



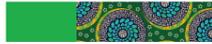
Parque Nacional da  
**Gorongosa**

2020

[www.gorongosa.org](http://www.gorongosa.org)

Our Gorongosa – Together we create **real impact**

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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 well-being for its people, enriching all of Mozambique and the world.

## Mission

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

We achieve this by:

- Protecting our ecosystems and 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 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.

# Message from Gorongosa Park Warden

## Pedro Muagura

The Gorongosa Project is unique in its mission to deliver world-class conservation and promote human development for the approximately 200,000 people living in the designated Gorongosa Park Buffer Zone and protect the Park's biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife through a professional conservation team equipped with cutting-edge technology.

Our goals are to:

- Promote sound land and water-use planning and management based on world-class science, and to enhance the growth of a new generation of Mozambican scientists
- Provide human development services in health and education with an emphasis on gender equality; to coach and encourage men to be more supportive fathers and spouses
- Provide conservation education to local communities and help neighbouring rural communities gain access to reliable and clean water
- Support capacity building in self-governance by traditional communities thus enabling the building of climate-resilient community infrastructure
- Create economic benefits from sustainable natural resource use — including eco-tourism, forestry and agricultural products — and facilitate access to the market value chain for farm families
- Using the latest information technology, measure and evaluate the results of interventions linking outputs to desired outcomes
- Use adaptive management to improve service delivery by managing financial resources efficiently and providing timely reports to stakeholders
- Share knowledge (policy and practice) of the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals throughout Mozambique and beyond.
- Share the lessons learned and the successful components of the Gorongosa Project model of integrated conservation and development.

“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



This mission gains greater importance because the Project contributes to lasting peace in the region in the wake of the Peace Accord signed on August 6, 2019 between the Government of Mozambique and the opposition party, Renamo.

Over the next 30 years, we hope to lift every family in the Gorongosa Buffer Zone out of poverty. This means developing larger farms with some mechanization, and increasing access to markets. Associated service industries, factories and construction will expand employment opportunities. In turn, this development process may be the seed from which grow investment and planning into clean, green communities that attract people from under-served rural areas. Gorongosa National Park, together with its affiliated for-profit companies, is the economic engine that will drive this positive change.

Pedro Muagura



# In focus

## Notable events

### Slowing the spread of COVID-19

Corongosa Park healthcare staff deliver health care services to more than 100,000 people living near Corongosa National Park.

This year the team is working non-stop with local communities to fight the spread of COVID-19. As soon as the state of emergency was declared, programs that typically involve large congregations of people – such as mobile brigade health services and training beneficiaries – were interrupted or canceled and gave way to information work for the prevention of COVID. About 28,000 people were reached.

Volunteers are working with healthcare staff to increase access to clean drinking water, improve sanitation, and teach thorough hand-washing techniques by organizing and serving on community WaSH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) teams. These teams are stationed at boreholes, and equipped with hand-washing materials and other resources designed to prevent the spread of the virus. More than 30,000 masks and other prevention materials, such as hand sanitizer, soap, buckets, and detergents were distributed.

COVID-19 is a serious threat to the people living in the Corongosa National Park Buffer Zone, especially in communities with limited health systems.



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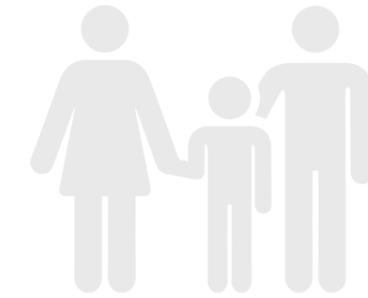
### Health and sanitation

There are 28 health posts and one hospital located within the Park Buffer Zone. The Corongosa Project supports the district governments in delivering health services, and collaborates with the district capitals as their primary service supporters and partners. Approximately 370 community healthcare staff conduct 24 mobile clinic sessions monthly throughout the Buffer Zone. Community members play an important part in the programs, with 127 Matronas/Traditional Birth Assistants (TBAs), 159 Model Moms (MOMs) and 84 Agentes Polivalentes Elementares (APEs / Community Health Workers). Model Moms supply health information to young mothers.

### Going global with Corongosa Coffee

Local coffee farmers harvested 6,000 kilograms of green coffee beans in 2020. More than 500 local families are now growing coffee. The coffee project has created 200 additional jobs. Corongosa coffee farmers planted over 300,000 coffee trees in 2020, a tenfold increase from previous years.

Online sales of Our Corongosa coffee started in the U.S. and Mozambique and are now underway in Europe and the U.K. The Our Corongosa coffee brand brings the voices of farmers and the stories of Corongosa National Park to the whole world, through a unique specialty coffee offerings. Nespresso, a global leader in specialty, is partnering with Our Corongosa as part of its “Reviving Origins” program. One hundred percent of all profits support education, wildlife conservation and rainforest restoration.



“Communities and countries, and ultimately the world, are only as strong as the health of their women.”

Michelle Obama

### Twelve masters degree graduates in conservation biology

Ensuring everyone is included in Park-led programs is at the heart of our education and human development initiatives. Twelve Mozambican students completed their M.Sc. theses in 2019 and graduated from our two-year Gorongosa Park M.Sc. in Conservation Biology program in February, 2020. A second group of 12 new students began their studies in April 2020.

### Education

There are 110 primary schools and six secondary schools in the current Buffer Zone, and several distance-learning education centers. The Gorongosa Project works directly with 50 primary schools and six secondary schools with youth clubs, and plans to increase the number of after-school clubs established in these schools. Our goal over the next five years is to expand the clubs and programs to all 110 schools in the current Buffer Zone, and to additional schools in the expanded Buffer Zone.

In addition to after-school programs for children, we are supporting teachers to improve their capacity by launching the teachers' club this year with the support of the European Union. Our goal, through these clubs and by working with local education officials, is to improve the educational experience of nearly 40,000 children. One of our partners, USAID, have pledged \$9 million and the Carr Foundation will match this value, and they are both committed to building or rehabilitating approximately 40 schools over the next 5-7 years in the Park Buffer Zone, as well as health clinics and public libraries in the municipalities. The construction or rehabilitation of these social infrastructure units will comply with safety standards and building codes to withstand the most common natural hazard in the Park's Buffer Zone and provide safe haven spaces to community members during an emergency.

### Youth clubs academic marathons

The Gorongosa National Park Youth Clubs program held an award ceremony for students who won the Academic Marathons of General Secondary Schools. Participating schools include Eduardo Mondlane, Cristo Rei and Nelson Mandela in the District of Gorongosa, and the winners of the districts of Nhamatanda and Cheringoma. The Youth Clubs are supported by the EU and its purpose is to improve youth knowledge of post-secondary school career options and encourage them to invest in self-employment activities (entrepreneurship) by providing technical skills to assist them to launch their own income generation projects such as tailoring, retailing of goods, poultry farming, animal breeding, vegetable farming, carpentry, cooking and welding. The Youth Clubs also provide talks on sexual reproductive health, human rights, citizenship and biodiversity conservation.

“The Academic Marathons in secondary schools aim to stimulate in students a passion for reading and writing, to involve students in academic activities during social distancing and allows them to explore and enrich their knowledge of conservation and the environment.”



