elephants destroyed 16 cultivated fields. 330 concrete and wooden 'barrier cones' were constructed to prevent elephants from entering the camps, and 10 deterrent rockets were fired. A 20-metre barrier and a 60-metre chili burn-fence were constructed. Community volunteers were trained in elephant escape techniques in 3 districts by a SDAE technician - *Serviço Distrital de Atividades Económicas* (District Economic Activities Service).



GNAP rangers, NTFPs project manager and PLCM intern ©GNAP

- Conservation and Science -

- The 3rd of March, **World Wildlife Day** has been celebrated with the theme: "Connecting people and planet: Exploring digital innovation in wildlife conservation". GNAP is highlighting the potential of technology to advance conservation efforts by implementing a virtual barrier system called 'geofences' through EarthRanger's system, which tracks data received in real time (e.g., wildlife sightings and illegal activities) whenever a 'geofence breach alert' is triggered;
- The most observed animals during patrols were waterbucks (363), kudus (259) and sable (240). 217 bush pigs, 174 common duikers, 141 reedbucks and 106 bushbucks have been directly observed. 33 zebras and 31 buffaloes were sighted. The rarest sightings refer to 11 wildebeests, 9 warthogs, 5

- klipspringers and 2 red duikers;
- Mostly buffalo, kudu and waterbuck spoors were recorded, but also those of wildebeest, sable, bushbuck, reedbuck and elephant;
- One warthog was found killed by a gin trap; 2 carcasses of waterbuck were found, one of them was caught by a steel cable.



World Wildlife Day 24 GNAP poster- Waterbuck antelopes ©Deffontaines/FFS-IGF

- Community Development and Sustainable Livelihoods -

- The CDD presented the GNAP Management Plan in the districts of Gilé, Mocubela and Pebane. The meetings were attended by members of district and local governments, community leaders, representatives of CGRNs *Comités de Gestão de Recursos Naturais* (Natural Resources Management Committees) and civil society (our partners *Nitidæ* and *RADEZA* NGOs). The meetings aimed to gather feelings and impressions of those interested in the development of GNAP and its Buffer Zone;
- GNAP celebrated **International Women's Day 24** with a video dedicated to the women who work in and around the park: rangers, biologists, mushroom pickers. Watch the video created by the director X. Gasselín and learn more about the NTFPs project managed by the biologist Celina Lupaka, co-founded by AFD - *Agence Française de Développement* (French Development Agency) under the direction of the FFS-IGF and ANAC. #IWD24 "Invest in women: accelerate progress":



Video: "Ladies in GNAP" ©X.Gasselín/FFS-GNAP

- SCAMBIO** project: 48 poaching tools were delivered from the communities in exchange of agricultural equipment or seeds;
- Agriculture campaign: 150 kg of Boer beans, peanuts and millet seeds were delivered in January to be sown in 32 fields;
- Nursery: in honor of **International Day of Forests** (21st of May) GNAP presents its first Nursery project! Watch the video (sponsored by Fondation François Sommer) here: <https://youtu.be/JSdqIQwmRnI>
- NTFPs: The CDD called the board members of the *Opola Mawa Orera* (OMO) and *Opua Oravo Orera* (OOO) agricultural cooperatives to present a review of their 2023 activities and discuss the outlook for 2024, with an emphasis on the functioning of the cooperatives, finances and savings management;
 - Peanuts, a new value chain with the potential to increase the income of beneficiaries, mostly women, has been introduced in NTFPs program. 10 ladies from the OMO cooperative were involved in 2-days training in peanut butter production. Mualene community produced about 60 jars of peanut butter: 78 kg of shelled peanuts were delivered to the processing house., 2 communities participated in the peanut shelling and pre-sorting process; 10 women dedicated themselves to roasting;
 - Mushrooms: mushroom germination begins in the forests around GNAP. Around 950 tool kits to support the implementation of the NTFPs project activities were distributed. The women involved were trained in good mushroom picking practices. 10 dryers have been built:

- Honey: as part of the monitoring of hives, apiary monitoring activities in January were limited to the Northern area of the GNAP. In February 97 beekeepers participated in 2 meetings promoted by the staff with the aim of taking stock of the activities of the past year. 4 kg of raw honey (2 kg of refined honey) were collected from 2 communities.



Construction of a mushroom dryer ©GNAP



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