



Parque Nacional da
Gorongosa

Our Gorongosa – A Park for the People

2019

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Gorongosa National Park



Vision:

A thriving, biodiversity-rich, Greater Gorongosa conservation landscape, which supports Sofala Province as an engine for resilient and sustainable development enabling nature experiences and wellbeing for its people, enriching all of Mozambique and the world.

Mission:

Advance an integrated multi-partner approach to conservation and to people-centred development. The Gorongosa Project protects the Park's biodiversity and ecosystem services and unlocks its economic potential for the community inhabitants of the Gorongosa Buffer Zone, Sofala Province, Mozambique and further afield.

We achieve this through:

- Protecting our ecosystems and their wildlife through a dedicated, well trained conservation team equipped with cutting-edge technology
- Supporting sound land and water planning, and management, based on world-class science
- Unlocking economic benefits arising from tourism and sustainable natural resource use that focuses on sustainable forestry and agriculture
- Supporting improved human development services in health and education
- Developing and communicating a model that can be applied elsewhere for integrated conservation and human development.



In focus

Notable events

Gorongosa – a Park for Peace

On 1 August, 2019 a historic ceremony was held in Gorongosa to celebrate the Cessation of Hostilities Accord between the leaders of the Government of Mozambique and the opposition Renamo Party. The accord established Gorongosa National Park (GNP) as a 'Park for Peace', delivering human development to the communities that share the greater landscape.

Cyclone Idai – a challenge met

Cyclone Idai made landfall in Beira on 15 March 2019. Every Gorongosa employee became a 'first responder', saving lives and delivering food to stranded families. Rangers went on foot in the rain to implement these relief operations. Other team members sourced food and medicine and packaged the supplies for delivery. We used helicopters, canoes and vehicles to support the ground action. In the two months following the landing of Idai, we delivered 500 tonnes of food to more than 80,000 people, and provided 2.5 tonnes of maize seeds and 13 tonnes of sugar bean seeds to replace lost crops.

We also helped to rebuild infrastructure and housing.

The Park's 400,000 hectares of intact vegetation and soils absorbed enormous amounts of water, which would otherwise have made flooding worse in the communities downstream. Natural areas will play a critical buffering role in extreme weather events in this coming age of climate change.



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Conservation and wildlife

- We reintroduced 14 painted wolves (African wild dogs) in 2018 with great success. Twenty-six pups from three litters have swelled their numbers to 40. We reintroduced another 15 painted wolves to the Park in October of this year.
- The lion population has increased to 146 known individuals, and the elephant population to 800 – and growing.
- We now manage the former Hunting Concession Number 12 (C12). We are working with local communities in a forestry concession to establish a safe wildlife corridor between Gorongosa Park and C12.
- During the first half of 2019, Park rangers rescued 27 trafficked pangolins in Sofala and Manica provinces. Gorongosa Park wildlife vets cared for them and released them into the wild.
- Our rangers seized three leopard skins and 25 elephant tusks outside the Park borders, collaborating with the police to bring traffickers to justice.
- We greatly increased our communications capability with a new Park-wide digital radio system.
- We now use the 'EarthRanger' domain-awareness system to coordinate and monitor law enforcement operations and radio-collared wildlife.
- Gorongosa Park provided sable, waterbuck, oribi and reedbuck to help rewild Zinave National Park and the Maputo Special Reserve.

Science

- The number of plant and animal species recorded in the Greater Gorongosa landscape (through our scientists' All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory) is now more than 6,000.
- We inaugurated a new amphitheatre in Chitengo Camp in July with an international Wenner-Gren conference on primatology. Senior researchers and students from 15 institutions in nine different countries attended the prestigious event held for the first time in Africa.
- The fossil sites east of the Urema River inside the Park (dating to the Late Miocene, 7–10 million years ago), are yielding a treasure trove of mammal fossils, placing Gorongosa firmly on the global palaeontological map.
- We have placed satellite tracking devices on an additional 10 elephants. We now have 26 elephants collared. This helps us follow the animals and reduce wildlife conflict in the communities that border the Park. We also constructed 'beehive fences' along the southern border of Gorongosa. The bees deter the elephants from entering farms.
- Gorongosa National Park conducts the only Masters in Conservation Biology in Mozambique and 12 Mozambican women and men will soon graduate from the two-year program.

'Landscapes can play a tremendously positive buffering effect – they generally attenuate the extremes of weather ... water.

And that's why we need these big landscapes.'

Marc Stalmans – Chief Ecologist of Gorongosa National Park



Ecotourism

- We trained twenty students, who live in communities near the Park, in ecotourism. They passed an accredited hospitality course in mid-2019.
- During March to September, 6,432 national and international guests visited Gorongosa Park; 5,402 of them went on safari drives.
- The Park was closed to visitors in April due to Cyclone Idai but we reopened in May 2019.
- Ecotourism revenue totalled US\$737,132 through September of this year.
- A new luxury tented camp, called 'Muzimu', is under construction and will open in mid-2020.

Human development in the Buffer Zone

- We now operate after-school Girls' Clubs and Nature Clubs in 50 primary schools around the Park. Next, we will begin a program to support local school teachers.
- Gorongosa Park is providing bursaries for 37 girls to attend high school.
- The Gorongosa Project is negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding with Mozambique's Ministry of Education to formalise our work among the schools in the communities around the Park.
- We repaired four broken boreholes (water wells) and we maintain another 50 in collaboration with local community water committees.
- Our Park human resources staff conducted planning exercises with 16 traditional leaders in local communities around Gorongosa to support them in their capacity development plans.

'Environmental protection and economic development are not in conflict. Environmental protection is not a burden but a source for innovation. It can increase competition, create jobs, and lifts the economy.'
Chai-Jing, journalist and environmental activist



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Integrated agricultural livelihoods

- We planted over 300,000 coffee trees in 2019, a tenfold increase from previous years, in spite of damage to the road caused by weather.
- Our coffee farmers harvested 6,000 kilograms of green bean coffee. More than 500 families are now growing coffee – creating 200 jobs that contribute greatly to the peace and reconciliation initiative.
- The Gorongosa Park Agricultural Livelihood Project is working to increase its extension services and to develop anchor markets for cashew nuts and honey for 3,000 family farmers.
- This year our agricultural extension services will reach a total of 10,000 farmers. Most of these families suffered in Cyclone Idai.
- Four of the Gorongosa National Park graduate students are researching the nexus of agricultural production, biodiversity protection, and community upliftment.