© Ivan Zacarias

### Girls' clubs foundation learning

Education materials were produced for the Girls' Clubs this past year were designed to support a range of foundation learning skills such as literacy, numeracy, hand-eye coordination, memory, visual completion, communication and social skills. The materials also create a chance for the girls to learn about wildlife and career opportunities resulting from education. Produced in units of 1,000, the materials enable extensive outreach.

### Gorongosa National Park turns 60 years old

July 23, 2020 marked the 60th birthday of Mozambique's flagship national park, Gorongosa. The official ceremony featured just 20 guests due to the pandemic, and one of them was the President of Mozambique, Filipe Nyusi. At the birthday party we reported to the President that the Park's restoration efforts increased the number of large mammal survivors of the extended war from a few to over 100,000. They share the Park with over 6,300 other species of smaller animals and plants recorded so far and which continues to rise.

As a wonderful birthday present, our lead donor, Greg Carr, also at the party, pledged that he and our other donor-partners (including the USAID) will build 40 primary schools in communities surrounding Gorongosa.



### Protecting the most trafficked wildlife species

Gorongosa established the nation's first pangolin rescue facility and pioneered veterinary care and rehabilitation of the species in Mozambique. Chipanipani is a pangolin, who came to the Park as a baby rescued from traffickers. Gorongosa Rangers served as caretakers and carefully raised Chipanipani until he could be returned to the wild. To date, 40 pangolins have been rescued and returned to the wild.

### Painted wolves

Predator-prey relationships are key factors in protected area management. Painted wolves (also known as mabecos, Cape hunting dog or African wild dog), are some of the Park's most important apex predators. With perhaps as few as 6,000-7,000 remaining, painted wolves are Africa's second most endangered carnivore after the Ethiopian wolf. The project initially relocated a pack of 14 painted wolves in 2018 and then 15 more in 2019. With the addition of more than 50 pups in 2020, Gorongosa Park's painted wolf population has grown to 85.

### Leopard re-introduction

Thanks to a long-term partnership with WildlifeVets-SA and Mpumulanga Parks and Tourism Agency in South Africa, this November our first female leopard was translocated to Gorongosa and released close to the known range of a male first discovered in the Park in 2018. The male's tracks are sometimes seen on the "picadas" close to Chitengo and he is still "captured" on camera traps in the area. Our new arrival settled in to her new N'dhikhua (palm) forest quickly and within 36 hours she had successfully hunted a male impala. Our carnivore team will track her closely over the next year as we eagerly anticipate the meet up with her male counterpart.



© Piotr Naskrecki



© Piotr Naskrecki

### "Montane to Mangrove" by Ken Tinley

The late 1960s saw the first comprehensive scientific studies of the Park, led by Kenneth Tinley, a South African ecologist. In the first-ever aerial survey, Tinley and his team counted about 200 lions, 2,200 elephants, 14,000 buffalo, 5,500 wildebeest, 3,000 zebra, 3,500 waterbuck, 2,000 impala, 3,500 hippo, and herds of eland, sable and hartebeest numbering more than 500.

Tinley also discovered that many people, and most of the wildlife living in and around the Park, depended on one river, the Vunduzi, which originates on the slopes of nearby Mount Gorongosa. Because the mountain was outside of the Park's boundaries, Tinley proposed expanding the Park to include the mountain as a key element in a "Greater Gorongosa" ecosystem of about 8,200 square kilometers. In 1977 Tinley published his D.Sc. thesis, "Framework of the Gorongosa Ecosystem" and in 2020 the Gorongosa Project made it available to all in a beautiful book format entitled "Montane to Mangrove".



### 2020 Aerial Wildlife Survey

During November 2020, our experienced team conducted an aerial wildlife count of the Park. Nearly 90 000 animals were recorded in the survey area that covered 60% of the Park. This included the highest number of elephant (781), blue wildebeest (815), hippo (766) and buffalo (1 221) ever counted since the restoration of the Park began. Waterbuck are lower in number which suggests that the Park is entering a new phase in its restoration with a trend towards less animals of a smaller body size in favour of more larger animals. This would reflect the historical picture as documented in the 1960's and 1970's.



### Our Gorongosa — A Park for the People

Our Gorongosa – A Park for the People is an award-winning film produced by Gorongosa Media and Howard Hughes Medical Institute’s Tangled Bank Studios which highlights the importance of girls’ education and the benefits of linking conservation and human development. This year Our Gorongosa was shown at film festivals around the world, including Jackson Wild (winner); Silbersalz Science & Media Film Festival ( finalist); the Friday Harbor Film Festival (winner); WildScreen; Wild and Scenic Film Festival; the Women Deliver 2000 Conference Film Festival; Portland EcoFilm Festival; American Black Film Festival; International Black Film Festival; African Diaspora Cinema Festival; DocUtah, La Femme International Film Festival; the Social Justice Film Festival; PanAfrican Cannes Film Festival; Rotterdam Wildlife Film Festival; St. Louis International Film Festival; WRPN Women’s International Film Festival; the Nature; Environment and Wildlife Filmmakers (NEWF) Congress; Finisterra Arrábida Film Art & Tourism Festival and ART&TUR Festival Internacional de Cinema de Turismo. “Our Gorongosa — a Park for the People” also aired on Idaho Public Television and on national television in Mozambique, and is now available for live streaming viewing on the Park’s website.

### CNN — Inside Africa visited Gorongosa National Park

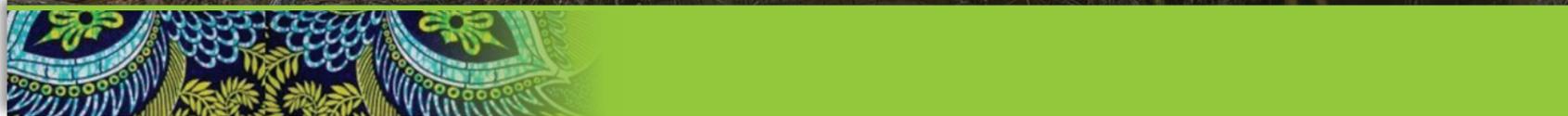
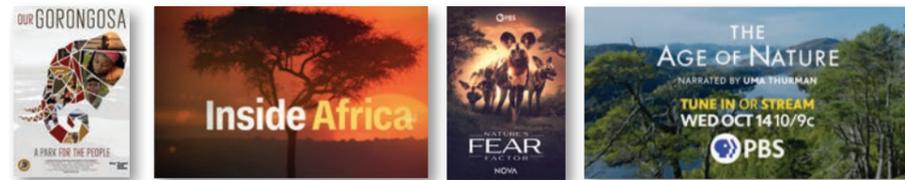
CNN — “Inside Africa” visited Gorongosa National Park and showcased the Park’s efforts to give the vulnerable people who live next to Gorongosa Park a chance to realize their dreams. Viewers all over the world saw and heard Mozambican women and men tell their stories.

### NOVA featured Gorongosa’s painted wolves on PBS

NOVA, aired by PBS, is the most watched prime-time science series on television in the USA, reaching an average of five million viewers each week. “Nature’s Fear Factor” — an HHMI Tangled Bank Studios production — featured the reintroduction of painted wolves to Gorongosa National Park and made its Fall premiere on NOVA on October 14th. NOVA joined a team of Gorongosa scientists as they reintroduced a top predator to the Park in an effort to restore balance to an entire ecosystem decimated by war. You can watch this broadcast on YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/y3aj7g98>

### PBS — The Age of Nature series features Gorongosa National Park

The resurrection and restoration of Gorongosa National Park is featured in “The Age of Nature”, a three-part BBC / PBS documentary series exploring how increased awareness of the natural world is leading to a new chapter for both humanity and the planet. Gorongosa Park is shown in “Awakening” — the first of three episodes which aired on October 14th — as an example of an ecosystem, that given the right support, has the ability to repair itself in the wake of civil war and widespread poaching. The program can be viewed at <https://www.pbs.org/show/age-nature>, however it is currently geo-blocked to US viewers.



### Park Warden Pedro Muagura received the IUCN Kenton Miller award

Gorongosa Park Warden, Pedro Muagura, received the Dr. Kenton Miller Award for taking bold steps to help preserve protected areas and natural treasures like Gorongosa National Park.

According to the IUCN news release, Mr. Muagura represents “. . . a beacon of hope in regions which have had a turbulent history, affecting both humans and nature in profound ways over the past decades.”

Pedro Muagura’s efforts to address the loss of rainforest in Gorongosa National Park following the devastating impacts of civil war on biodiversity, and to improve the livelihoods of local farmers, are pioneering in their approach and impact. Faced with the specter of ongoing deforestation, loss of biodiversity, and the struggle for subsistence by local farmers following the 15-year-long civil war, Park Warden Muagura came up with the idea of growing coffee on deforested mountainsides. He proposed the coffee could be shade-grown, beneath replanted native trees, giving local people an income while also restoring the forest.



## New bat species named after renowned biologist

### E.O. Wilson

A new bat species, *Miniopterus wilsoni*, named for the renowned biologist and ardent supporter of biodiversity conservation, Prof. E.O. Wilson, has been discovered on Mount Gorongosa and in the mountains of central and northern Mozambique, and southern Malawi.

“We’re thrilled to add a new bat species to the checklist for Mozambique,” says Piotr Naskrecki, Director of Gorongosa’s E.O. Wilson Lab and one of the study’s co-authors. “It’s not often that new mammal species are described anymore, but genetic methods are revolutionizing taxonomy and allowing us to unearth a whole host of species that are often difficult to distinguish based on their morphology alone.”

## New paleontology laboratory houses Park fossils

Gorongosa Park’s new paleontology lab houses fossils discovered inside the Park and serves as a teaching hub within reach of excavation sites for groups such as the Oxford-Gorongosa Field School.

The Park’s most recent fossil inventory includes about 730 specimens from species including ancestral elephants, bushpigs, primates, sharks, turtles, crocodiles, snails, clams and crabs.

Ivete Maibaze, Minister of Land and Environment of Mozambique, helped inaugurate Gorongosa Park’s new Paleontology Laboratory on August 2, 2020. The facility is an expansion of the E.O. Wilson Biodiversity Laboratory, inaugurated in 2014.



© Piotr Naskrecki

© Elephant voices

## Elephant Project

The elephant population in Gorongosa National Park (GNP) crashed from 2,500 to less than 250 individuals as a result of Mozambique’s civil war. Since the inception of the Gorongosa Project (GP), increased protection of the Park has led to a remarkably fast recovery. The Park’s elephant population now numbers about 800 individual animals. This conservation achievement is complicated by the fact that 200,000 people live around the Park, and agricultural areas have expanded. Human-elephant conflict (HEC) has therefore intensified, resulting in crop destruction by elephants.

Presently, Gorongosa’s elephants use only 10% of their historical range. Although restricted, this range borders an area with a high degree of human settlement and agriculture and poses a risk to people’s food and economic security while putting elephants at greater risk of retaliation and illegal hunting. IUCN recognises that human-elephant conflict is a complex and pervasive problem wherever people and elephants share the same habitat — and often resources — a long-term threat to elephant survival.

In a landscape shared between people and elephants, elephant conservation and the maintenance of elephants’ critical roles in ecosystem functioning will only be possible with knowledge of elephant behaviour, ecology and the dynamics of human- elephant conflict. People’s willingness to coexist with elephants is essential. If co-existence between people and elephants is to be sustainable, it will need to be adaptive. Gorongosa Park’s Elephant Ecology Project responds to these needs by studying elephants across the human-shared landscape and training community collaborators in the IUCN adapted protocols.

Dominique Gonçalves, manages the Elephant Ecology Project, as part of her Ph.D. research, and has received widespread recognition through her participation in a wide range of workshops and presentations. She was recently nominated as a candidate for the UCLA Pritzker Emerging Environmental Genius Award for many of her recent achievements which include:

- Expanding research activity to the Zambeze sector
- Setting up 50 trail cameras in Coutada 12 to monitor elephant population size, structure and habitat use.

## Bees for elephants — turning human / wildlife conflict into coexistence

Beehive fences are generating a high level of interest and acceptance among farmers in Africa and Asia as a way of protecting local villagers and their crops from elephants and minimizing human–elephant conflict. Beehive fences capitalize on elephants’ fear of African honeybees, and hives distributed along fence lines are a natural deterrent.

Beehive fences and elephant-proof silos are key to the Park’s elephant and human coexistence initiative.





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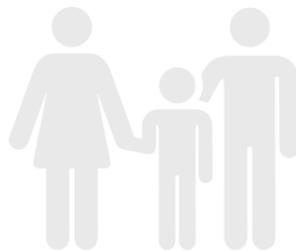