Message from Gorongosa Park Warden

Pedro Muagura

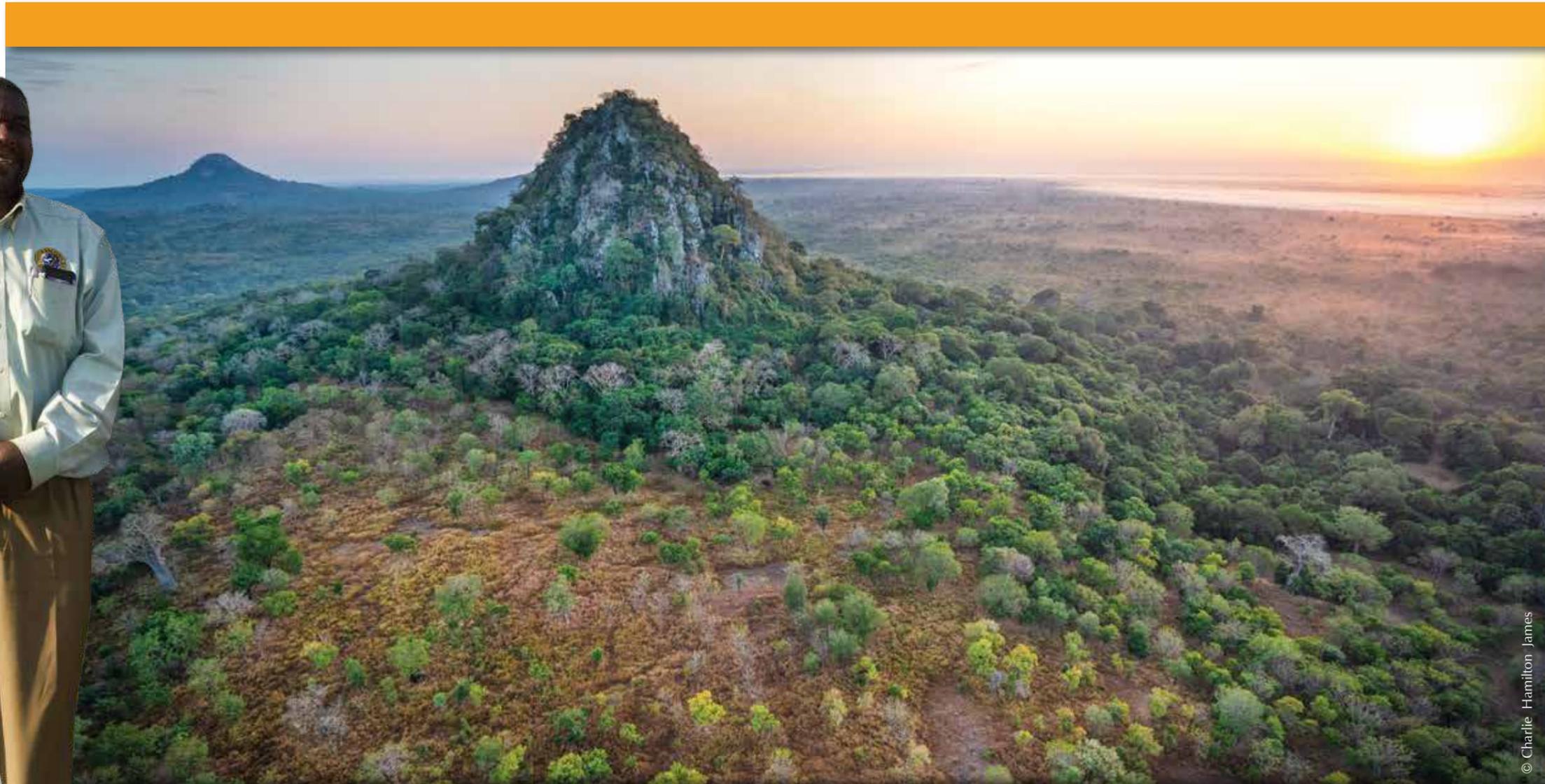
2019 has been a very turbulent year for central Sofala Province, with far-reaching events such as the devastating Cyclone Idai strike, but on the other hand also the monumental achievement of the peace agreement signed between the Government of Mozambique and the opposition Renamo Party. By virtue of its location, Gorongosa National Park has been at the heart of these happenings and has engaged in its all-encompassing conservation and development mission.

On 15 March, Cyclone Idai made landfall in Beira. Overnight the storm swept across Sofala and Manica provinces and left more than 600 people dead and affected over 1.3 million. The storm destroyed hundreds of thousands of homes and thousands of hectares of crops, and ripped off the roofs of schools and clinics. Trees were uprooted across entire landscapes. But the worst was to come for those living in areas prone to flooding – many of them in the Buffer Zone of the Gorongosa National Park. With the Pungue and Urema rivers overflowing, their modest homes were flooded, fields and harvests destroyed and families cut off from any land access and help for weeks. I am immensely proud to say that the Gorongosa team stepped in wholeheartedly and immediately – before the international response could even get into motion – and started a decisive emergency relief effort. For months we not only rehabilitated the Park itself – fixed roads, bridges, cleaned up fallen trees and set up our projects anew, but more importantly, we transformed into a food distribution and medical support team that assisted our Park neighbours in this time of need. Overall, we delivered 500 tonnes of food to more than 80,000 people in some of the worst affected areas, mostly south of the Park. We hired two helicopters and were able to reach those no one else was able to reach. We set up an emergency response unit and orchestrated a well-coordinated relief effort.

Thankfully, we received support from many concerned individuals, businesses and organisations and raised an astonishing US\$400,000 from our web-based fundraising effort alone. The team of African Parks also provided much welcome relief to our Buffer Zone with their helicopter and technical team. I am amazed at how much we could all achieve together during this trying time. Thank you all for your hard work and your support!

‘Having the signing of the cessation of hostilities accord in Gorongosa is an opportunity to show the world the intrinsic bond that exists between conservation, peace and development.’

Pedro Muagura, Park Warden, Gorongosa National Park



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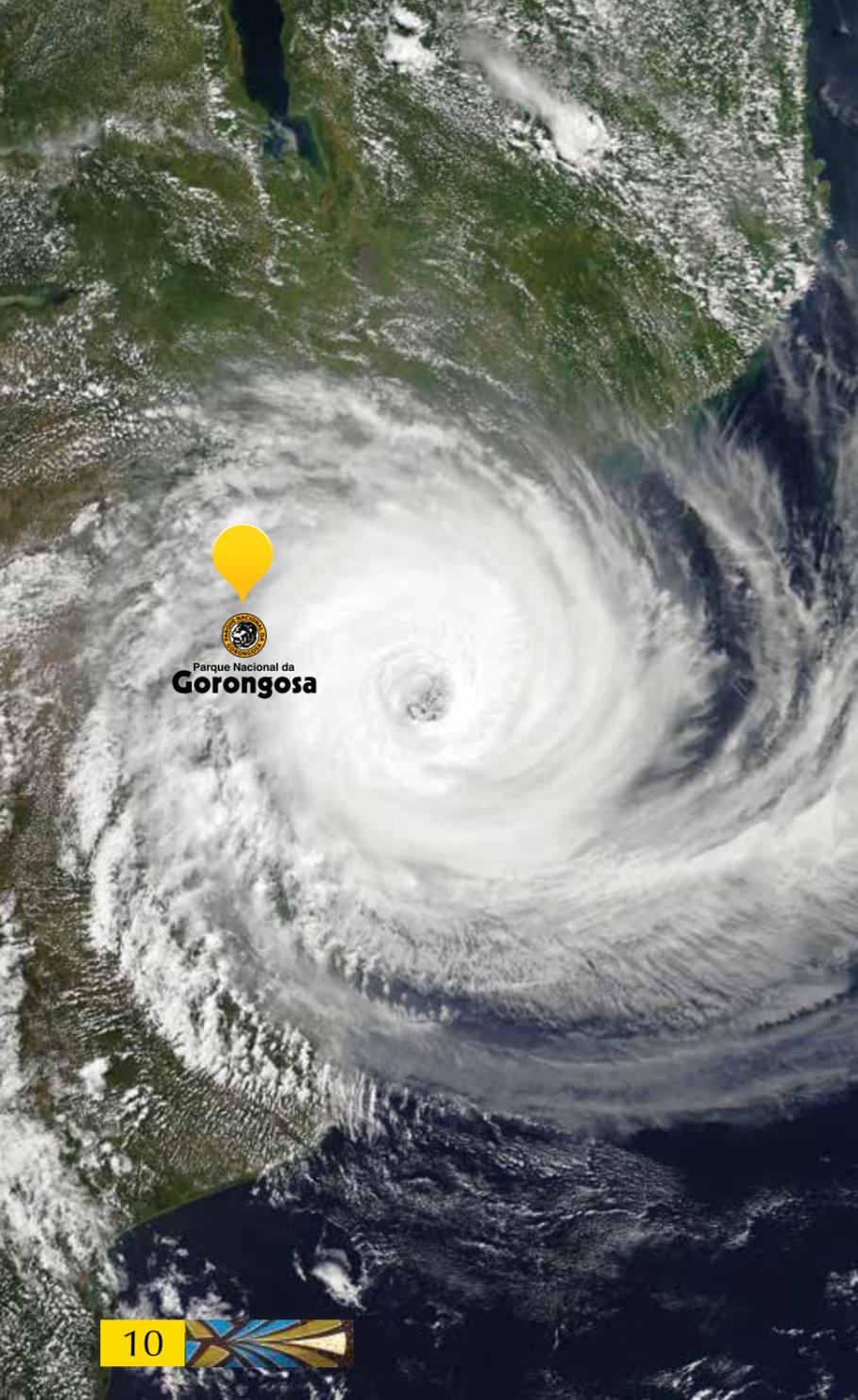
The post-cyclone rehabilitation is an ongoing responsibility, and Idai's aftermath will be felt for years to come. Some of our Buffer Zone development programs have suffered significant setbacks and we are now focusing on helping the local farmers to access seeds for the new growing season, while other programs are only slowly picking up impetus after the catastrophe.