## Income generation for peace and prosperity

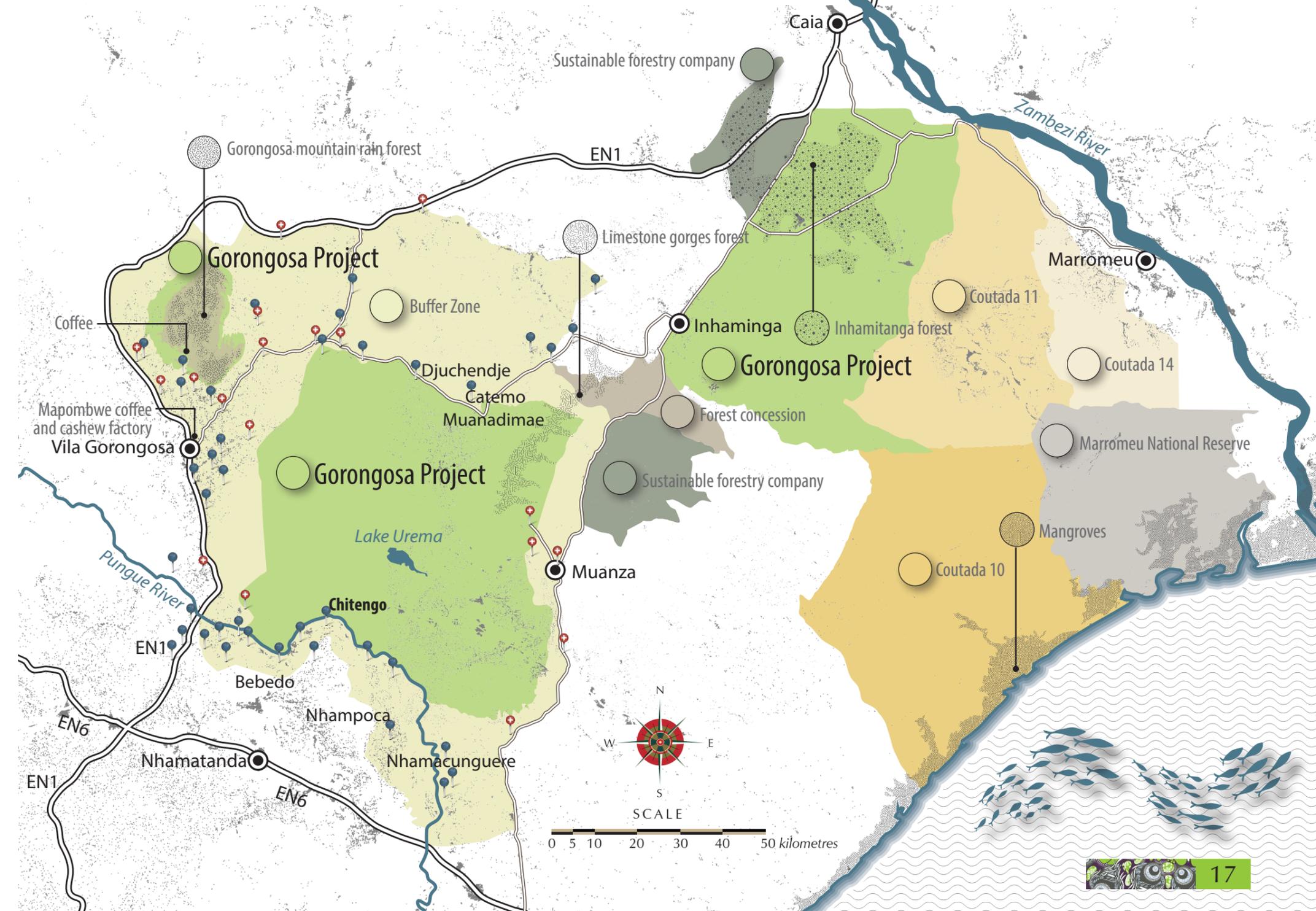
The Gorongosa Project seeks to lift northern Sofala Province out of poverty through creation and support of employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. The Gorongosa Trust holds the shares of for-profit companies that return all profits to the Project. Our development strategy is to create a green economy around Gorongosa National Park based upon a healthy and intact ecosystem.

The Gorongosa Project employs more than 700 permanent staff and about 400 seasonal staff. In addition there are over 1,000 community volunteers who earn livelihood contributions in exchange for their help with our programs. Our tourism partner, Montebelo, employs most of its staff from communities in the Buffer Zone. These programs and projects make the Gorongosa Project and its affiliated companies the largest employer in the region.

Ecotourism is a keystone, but coffee, cashews, fruit and honey initiatives are just as vital to the local economy. These projects are supported by processing plants built by the Gorongosa Project. The combined diverse disciplines of philanthropy and profit-seeking enterprise are responsible for the success of these initiatives.



Legend	
Gorongosa Project	
Buffer Zone	
Households	
Girls' clubs	
Health interventions	
District capital	



# Peace process

On August 1, 2019, at a meeting in Gorongosa National Park, the Government of Mozambique and the opposition party RENAMO signed a permanent cessation of hostilities agreement in Gorongosa National Park. President Nyusi referred to Gorongosa as a "Peace Park". Gorongosa National Park has long been seen as both a symbol and a realization of the opportunity for peace in Mozambique. The Park employs members of both parties who work together in harmony. RENAMO used Mount Gorongosa as its military headquarters, but through the entire conflict they allowed Gorongosa Park employees access to the mountain and surrounding areas for humanitarian purposes. Indeed, people wearing the Gorongosa Park logo could pass through a government military roadblock and a RENAMO roadblock without incident. The Gorongosa Project was the only organization able to do that. Even the Red Cross relied upon Gorongosa Park to deliver humanitarian support to the areas of conflict. Now that the peace agreement has been signed, the parties have moved to a formal disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process.

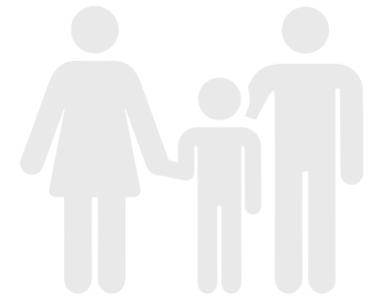
The two parties have engaged a Peace Secretariat and a Military Affairs Commission to implement the process. The Peace Secretariat has asked the Gorongosa Project to take a leading role in the reintegration of ex-combatants in Sofala Province. The Project has offered to include former combatants and their families into GRP livelihoods, education and health programs, once they complete their disarmament and demobilization process. We are confident that self-employment for these people will support the goal of lasting peace.



LEFT: Pedro Muagura greets Mozambique President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, for the signing of a cessation of hostilities accord at Gorongosa National Park, Thursday, August 1, 2019.

Former combatants and their family members will be included in the coffee, cashew and construction activities. The Carr Foundation and its partners are strengthening ties to invest in the construction or rehabilitation of resilient social infrastructure units in the Buffer Zone of Gorongosa Park. That construction activity will pave the way to generate revenues for hundreds of former combatants and host communities.

We are developing Peace Clubs to conduct meetings and facilitate dialogues with ex-combatants and host communities in a "safe environment". The clubs encourage dialogues and share messages about citizenship, social inclusion and respect for diversity through adult literacy exercises. The activities are facilitated by a "peace promoter", a person with literacy skills who is also trained on reconciliation and conflict resolution. The Peace Club program also encourages their members to envision a better and viable future in civilian life through access to new opportunities for income generation and self-employment.



"Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures."

John F. Kennedy

# Development goals

## Gorongosa Project

The Gorongosa Project recognize that environmental conservation, especially in Africa, is possible only through the socio-economic community development and a way out of poverty. To this end the Project has formulated a series of goals:

- Improve the capacity of the Gorongosa Project to preserve, protect and manage the diverse ecosystems within the Park, and, if the mandate is added by the Government of Mozambique, the Marromeu Reserve. Biologists acknowledge that the greater Gorongosa region is one of the most biodiverse areas in the world
- Increase the scientific understanding and management decision-making of the greater Gorongosa region's diverse ecosystems — freshwater catchments, terrestrial and marine biomes, sustainable agricultural areas and sustainably harvested forests — to maximize both long-term biodiversity and sustainable land use in order to create a green economy that lifts the region's communities out of poverty
- Provide improved delivery and access to health care services and improved education, both in-class and after-school, support civic education for local participation in community planning and disaster resilience in collaboration with the respective Mozambican ministries. In all of these we have a strong focus on expanding girls' and women's participation and leadership opportunities
- Assist balanced urban growth of the towns surrounding the Park's boundaries and construct/rehabilitate safe haven schools, health clinics and public libraries. We encourage the employment of community members and they are also empowered and encouraged to participate in the planning of their town in collaboration with the local authorities. The traditional knowledge practices are also considered in the whole process. All of these initiatives are aligned with the priorities of district governments. In addition, the GRP and the Mayor of Vila Gorongosa signed a MOU where these initiatives will be piloted. Both Gorongosa Project and Vila Gorongosa want to build and put into practice the concept of a Model Village for the Mozambican context.
- Drive sustainable economic development for the women and men who live in Gorongosa Park's 600,000 hectare (soon to be expanded) Buffer Zone. We support small-scale farming, commercial agriculture, employment in agricultural processing factories, eco-tourism and employment in construction. A variety of Park employment opportunities exist in forestry, science, administration and conservation
- Become a data-led organization providing operational, technical service ,and financial oversight and controls to all Project departments. The Project will implement monitoring, evaluation and learning processes (MEL) to provide feedback to Project management, the Government of Mozambique, and all Project stakeholders.
- Create local, national and international education and advocacy for the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and in particular, the Gorongosa model of integrated conservation and development, which addresses all 17 goals. Contributing to these goals are the creation of films, television programs, short videos, web sites and social media in multiple languages as a means of widely disseminating Project knowledge.

“The great challenge of the twenty-first century is to raise people everywhere to a decent standard of living while preserving as much of the rest of life as possible.”



# Implementing partners

The Gorongosa Project works with the Government of Mozambique ministries of Land and Environment; Health; Education and Human Development; Agriculture and Rural Development; Culture and Tourism, and the Sofala provincial and district directorates of each of these ministries. We work with traditional leaders in community “regulados” (a traditional governance structure) through Natural Resource Committees.

The Gorongosa Project receives advice from stakeholder partners such as USAID, Irish Aid, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UN-Habitat, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) and more. The Project engages in research with more than 30 universities around the world, including University Eduardo Mondlane, University Lurio, University of Lisbon, Oxford University and Princeton University.

Our programs are also supported by technology and advice from National Geographic, from ESRI - the foremost GIS company, and from Vulcan, Inc., a privately held philanthropy company with a strong focus on global environmental issues.



# Human rights park

## Gender equality and respect for traditional communities

The Gorongosa Project has a goal to ensure that 50% of our employees are women. We will achieve that objective prior to 2025.

Women perform most of the unpaid domestic labor in Sofala Province. Unconscious biases shape our understanding of who deserves to be hired, trained and promoted. Therefore, we make an extra effort to hire women. In recent years we hired and trained the first ever women rangers and tourism safari guides in the Park. At least half of our scientists and science students are women.

In the Buffer Zone, as described in the Human Development section, we work with the Government of Mozambique to improve access to health care for women by conducting after-school Girls' Clubs that help keep teenage girls in school and out of child marriage. In rural Mozambique, nearly half of all women have their first child before age 18. Only one in 10 young women graduate from secondary school. We are making progress in improving these statistics, in favor of healthier lives and greater opportunities for women.

To quote the worldwide campaign of "Girls' Rising": "When girls are valued and educated they become women who are healthier, have fewer children, earn more, stand up for their rights and educate their sons and daughters equally. Families thrive, communities, nations and the world are healthier, safer, and more prosperous". It is the best investment we can make.

Historically, national parks did not respect the rights and needs of the traditional communities that share the ecosystem — local communities bear the opportunity cost of not being able to utilize land in the Park for their farms. The project follows the advice of Nelson Mandela, who said in 1992.

"Our people are bound up with the future of our land. Our national renewal depends upon the way we treat our land, our water, our sources of energy, and the air we breathe."

Nelson Mandela



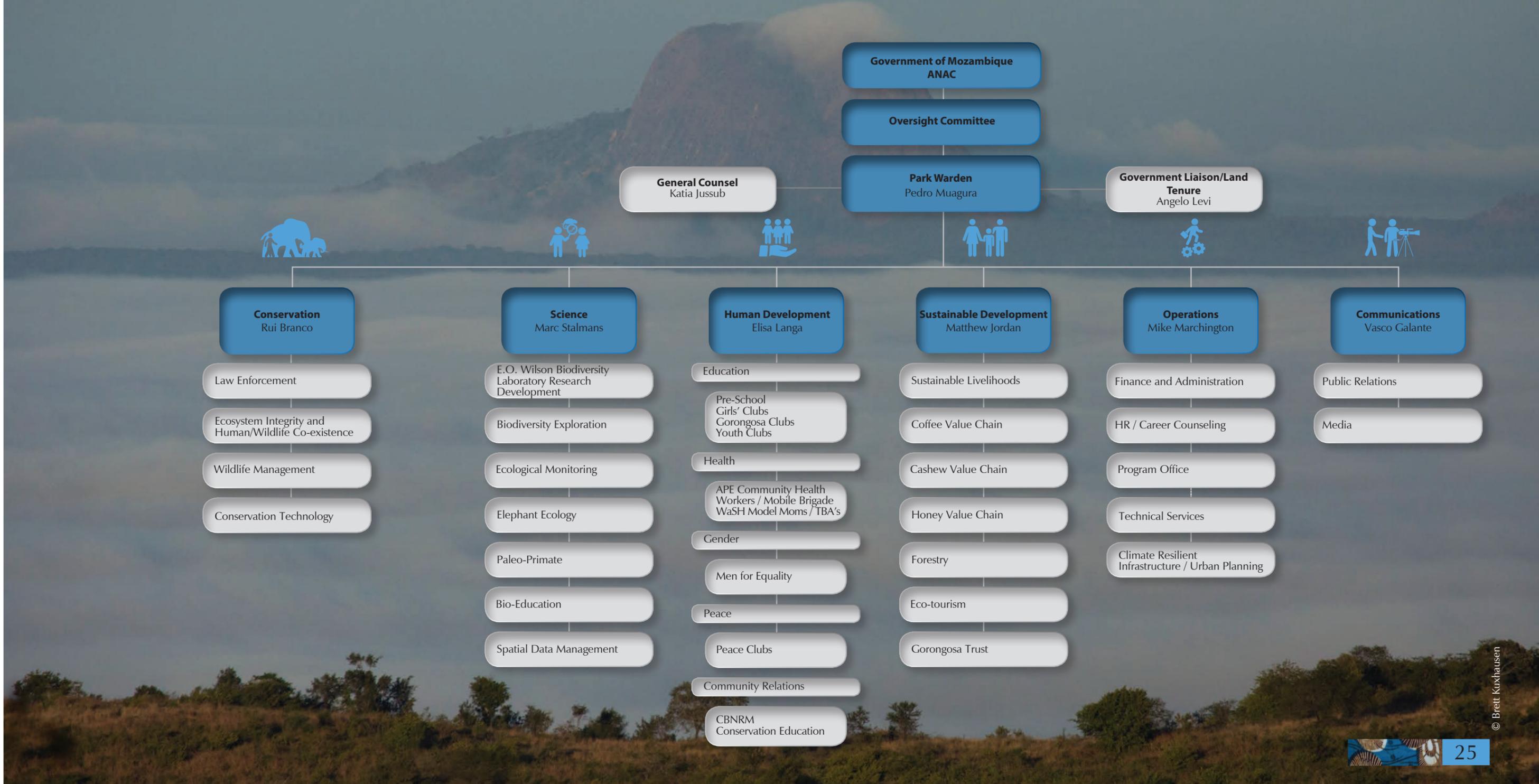
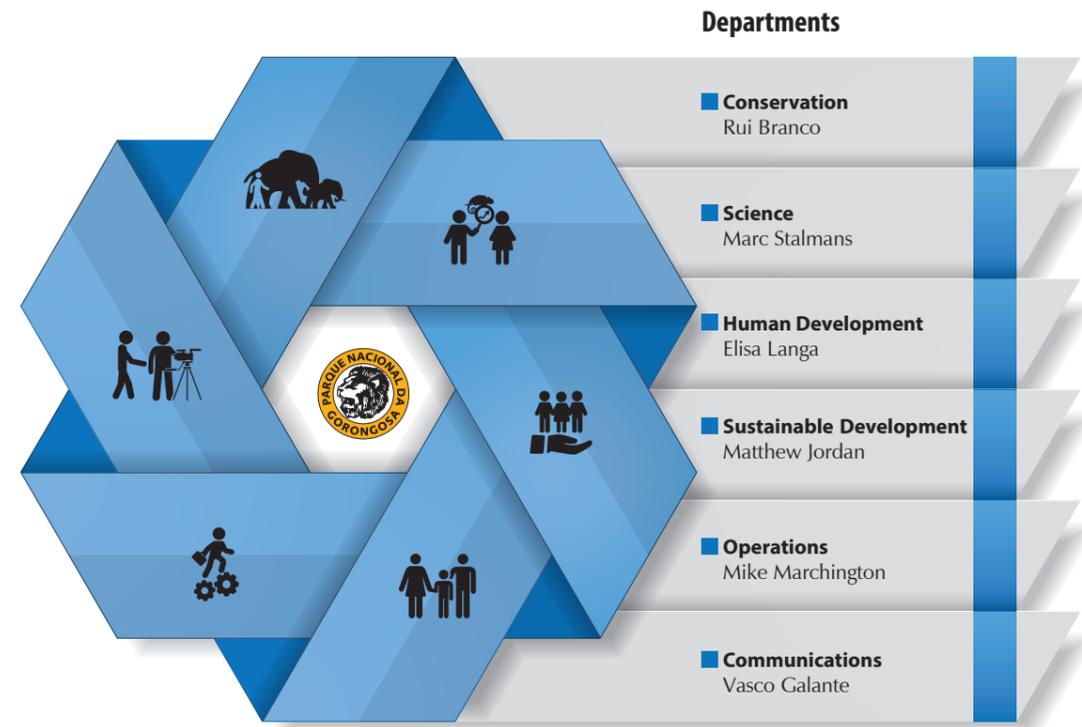
Gorongosa aims to be a human rights park, motivated by the words of Wangari Maathai, the renowned Kenyan social, environmental and political activist and the first African woman to win the Nobel Prize who said:

"I was inspired by a traditional African stool that has three legs and a basin to sit on. To me the three legs represent three critical pillars of just and stable societies. The first leg stands for democratic space, where rights are respected, whether they are human rights, women's rights, children's rights, or environmental rights. The second represents sustainable and equitable management and resources. And the third stands for cultures of peace that are deliberately cultivated within communities and nations. The basin, or seat, represents society and its prospects for development. Unless all three legs are in place, supporting the seat, no society can thrive."



# Programs and policies

The Gorongosa Project achieves its mission through 36 programs that fall within six departments. A program, led by a manager, has a mission, budget, activities, outputs, outcomes and impacts. The mission of each program is aligned with the policy of the Government of Mozambique at the national, provincial, district and local levels. The Park Warden is a position defined in Mozambican Law. The Warden connects the Project to the National Administration of Conservation Areas and attends their meetings. In that way, the Project is aligned with the policy of the Ministry of Land and Environment. At all levels of Government, we liaise with other ministries, amongst others, Education, Health and Agriculture as appropriate. The Project organigram shows a secretariat that supports the Park Warden to facilitate alignment of provincial, district and local government policies with Project objectives. We are in a co-management contract with the Government of Mozambique, so our goals are identical.



## Conservation Department

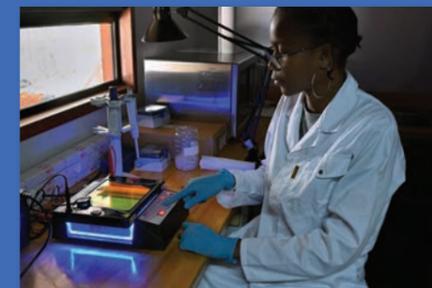
The Conservation Department oversees implementation of data-driven management actions across the protected wildlands and areas surrounding the Park. All programs in the Department — Law Enforcement, Wildlife Management, and, Ecosystem Integrity and Human-Wildlife Coexistence — are focused on strong, measurable outcomes that ensure the continued protection of Gorongosa Park's precious biodiversity.

Our core programs include:

- Law Enforcement — a 300-strong team of male and female Wildlife Rangers who serve across more than 12,000 km<sup>2</sup> of Gorongosa-Marromeu
- Wildlife Management; these teams are responsible for protected species monitoring and overseeing reintroductions of painted wolves, pangolins, leopards and other species
- Training of wildlife veterinarians, wildlife rangers, and engaging in conservation law training partnerships with attorneys, prosecutors and judicial members.
- Ecosystem Integrity and Human-Wildlife Coexistence teams oversee projects in partnership with communities and use beehive fences, elephant-proof silos and predator-proof bomas to reduce conflict with wildlife
- Conservation Technology — field-testing cutting-edge tools, and integrating multiple datasets across all our programs for real-time management of the Park using Vulcan's EarthRanger, and Tableau analytics.



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## Science Department

Science generates the information required for the long-term conservation of the greater Gorongosa-Marromeu landscape and the sustainable development of its Buffer Zone. Science per se does not immediately address threats to, and changes in, the landscape. However, without the right information and evaluation, the interventions by the other departments in the Project may not be properly defined or properly targeted, and their outcome and effectiveness will be unknown. Assumption-driven research and monitoring will enable the Project to adjust its actions.

Prior to the commencement of the Project's science activities in 2006, little was known about Gorongosa's biodiversity with the exception of the larger charismatic wildlife and birds. What was known about its ecological functioning was based on Ken Tinley's excellent landscape ecological study from the 1970's. Since then however, much has changed in this dynamic environment. Land use changes in the Buffer Zone have been profound, and new scientific tools, techniques and theories have become available.

The three main spheres of science activities in the Gorongosa Project are:

- Gathering knowledge
- Monitoring change
- Building Mozambican scientific capacity.

These spheres are implemented through seven major, interlinked and mutually-supporting science programs. Each program is realized through our own staff in partnership with a wide range of external researchers and institutions.

Thus far, the E.O. Wilson Biodiversity Laboratory in Chitengo is the physical facility and central hub through which the different science programs are being delivered. Considering the expanding activities of the Project across the broader landscape from Mount Gorongosa to the mangroves on the Indian Ocean coast, it will be important to establish additional satellite science facilities.



“One of the first conditions of happiness is that the link between man and nature shall not be broken.”

Leo Tolstoy



## Human Development Department

The Human Development Department oversees the implementation of programs that provide Buffer Zone communities with an opportunity to improve their wellbeing.

The Education Sector currently has three programs: Girls' Clubs (primary school), Teachers' Clubs (primary school) and Youth Clubs (secondary school). The project is creating the conditions necessary to launch the Gorongosa Park Clubs (primary school, mixed boys and girls and support for teachers) and preschool clubs during 2021. The clubs create safe spaces where school-age youth can learn and practice life skills, exercise leadership, improve their reading and writing abilities, realize their human rights, and increase their knowledge about biodiversity, conservation and local environmental issues. These programs also forestall girls from entering into child marriage and early pregnancy, and give them the opportunity to finish school.