We gained fresh momentum and hope however, by the signing of the epic Peace Accord between the Government of Mozambique and the opposition Renamo Party. While they had already agreed to a ceasefire in December 2016, it took almost three years before the peace deal was accomplished. Gorongosa National Park had been central in the negotiation process throughout, and this historical moment remains closely connected to the Park.

All these natural and political circumstances have had a strong bearing on our conservation mandate and on the Buffer Zone communities we work with so closely. I do not know of any other park in the world that would have been as strongly affected and linked to the destiny of the people living around it as we were in 2019. More than ever we deserve to call it 'Our Gorongosa – A Park for the People'. Join me by reading our Highlights 2019 report, which gives you a glimpse of each of our programs during this past year. We are immensely grateful to all our supporters, our donors and our friends who continue to help us deliver our work. Your motivation and reinforcement are what keep us going!

Pedro Muagura





- Legend**
- Community conservancies (conceptual)
 - Sustainable forestry concessions
 - Coutada (hunting area)
 - Special reserve
 - Gorongosa National Park
 - Buffer Zone
 - Most affected communities
 - Normal water levels
 - Flooded 20 March 2019
 - Major food drops

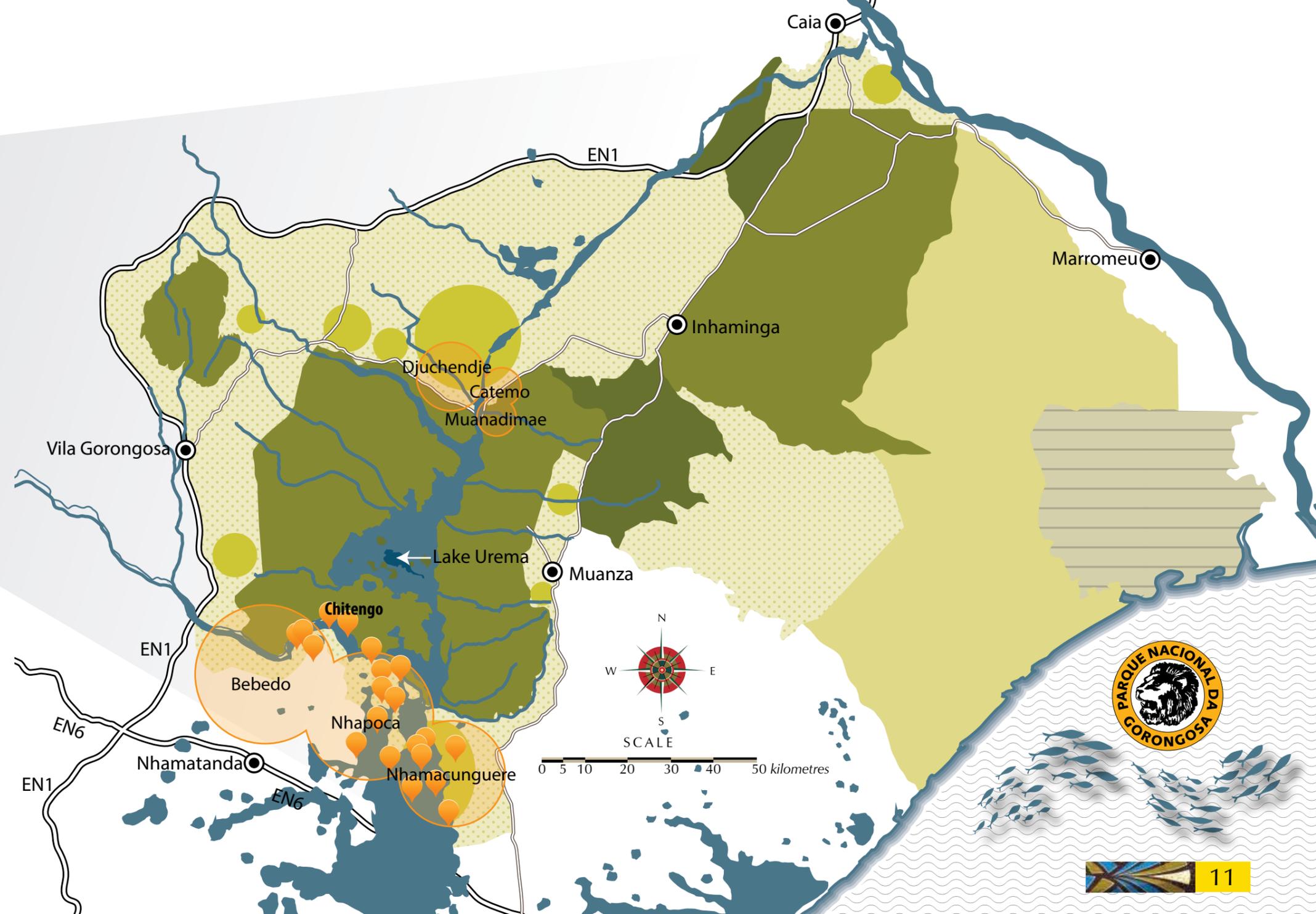
Cyclone Idai

Gorongosa cares for its neighbours

All our Park departments were on high alert when Cyclone Idai made landfall on 15 March 2019. Our Park rangers immediately walked through heavy rain and flooded land to reach those trapped on termite mounds or in trees. They brought emergency rations and assistance sufficient for a few days until we could mobilise helicopters, canoes and vehicles. During the first month, GNP staff, with help from African Parks and others, delivered 140 tonnes of food and water to over 30,000 people. By May, this had risen to 220 tonnes to over 40,000 affected community members. We were also directly involved in planning and coordination with national and international authorities in the flood assistance program, which included emergency rehabilitation of infrastructure, communications and transportation. Our distribution of start-up packs of seeds and other agricultural essentials has allowed communities to replant for future food stability.

It was very clear that the Park itself played an essential part in mitigating damage caused by the cyclone. Its vast vegetated area and network of streams and rivers acted like a sponge, absorbing huge quantities of water, which was still being gradually released five months after the actual event. It was practical proof that intact landscapes have a buffering effect on extremes of weather – especially wind and water, as well as serving as reservoirs for effective and functioning biodiversity systems.

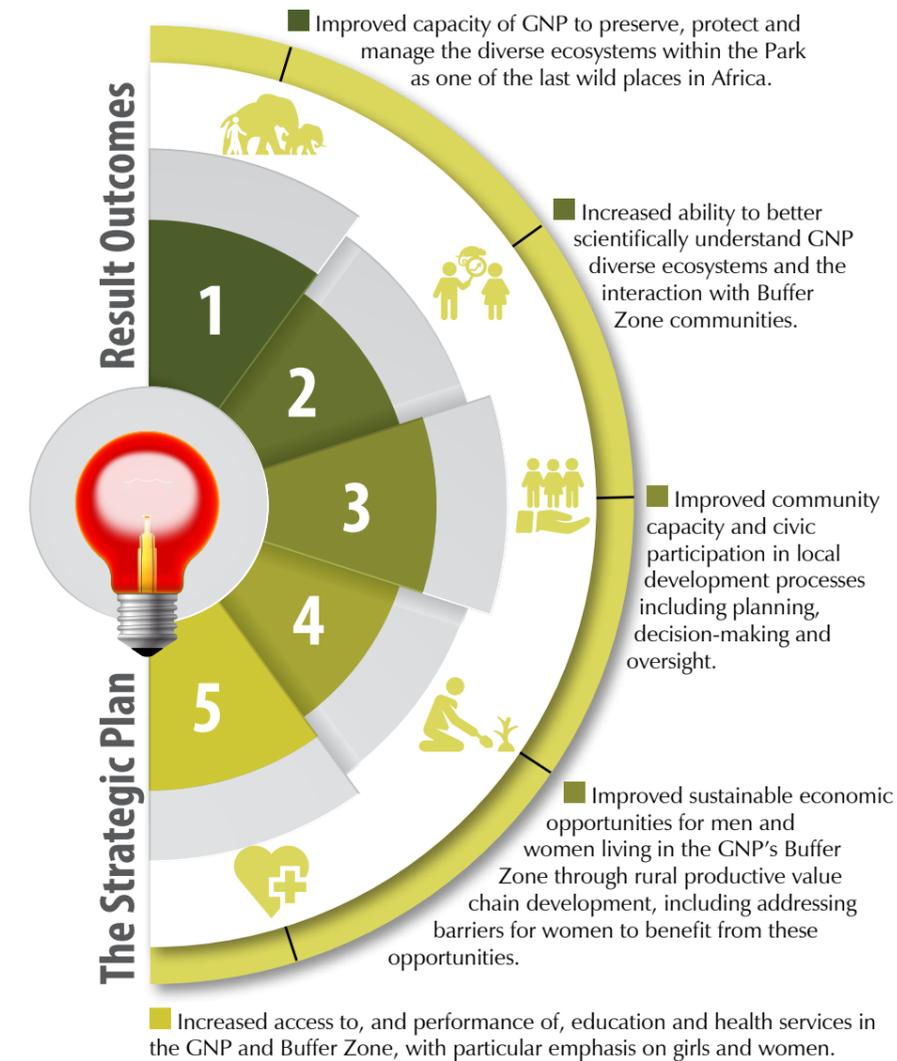
The positive reaction to our appeals on social media raised essential funds for our work after Cyclone Idai – and helped save many of our neighbours from total destitution.



© MODIS image captured by NASA's Aqua satellite - EOSDIS Worldview



© Jen Guyton



Gorongosa National Park and Buffer Zone Institutional accomplishments – the Strategic Plan 2020 –2050

For the past 18 months, the Park staff has engaged in a participatory planning effort, which culminated in the drafting of GNP's 30-year strategy. Pursuing its dual conservation and Buffer Zone development vision, the strategy lays the foundation for three decades of investments up to 2050. The 30-year strategy will be underpinned by a five-year business plan and shorter-cycle operational plans.

Over the past year, numerous consultations have taken place, not only within the Park, but also with key stakeholders — local Buffer Zone communities, district government and partner organizations, and various donors supporting or hoping to support the Park in its ambitious conservation and development work.

The existing Gorongosa Biofund self-financing initiative will continue to operate in conjunction with the Park-owned for-profit entities, Produtos Naturais and Turismo de Gorongosa. This will augment donor funding for focused human development in the Buffer Zone.

Based on GNP's 15 years of learning and extensive consultations with primary and secondary stakeholders over the course of this two-year strategic planning process, the Result Outcomes need to contribute to and fulfill the Ultimate Outcome of the Strategic Plan.

'I'm very conscious of the fact that you can't do it alone. It's teamwork. When you do it alone you run the risk that when you are no longer there nobody else will do it.'
 Wangari Maathai, founder of the Green Belt Movement and 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate



Media Department

GNP was at the forefront of much press attention this year, with prominent coverage in National Geographic Magazine, the New York Times, The Guardian, Associated Press and a number of other top international and national media outlets. Our media and communications team also provided constant news updates via social media, press releases, newsletters and the Park's website. The creation of films and short videos by Gorongosa Media further communicates the Gorongosa story to millions of people via television and online platforms. Gorongosa Media's award-winning feature documentary film about Gorongosa's rangers, 'On the Front Line' screened at the prestigious DC Environmental Film Festival in March. PBS International acquired the film for global television distribution, allowing audiences around the world the opportunity to view it.

A highlight of the year was the premier of Gorongosa Media and HHMI Tangled Bank Studios' newest film, 'Our Gorongosa – A Park for the People' to a full house at the Oprah Winfrey Theatre in the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington. The event, on 15 May, not only highlighted the Park's development and conservation work with the communities in and around Gorongosa National Park, but also the integral role the Park played in recovery efforts following Cyclone Idai. A significant number of luminaries of the conservation and development sectors attended the event. PBS International also acquired 'Our Gorongosa' for global distribution.



The Park Conservation

Painted Wolves

The original pack of 14 painted wolves has grown beyond expectation and there are now around 40 'mabecos' in the Park. The alpha female 'Beira' produced a litter of 11 pups in April – after losing her first litter to an African python last year shortly after their reintroduction. Surprisingly, the beta female, 'Nhamagaia', also produced a litter of eight, which the pack uncharacteristically accepted without any problems. Four of the original group split off from the main pack earlier this year and the lone female subsequently produced a litter of eight. The Park introduced an additional pack of 15 painted wolves in October to swell the numbers of this apex predator.

Coutada 12

The incorporation into the Gorongosa Project of the 2,800km² Coutada 12, with its increased protection, has almost doubled the size of the Park. We now also manage a forestry concession of 28,560 ha, which has provided a critical linkage and corridor between the two conservation areas. We have developed an initial management plan for the new area and are investigating additional resources for its implementation. We continue to invest in our work with local communities to establish sustainable forestry-based community conservancies and community guard systems throughout the Buffer Zone.

Pangolin rescue

African pangolins are included in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Appendix 1 (endangered) mammals list. The biggest threats facing these animals are live trafficking and poaching. During the first half of 2019, Gorongosa rangers rescued 27 trafficked pangolins in Sofala and Manica provinces. We released them after dedicated care from our resident wildlife vets. This year rangers also seized three leopard skins and 25 elephant tusks outside the Park, collaborating with the police to bring the traffickers to justice.

Beehive fences

Farming communities in the Buffer Zone experience seasonal damage from crop-raiding elephants. We introduced beehive fences, a concept developed in Tanzania and used with success in other African countries to keep elephants away from croplands, and constructed 30 community silos to safely store harvests.

'The Wilderness holds answers to more questions than we have yet learned to ask.'

Nancy Newhall, photography critic and conservationist



Science

Elephant ecology

A PhD study is specifically addressing issues related to the spatio-temporal dynamics in landscape occupancy by different family units of elephants, their seasonal and spatial movements in relation to human presence and how these movements correlate with human-wildlife conflict and the perceptions of the communities. We fitted a further 10 elephants with satellite collars, bringing the total number of collared elephants to 26. The human-wildlife coexistence team is using the data from the collars to identify incursions and to direct resources to counter them.