The Health Sector has three programs:

- Community Health Workers/Mobile Brigades
- Water, sanitation and health (WaSH)
- Model Moms/Traditional Birth Assistants (TBA's).

These programs are implemented in collaboration with the Mozambican Ministry of Health. For example, the Mobile Brigade provides financial and logistical support to district health authorities to extend primary health care services to rural communities. The services offered include: treatment for common diseases (diarrhea, malaria, respiratory infections), testing for sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDs, family planning services (modern contraceptive methods and counselling), antenatal and postnatal care, vitamin A supplementation, growth monitoring, diagnostics, and other care and treatment as needed.

The third sector in the Human Development Department is Community Relations and it has two programs:

- Community-based Natural Resources Management
- Gender, and Conservation Education.

Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM), is a people-centered approach to tapping sustainable development and natural resource base conservation as ways to overcome poverty, hunger and disease. These activities recognize the interdependence of the environment and local communities, recognizing that all are part of the ecosystem. The close and trusting relationship that the Project Community Relations team has with the traditional communities allows them to engage in the discussion of attitude changes and practices related to the empowerment of girls and women. Women are always included in the Natural Resource Committees and in decision making.

The Conservation Education Program provides environmental education for the communities living in the Buffer Zone.



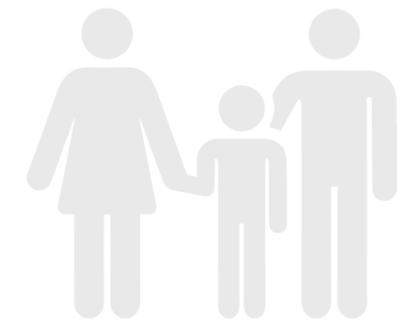
## Sustainable Development Department

The Gorongosa Project's Sustainable Development Department has two core missions: to create inclusive value chains, and to support livelihoods that restore and protect biodiversity.

The project is community driven including:

- Integrating local leaders in the planning process and day-to-day operations of the project
- Hiring key members of the community with an affinity for conservation and consensus building
- Coordinating project activities with community organizations and local governments to help bring critical services in natural resources management, education and health.

The individual programs are: Sustainable Livelihoods, Coffee, Cashew, Honey, Forestry, Eco-tourism and the Gorongosa Trust. The Gorongosa Trust is an environmental trust, established to finance the Gorongosa Project through self-generating revenue sources linked to sustainable economic opportunities in and around the Park. The revenue earned through Trust activities provides earned income to the Project. The Trust owns social enterprises anchored in three key sectors: livelihoods, forestry and eco-tourism.



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## Communications & Media Department

The Park Communications and Public Relations team provides a permanent window into activities of the Gorongosa Project through its website and social media pages — including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, and other sites, and by answering daily questions submitted to the website and from social media followers. It also encourages and provides support for the writing of books on tourism in Mozambique and Gorongosa.

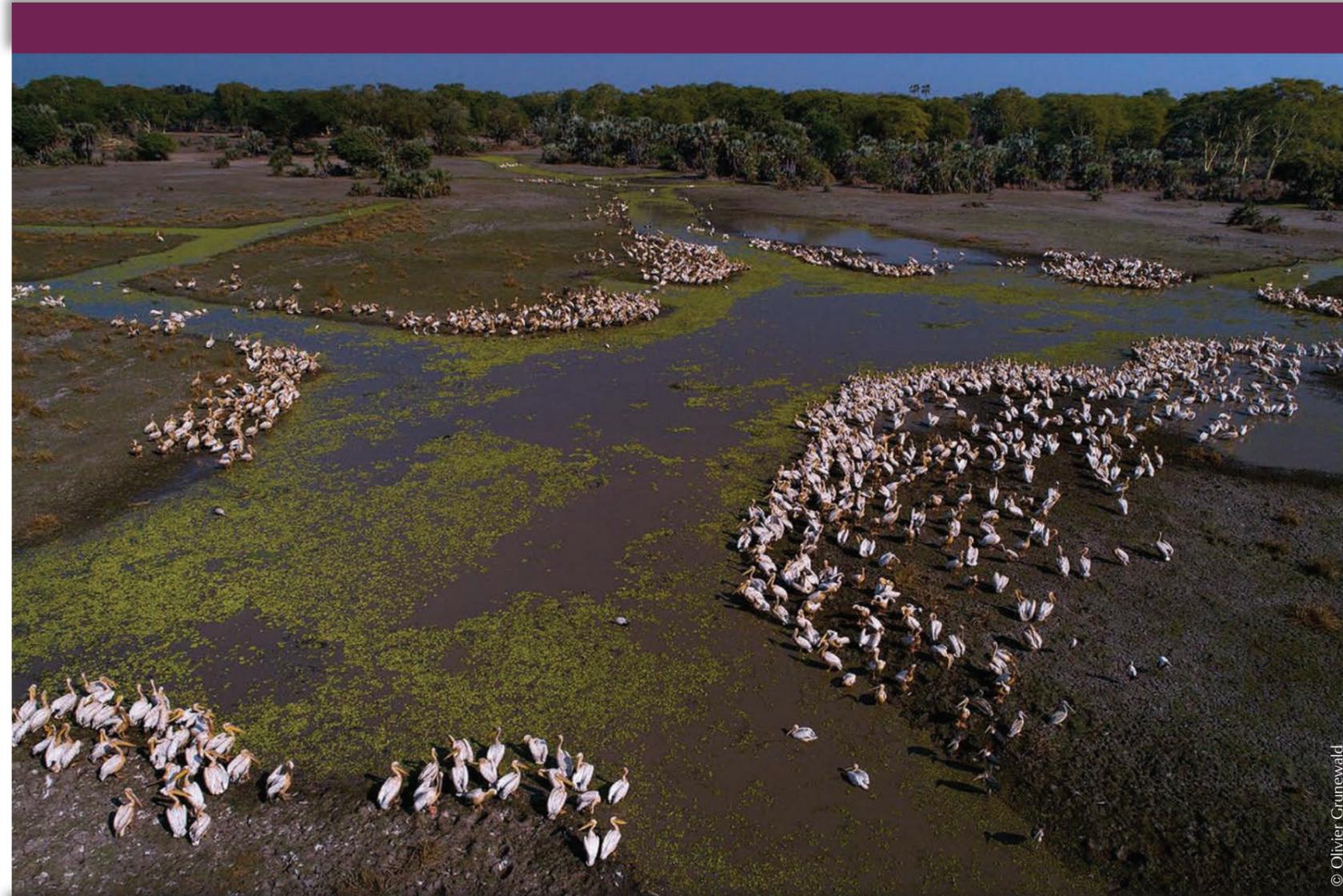
Every quarter this program contacts a sizable group of Gorongosa fans by sending them a bilingual newsletter and bilingual press releases about important achievements on science, conservation and human development events that take place, and press articles in prestigious international media outlets featuring Gorongosa National Park and Gorongosa Project activities.

In 2014, this program established the Gorongosa Business Club to secure funding for the Project from Mozambican private companies and to organize events in Maputo to update Club members about the Project activities.

The second program in the Communications Department is Gorongosa Media. This in-house film production company produces high-quality, educational, long-form and short-form films that promote public awareness of Gorongosa both around the world and within Mozambique. Gorongosa Media works with Park directors to define and communicate strategic messages through these award-winning films which are broadcast on television networks, streaming platforms, and social media.