Biodiversity assessments

The number of plant and animal species recorded in the Greater Gorongosa landscape (through our scientists' All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory) is now more than 6,000. During May, a short expedition documented the biodiversity of the Dingue Dingue wetland south of the Urema-Pungue confluence, focusing on bird diversity. We conducted two counts of the large water bird colony on Lake Urema, recording a total of 3,791 nests of seven different species.

In conjunction with our research partners, we published a total of 11 peer-reviewed articles and additional publications in the international scientific literature that deepened insights into the dynamics and biodiversity of the Park. We consolidated the results of 50 years of aerial wildlife counts of Gorongosa National Park, translated them to a common denominator and analysed them for trends. Plos One Journal published the results. This represents the first objective integrated source of data on the ebb and flow of the large wildlife of the Park over a period of half a century.

In November/December 2018, we presented the completed report from the Teaching Biodiversity Survey at Chimanimani National Reserve to ANAC. Overall, the survey confirmed the presence of 42 species of mammals, 231 species of birds, 45 species of reptiles, 22 species of amphibians, 454 species of insects and other arthropods, and 176 species of vascular plants. We observed a number of species never before recorded from Mozambique, such as the bat *Pipistrellus rusticus*, hawkmoth *Pseudoclanis postica*, and katydid *Ovonotus incisus*. We could also tentatively identify several species as new to science, including a leaf katydid *Gonatoxia* sp. n. and butterfly *Gonophodes* sp. n.

Palaeontology and primatology

Senior researchers and student scientists from 15 institutions in nine different countries came together in the Park during July for an international Wenner-Gren conference. The central theme of the conference was about primates such as baboons and savanna monkeys adapting to complex and ever-changing environments. This is the first time that the conference has taken place in Africa.

The Paleo-Primate Project of Gorongosa completed its fourth field season this year. Excavations of the site, discovered in 2018, continue and we are uncovering a large number of mammal fossils representing a diversity of species. Preliminary analysis indicates that this site is poised to fill in some major gaps in the Miocene fossil mammal record in Africa. This places Gorongosa firmly on the palaeontological map.



Science Education

Twelve Mozambican students are in the final year of their Masters in Conservation Biology in the Park. The consortium hosting the degree includes the Park, the Universidade Zambeze, Universidade Lúrio, and Instituto Superior Politécnico de Manica, with assistance from the University of Lisbon in Portugal. The students are presently concentrating on data collection, analysis and write-up for their theses.

From 28 July to 16 August 2019, we hosted the second Oxford-Gorongosa Paleo-Primate Field School. An international team of scientists guided eight students from Oxford University and five students from University Eduardo Mondlane in theoretical and practical aspects of palaeontology, archaeology, speleology and primatology.

Data integration – the Larger Gorongosa Landscape

A concerted effort during this year consolidated data on the larger Gorongosa Landscape to make them more accessible to staff and external researchers. Several new data sets included a comprehensive assessment of the number of households and extent of cultivation, through the analysis of satellite imagery across an area of more than 1,800,000 ha. This culminated in the compilation of an 'Environmental Atlas' that contains some 60 maps.



Ecotourism

Turismo de Gorongosa

Ecotourism is a natural offshoot of any national park and thus needs to be grown and developed as a successful component of a park. Turismo de Gorongosa is a multi-faceted, for-profit company that is the driving force behind various tourism initiatives, from guided tours, the curio shops, staff training and, most importantly, the current development of Muzimu Tented Camp.

Turismo de Gorongosa is a dynamic company that serves the people within the Buffer Zone. It aims to facilitate the integration of all people in Park activities, regardless of gender, political convictions and skills levels. It is there to supplement livelihoods through skills development, thus creating increased self-worth and personal growth.

Hospitality training

Turismo de Gorongosa initiated a three-week intensive hospitality training program with local communities to offer training in hospitality services and management. Course organizers selected twenty young men and women from various communities in the Buffer Zone and Sofala Province to participate in the program. A hospitality training institute based in Maputo conducted the course, which carries accredited certification. All the students passed the final evaluations and theory examinations.

Continued focus on training and skills development is essential in all realms of hospitality and additional training programs are scheduled for the rest of this year and 2020. Turismo de Gorongosa plans to develop a hospitality training academy to accommodate students attending these programs.



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© Brett Kuxhausen / Gorongosa Media

Muzimu Tented Camp

Muzimu Tented Camp is a small intimate camp that is designed to merge into its surrounding natural environment. It broadens the current tourism offering found in Chitengo. Its proximity to the core area of the Park and Lake Urema ensures excellent viewing and wildlife encounters.

In keeping with sound ecological practices to minimize impact on the environment and to ensure the safety of patrons, the camp is being constructed on elevated walkways connecting the facilities and tented accommodation. The raised elevation provides a precaution against rising water levels during heavy rainfall, while allowing the free movement of wildlife around the camp. Muzimu is in the first stage of construction and we anticipate that it will be ready for operation in mid-2020.

Safari Activity Center

By the end of September this year, 6,432 guests visited the Park and participated in activities at the Safari Activity Centre. Despite Cyclone Idai's disruption of the safari season, the number of tourists has shown a remarkable upsurge. Visitors have hailed predominantly from Mozambique and Portugal, followed by the USA, Brazil, South Africa and France. Turismo de Gorongosa has added three new safari vehicles to the fleet to accommodate this growth.

Cycle tours through the local communities proved very popular, as did the boating experiences on Lake Urema, which were possible shortly after the Park was re-opened in May. More than 5,400 visitors participated in vehicle safaris during this period. The safari department generated a total revenue of US\$737,142 by the end of September 2019.



'Keep close to Nature's heart... and break clear away, once in a while, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean.'

John Muir, naturalist, author and conservationist



Buffer Zone

Human development in the Buffer Zone

The Gorongosa National Park is unique in its mission not only to deliver world class conservation, but at the same time invest in the human development of 200,000 people living in the officially designated Park Buffer Zone. This mission gains even more specific importance in the context of the Cessation of Hostilities Accord signed on 1 August 2019. The Park is taking on an important post-conflict stabilisation role with its support of social services such as improved education and health, as well as in employment creation, livelihood support and community-based natural resource governance. Gender and social inclusion, empowering women and girls, and ensuring that all segments of society are included and reached in the Park-led programs are important elements of the Park's human development work.

Education

This year we have made a dedicated effort to broaden the education strategy of the Park to have a better reach and impact on the younger generation. Cyclone Idai slowed our plans somewhat, as a number of schools in the south were damaged and needed urgent rehabilitation.

The Girls' Clubs initiative continues to be one of Gorongosa Project's main human development initiatives in the Buffer Zone, offering support to girls to stay at school and learn important life skills. The 50 existing Girls' Clubs and Nature Clubs (involving over 2,000 girls) cover more than 50 per cent of the primary schools. We hope to double this number during the new school year, which starts in January 2020. Several members of the clubs who have successfully completed primary school have received bursaries to attend secondary school. At present, 37 girls are completing their studies with these bursaries – a major increase in girls from the Buffer Zone attending high school. There are now Youth Clubs at two of the four high schools in or near the Buffer Zone (Vila de Gorongosa and Vila de Inhaminga). The clubs provide study support and a dedicated science program for deserving children, girls and boys, preparing the students for enhanced careers – including those associated with the Park. The program aims to create human capital with the right skills-set and personal engagement to become part of our conservation and development vision. We are formalising other educational opportunities through professional training in the tourism sector and expanding the Park's internal apprenticeship and internship program, providing on-the-job learning opportunities for young professionals from the Buffer Zone.

Our new focus on investing in teacher education, in conjunction with District Education Departments and the national Ministry of Education aims to support the formal education system. We are negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Education, in this regard. Our objective is to build a community of practice, creating associations with conservation, peace building and community development. We hope that by establishing pilot Teachers' Clubs in 2020 we can enhance these qualities.

We have been able to raise funds to repair the damage caused by Cyclone Idai to some of our partner schools. Plans are also underway to rehabilitate educational structures in the Mount Gorongosa area, where prior to the Peace Accord, schools remained closed for several years.



Health

Human resources input maintains the provision of health services in the Buffer Zone. To date, there are 88 community health workers, 129 traditional birth attendants, and 159 model moms active in four districts (Gorongosa, Nhamatanda, Muanza and Cheringoma).

Model moms support young mothers with information on caring for their new babies properly, especially in hygiene and nutrition. Traditional birth attendants continue to receive training and provide education and support to pregnant women throughout their pregnancy and delivery, until their babies turn one year old. Community health workers are local Buffer Zone inhabitants and are part of the national health care system. They provide primary medical assistance and educate local communities on basic health issues.

By the end of July, 79 mobile health brigades consisting of public health technicians were functional in the districts of Gorongosa, Nhamatanda, Dondo, Muanza and Cheringoma. After Cyclone Idai this year, the mobile brigades, with assistance from Portuguese physicians, provided support and cholera vaccinations to communities in Nhamatanda and Gorongosa.

On the sanitation front, our WASH team was closely involved in the post-cyclone recovery efforts, especially in the south of the Park where a number of facilities were destroyed. We started rehabilitating boreholes in August. We have also trained three new water and sanitation committees in the Gorongosa district and hired a WASH technician for Cheringoma district. The community has contributed just over US\$1000 to buy parts for broken boreholes when necessary. Since the beginning of the program in 2016, we have developed and maintained a constant number of 50 functioning boreholes, which are managed by relevant community borehole committees.



CBNRM, conservancies, governance

Community-based natural resources management (CBNRM) and the establishment of formal community conservation areas, so-called conservancies, are centrally positioned in the new 30-year strategy for Gorongosa National Park and its Buffer Zone. Through a formal collaboration with the Namibian Association of CBNRM Service Organisations (Nacso), our team has further developed the Park's approach to community-led conservation, and we are actively pursuing investment in these long-term partnerships to strengthen local-level self-governance of communities.

In 2019, we focused on establishing community conservation along the eastern Park boundary, strengthening the corridor to Coutada 12. In this area, forestry resources are of particular importance. We are working with the only sustainable-forestry-certified commercial concession in Mozambique, Levas Flor, to help the natural resource management committees establish and manage sustainable forestry undertakings – providing meaningful and long-term income to local communities.

The signing of the Peace Accord, as well as the introduction of a new decentralisation framework, has led to a special interest in furthering local-level community-led governance. The Park's experience in natural resource-related governance with local communities has led to a significant involvement in local-level initiatives and thus created a strong governance linkage. The 30-year strategic plan will elevate these efforts in the future.

In the past years, it has been challenging to effectively engage local communities in responsible and sustainable management of natural resources. However, as the benefits from tourism, sustained resources and employment creation in responsible agriculture, and reforestation initiatives have become clear, there are more visible incentives for a pro-conservation approach.



RIGHT:
Mozambique President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, left, and Renamo leader Ossufo Momade signing a cessation of hostilities accord at Gorongosa National Park, Thursday, 1 August, 2019.



Cyclone Idai demonstrated how important it is to manage natural resources well, and that land-use planning is vital. Settling in flood areas may be good for agriculture, but will be dangerous if flooding becomes more common. Our participatory approaches to working with communities and district government is aimed at improved planning to develop sound land-use strategies, including setting aside vulnerable areas for conservation.

In 2018/19 we undertook community visioning processes with natural resource management committees in 16 local communities in the Buffer Zone and started the same process at the village level. These discussions allowed the communities to reflect on their behaviour and attitudes; how they relate to their future, and what the community can do to ensure a desirable future. We also involved community rangers and activators in the process to guide discussions about conservation education, and enforce local and state regulations on natural resources access, control and use.

Agricultural Livelihoods Program: farming for biodiversity with inclusivity

The Gorongosa Project's Agricultural Livelihood Program has two core values: inclusive value chains and farming for biodiversity. Inclusivity, in practice, centers around working with women for business and employment creation, empowerment, gender training and solutions, financial inclusion, and access. It also encompasses capturing traditional knowledge through free and informed consent, intergenerational learning, and preservation and use of indigenous knowledge. The project is community driven and coordinates its efforts through working closely with community leaders and organizations in natural resources management, education and health. Biodiversity is conserved by key principles of land management, agroforestry, and promoting ambassador species that are symbolic for issues or ecosystems to build awareness and behavior change.

As a result, the project has proved resilient against the periodic onset of regional instability and extreme climatic events, including the recent devastation by Cyclone Idai, which severely affected infrastructure. Gorongosa Coffee also offers small producers the option for expansion over time, focusing on developing emerging farmers through an array of agroforestry alternatives such as honey production, inter-row cropping options and seasonal employment. This critical flexibility has provided the impetus for communities to adopt conservation principles and take ownership of the project.

'Gorongosa ... is no longer a centre of violence between brothers and against the flora and fauna that exists here.'
Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique

Opportunities for peace and reconciliation in coffee

Following the Peace Accord, and growing interest from community members on Mount Gorongosa, the program established 100 hectares of coffee plantation for smallholder coffee farmers. By the end of August 2019, over 500 emerging farmers on Mount Gorongosa (100 of whom are women) were growing coffee trees. Over 70 farmers brought in a crop (compared to 20 last year) and pay-outs ranged between US\$80 to \$130 per farmer. This is a major achievement, complementing local annual cash income from agricultural produce by 100 per cent. Additionally, some payments have reached remote

communities who retreated into the forests and the Park during the civil unrest; this is the first important step to creating post-conflict opportunities. The project established basic financial literacy training and is working with the community to create savings programs aligned with their values and the conservation needs of the rainforest.

The coffee value chain represents an unprecedented opportunity for the people of the mountain as an alternative to political strife and conflict. Beyond the community development and conservation benefits, coffee production represents an important arm of the Gorongosa Project's target of sustainable financing. Developing these high-value products will help to fund the Park's very important work for the next 25 years. This year also represents a milestone, as Gorongosa Coffee is the first ever coffee exported from Mozambique; placing the country as the first new single-origin coffee-producing country in over five years.

Next year we will plant an additional 100 hectares of coffee as part of a ten-year roll out program. We are sourcing different varieties from Brazil to test the local conditions on Mount Gorongosa, and provide farmers with access to the best genetic seed stock in the world.

'When we plant trees, we plant the seeds
of peace and seeds of hope.'

Wangari Maathai, founder of the Green Belt Movement and 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate



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Creating sustainable anchor markets – cashew, honey and much more

The Agricultural Livelihoods Program is championing the development of 'anchor markets' for cashew nuts and honey as part of an integrated approach in the Gorongosa National Park's Buffer Zone. Not only does the program provide extension services to smallholder farm families, but it operates in close collaboration with Produtos Naturais da Gorongosa, the for-profit arm of the project, capturing value-adding opportunities and bringing profits back to the stakeholders in the Buffer Zone. The development of these anchor markets includes key investments into infrastructure for agri-processing, aggregation, access to improved seed varieties and training methods.

The project works with over 3,000 registered farmers in the Buffer Zone, some already growing cashew trees, while others are involved with producing honey, horticulture production or ground nuts with the support of the Gorongosa Project. This year extension services will reach a total of 10,000 farmers to expand the program's impact and support families that were severely impacted by the cyclone.