The Gorongosa Project owns all the footage produced, and manages this material in an extensive video archive. This material is available for use, subject to certain conditions, by Project partners or external companies, enabling them to make their own films about Gorongosa. Our media department reviews, and where appropriate, approves all external film requests.

The Gorongosa Project works with numerous partners such as USAID, National Geographic, PBS Distribution, and HHMI Tangled Bank Studios.



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## Operations Department

The Operations Department provides all the supporting services necessary for the Gorongosa Project to achieve its business objectives, which include:

- Financial management — budgeting, accounting, financial reporting, compliance
- Provision of logistics, procurement and warehousing services for the organization
- Statutory compliance — Health and Safety, and Finance
- Fleet management — replacement, maintenance and management of vehicles, plant and equipment
- Program Office — establishing partnerships with bilateral and multilateral agencies, management of donor contributions, compliance with donor conditions, reporting, measuring impact over time, sharing experiences and communicating results for internal and external audiences
- Information technology — network infrastructure, software, internet and general computing services
- Infrastructure — maintenance of existing facilities and roads, construction of new accommodations, office space, community buildings and other infrastructure
- Human resource management — employee recruitment and retention, employee relations, benefits administration, payroll, employee training and development, compliance and safety, professional staff development
- Climate Resilient Infrastructure and Urban Planning — support and training to villages surrounding Gorongosa National Park on how to shift from disaster recovery to disaster preparedness by increasing their resilience and the capacity to deal with climate shocks through urban planning, rehabilitation or construction of safe-haven schools and other social infrastructure units
- Strategic planning that ensures adequate financial resources, operating assets, well-trained staff, professional financial and administrative systems, and short, medium and long-term plans that define the organization's operational requirements.



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# Profiles

## Elisa Langa

Director  
Human Development



## Olivia Felicio

Program Office  
Manager



## Alfredo Matavele

Ranger  
Pilot Aviator



## Gabriela Curtiz

Tourist Guide  
Undergraduate Student



## Ricardo José Guta

Science  
Research Technician



## Diolinda Mundoza

Undergraduate Science  
Student



My name is Elisa Langa, my vocation is teaching and so I trained as a teacher. I like to work with children and young people, which is very rewarding because in this way I can help people learn and strengthen their personality, so that they become individuals with values that society needs to develop. This is my personal mission. I taught for many years, worked at the Ministry of Education and then moved on to NGOs where I could continue to contribute to the development of education in Mozambique, through teacher training, support for girls' education programs, strengthening school management and in other areas. My biggest challenge was to facilitate processes that would improve the teaching and learning process, making students the center of learning. I worked at IBIS for 10 years, managing education programs, then I worked as a provincial manager of development projects at PLAN International. In 2019, I learned about Gorongosa National Park on TV and fell in love with the beautiful restoration work, which inspired me to visit the Park. I visited Gorongosa's website where I could better understand the Human Development projects, especially education, which is my passion. I applied for the position of director of the department and here I am, making my contribution and sharing my experience. Focusing on girls' education and women's empowerment, in addition to other goals, I hope to help alleviate poverty in communities and create sustainable development. I believe in the work that GNP is doing; I believe in change; I believe that every girl of ours can win; I believe in education!

My name is Olivia and I am Brazilian. I have a Bachelor's degree in International Relations and a Master's degree in Economics with a focus on Sustainable Development. I have made my career working on mitigation and adaptation to climate change through programs management in France, Brazil and Angola. I arrived in Mozambique shortly after cyclone Idai to support UNDP during the emergency response. Despite this devastating scenario, I found a lot of resilience and strength in Mozambicans and in the Gorongosa team. It is with this strength and energy that I joined the PNG team. It is a great honor for me to be part of this beautiful story and contribute with my experience. I establish partnerships, by "building bridges and maintaining them in good working order" to achieve our goal of protecting biodiversity and bringing sustainable development to the communities that live in the Buffer Zone.

I was born in Malehice, Chibuto. I first visited Gorongosa National Park when I came to participate in the rangers course in 2007. Previously, I had only read about parks in books, I promised myself that one day I would return to Gorongosa, not as a visitor, but to make my contribution to recover that which war and human cruelty stole from us. I attended the Southern African Wildlife College whilst I was working as a ranger in Banhine National Park on the ACTF-Limpopo Project. Because my passion and commitment was and is with the conservation cause, I joined the Gorongosa team in 2011. In 2015, I had the opportunity to participate in the small aircraft piloting course at Airborne African Adventure Flight School. I am now attending my 4th year for a Degree in Environmental Management to improve my academic training and contribute to the conservation of the environment. My greatest wish is to one day see Gorongosa fully recovered as it was before the war and as it has been described in the books I read as a child, I am very proud to be part of this story of recovery of this beautiful Park.

I am Gabriela Curtiz, I am the first female tourist guide in Gorongosa National Park. I was born and raised in Gorongosa Village. I had the opportunity to visit the Park for the first time in May 2016, when the Park sent an invitation to my high school in the village of Gorongosa, to be part of the Youth Seminar on Biodiversity Conservation promoted by the Science Department. I was one of those selected to be part of this seminar. Two months later, the Science Department sent the application forms for internships, I applied and in February 2017 began my internship with the Paleo-Primate Project. Now I am in the United States of America studying for my degree in Business Administration.

My name is Ricardo José Guta, I was born and raised in Beira, Sofala Province in Mozambique. I graduated in Biological Sciences from Universidade Lúrio and I have worked as a research technician at the E.O. Wilson Biodiversity Laboratory at Gorongosa National Park since 2014. I have always been interested in studying and understanding biological diversity, especially insects. Although I am still at the beginning of my career as an entomologist, I already have several publications of scientific articles such as: "The monographic role of the Tettigoniidae of the Center of Mozambique — Naskrecki, P. & Guta, R. (2019); Katydid (Orthoptera : Tettigoniidae) from Gorongosa National Park and central Mozambique, Zootaxa, 4682 (1), 1–119). I won a research grant from National Geographic to study locusts in Mozambique, and in October 2020, I was selected as a fellow of the E.O. Wilson Foundation for Biodiversity to enroll for a Master's degree at the University of Cape Town.

My name is Diolinda Mundoza and I was born in Gorongosa District. I had the opportunity to visit Gorongosa National Park in 2015 through an opportunity for young women living around the Park to obtain knowledge related to the conservation of biodiversity. I had a huge interest and curiosity to know more about Gorongosa's Biodiversity, and so decided to be part of the program. I was one of those selected to participate in the education internship program of the Science Department. Since I joined the Park in 2016, my area of interest has been birds. I learned to identify birds through their characteristics and their songs. I had the opportunity to take a basic course in ornithology whereby I extended the little knowledge I had about birds. I was also able to improve my knowledge in identification and capture techniques at Intermountain Bird Observatory, in Boise, Idaho, United States of America. In 2017, I worked with birds in general and then inclined towards birds of prey, especially vultures. I applied to continue with my studies and went to the Instituto Politécnico de Manica (ISPM), in Chimoio. I am now in my third year and have returned to the Park as an intern to collect data for my final course work.

# How to engage



## 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](mailto:contact@gorongosa.net)





Parque Nacional da  
**Gorongosa**

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and supported by many more – THANK YOU!

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