Extension officers working with cashew farmers have also established a lead farmer approach (20 lead farmers), providing approximately 200 existing cashew farmers with new seedlings. The program has built four cashew nurseries (one in each district of the Buffer Zone) to better serve local communities with quality cashew seedlings. These nursery sites also double as integrated working farms, model horticulture nurseries and training sites for smallholder farmers. In the future, they will become part of a service to help aggregate production to improve prices.

The project is developing a medium-scale cashew processing plant in Vila Gorongosa as an agricultural processing hub, with improved processing facilities for honey. The distribution of an additional 400 beehives in the Buffer Zone will help to justify capitalization, and piloting a new, higher yielding hive for promising producers will mean that yields in 2020 will be greater than ever.

Profiles



Tara Massad

Director of the Master's Program in Conservation Biology

Hello! My name is Tara Massad, and I'm lucky enough to have joined the Gorongosa team for the second time in 2018. I first came to Mozambique as a Peace Corps volunteer, where I taught high school biology before returning to the U.S. to complete my PhD in tropical chemical ecology.

In 2013, I read an article about the Gorongosa Restoration Project, and was inspired to inquire if they might need an ecologist to help with their efforts. Serendipitously, they were looking for someone to organize the new E.O. Wilson Biodiversity Lab, and I spent an exciting year as the lab's research manager. I then moved back to the U.S. to teach, but I quickly understood I wanted to serve populations with greater needs and to spend more time in the field. I found my way back to Gorongosa to help run the innovative Master's in Conservation Biology Program. I love working with the students, and I am very grateful to be able to dedicate my energies to the impactful education and research programs in GNP.



Marcos Chova

Lead supervisor in the Agricultural Livelihoods Program

I am the lead supervisor for the honey and reforestation sector of the Agricultural Livelihoods Program. I have been with the Park for over 10 years and have a passion for forests. I have worked on the mountain to help re-establish forests along the river margins and am very involved in the human-animal coexistence project, which has successfully installed over 40 beehive fences that have proved effective at keeping elephants out of the community.

Most recently, I was requested to remove several beehives from the local school, Missao Cristo Rei de Gorongosa. The school responded with a gracious thank you note.



Hercilia Benedito Chipanga

Community relations manager

I was born and grew up in Xai-Xai, Gaza Province. I have a degree in forestry engineering, which taught me to be passionate about community-based natural resources management, where communities contribute to conservation but also benefit from conservation. Since qualifying, I have worked extensively with communities in CBNRM. I am now the community relations manager in the GNP. This is all about creating capacity at the community level to lead natural resources management and also to promote governance approaches.

I am very grateful to be part of the dynamic and diverse team of GNP, and I believe that the future of the Park depends on the communities understanding the importance of establishing firm relations with the Park. I am happy to be one of the team to work with communities on behaviour changing strategy that will promote knowledge of the value of conservation and the benefits that it can generate. I appreciate using a development approach to achieving conservation goals.



Piano Jantar

Ecosystem integrity program officer

I have worked in the Gorongosa Park for 11 years and my main role is to collaborate with communities in the Buffer Zone as a negotiator and conservationist. Through dialogue and conflict resolution, I have persuaded many families living in the Park to re-settle voluntarily in the Buffer Zone, where they have access to clean water, education services and agricultural development programs.

At present I lead an inter-departmental program focused on fostering human-wildlife co-existence along the Pungue River. My team and I construct community silos and help implement a beehive elephant fence to prevent elephant raids on food stocks.

I was also on the frontlines during the early days post-Cyclone Idai, during which we provided emergency assistance to the Park's neighboring communities devastated by the storm.



Dadiva David Salomão

Tourism guide

Hello! I am Dadiva David Salomão, 18 years old and from the Nhamatanda district of Sofala province. Although I don't have much formal training, I have participated in several educational programs ranging from HIV/AIDS education and gender facilitation, the mathematics Olympiad in the district phase and a literacy program to teach the elderly to read and write.

While in Grade 11, I had the privilege of participating in a youth seminar on conservation biology promoted by the scientific department of Gorongosa National Park. In 2018, I took part in a program 'The girl in school', and with all that I learned, I designed my own projects related to sexual harassment in schools, drug abuse and other topics.

In March this year, as I couldn't afford to attend university, I joined Turismo da Gorongosa and am enrolled in the tourist guide course. I want to become a safari guide and work in the Park to share what I have learned. I am working very hard to improve my English and the knowledge I need to be a top guide.



Francisco Santos Samacho

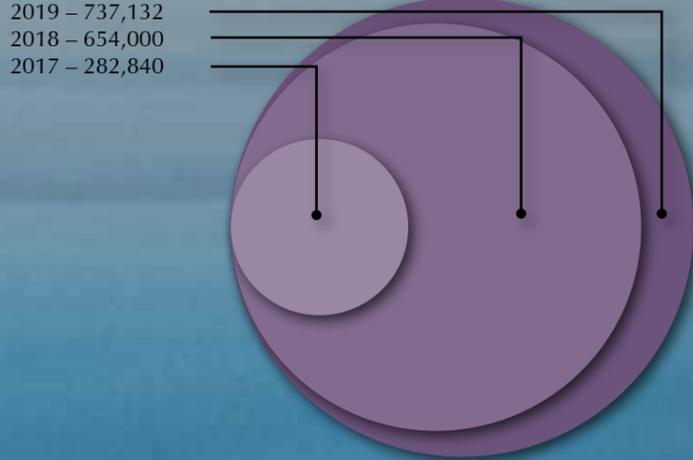
Nhambita natural resources management committee

I am President of the Natural Resources Management Committee (NRMC) of Nhambita community and live near the main entrance of Chitengo. My mission is to lead the process of management, conservation and protection of the natural resources in my community around the Park, with the focus on community members' mobilization against poaching, uncontrolled fires, illegal logging, and land management among others. I am part of the horticulture group, with technical assistance from Gorongosa National Park community relations and agriculture sectors, where I integrate conservation agricultural practices and environmental management.

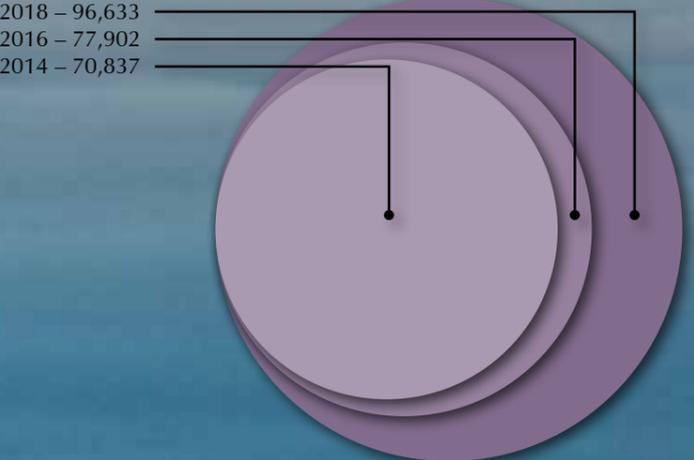
Every year, my community receives 20 per cent of the Park revenues from tourism activities as recognition of its contribution to the conservation objectives of the Park and as custodians of its natural resources. I facilitate the community planning process, which is very important for the sustainable development of the community. I am passionate about my work on sustainable development and encourage young people (men and women) to be part of the committee and other social groups in the community.

Performance indicators

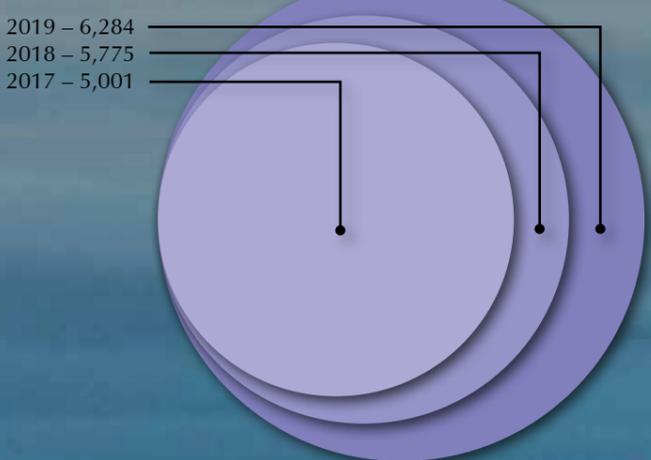
1. Income from ecotourism in US\$



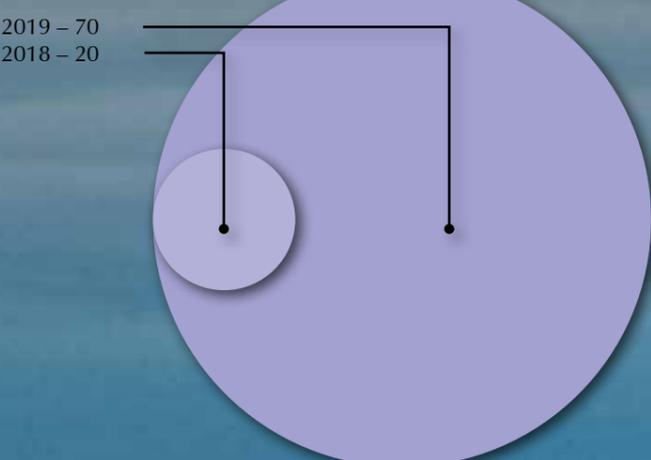
2. Ecology – comparison of wildlife (herbivore) counts



3. Number of species documented in Gorongosa National Park



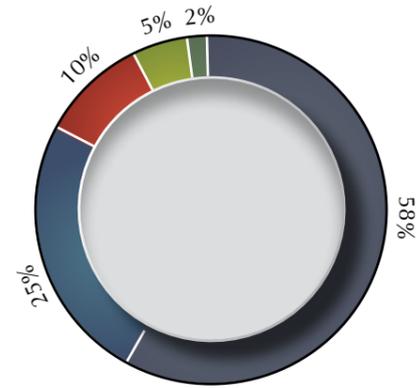
4. Number of farmers selling coffee beans



Finances

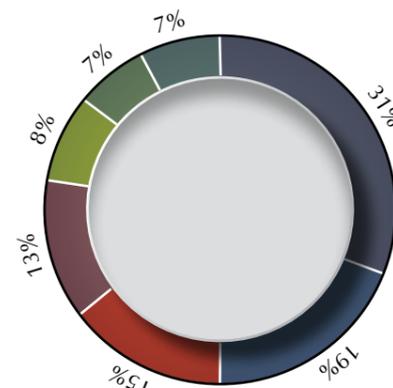
Income and Expenditure

2019 Revenue US \$



Foundations, philanthropy, donations	\$ 7,882,488
Bi-/multi-lateral cooperation partners	\$ 3,352,351
Cyclone relief (Idai)	\$ 1,380,545
Tourism income	\$ 737,132
Gorongosa Business Club	\$ 215,977
Total	\$13,568,494

2019 Expenses US \$



Operations	\$ 4,206,414
Conservation	\$ 2,577,397
Cyclone relief	\$ 1,991,517
Human development	\$ 1,780,009
Agriculture	\$ 1,102,544
Science	\$ 961,360
Tourism & Communications	\$ 884,848
Total	\$13,504,087



Parque Nacional da Gorongosa

How to engage

There are many ways in which you can support the work of the Gorongosa team.

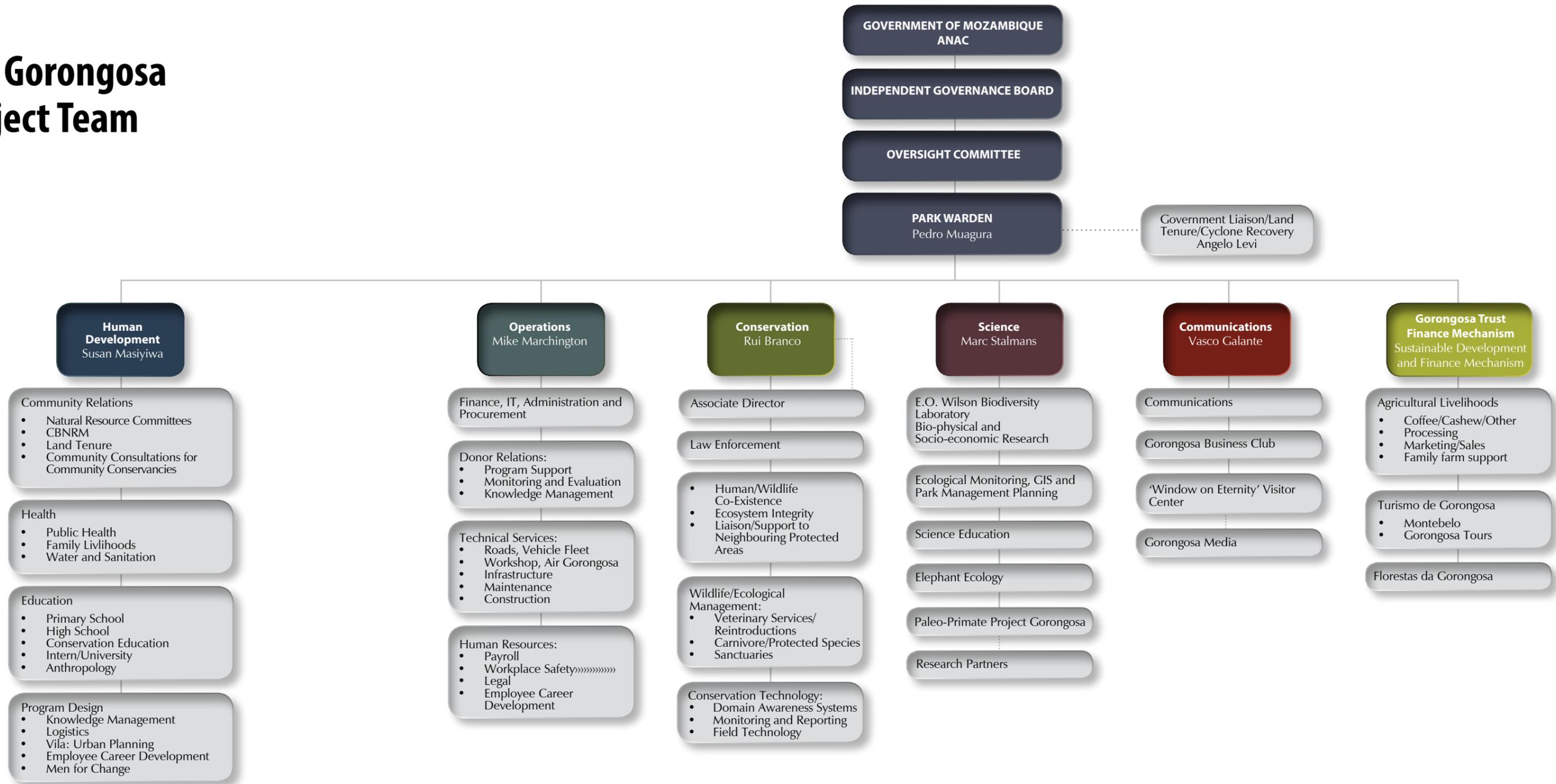
Please contact us if you are willing to contribute.

contact@gorongosa.net





The Gorongosa Project Team





Parque Nacional da Gorongosa

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PARTNERS



and supported by many more – THANK YOU!