



# Gorongosa Restoration Project

## Release and Waiver of Liability

1. I, [*full name*] \_\_\_\_\_, understand and acknowledge that my visit to, research in, or any other activities within the **Gorongosa National Park and its Buffer Zone** may involve risks and dangers that could result in damage to or loss of personal property, personal injury or loss of life including, but not limited to, travel to, within and from rustic and/or remote areas, under rugged conditions, by plane, ultralight, helicopter, truck, boat and other modes of transportation; lack of adequate or immediately available medical care; forces of nature, unpredictable weather, wildlife (including elephants) and unstable political conditions; tree climbing; and other dangers that no amount of care, caution or experience can eliminate.
2. Having read and understood the terms of this Release and Waiver of Liability and in consideration of my visit to, research in, or any other activities within **Gorongosa National Park and its Buffer Zone**, I for myself, my spouse, family, heirs, executors, administrators, and legal representatives HEREBY RELEASE, WAIVE AND FOREVER DISCHARGE Gorongosa Restoration Project, its officers, directors, agents, employees, members and contractors (collectively, "Releasees"), from any and every claim, liability, demand, action, or cause of action, of whatever kind or nature, either in law or in equity, arising from or by reason of any property loss or damage, bodily injury or injuries known or unknown or death occurring, growing out of, incidental to, or resulting directly or indirectly from my participation in research and any other activities, whether due to the fault or negligence of Releasees, circumstances beyond Releasees' control, or otherwise. I understand and agree that Releasees have not expressly or impliedly assumed any duty or obligation toward me or associated with my participation in research or any other activities in the **Gorongosa National Park and its Buffer Zone**.
3. I EXPRESSLY AND VOLUNTARILY ASSUME ALL RISK OF PERSONAL INJURY, DEATH OR PROPERTY DAMAGE/LOSS sustained while participating in research or any other activities in the **Gorongosa National Park and its Buffer Zone** whether due to the fault or negligence of Releasees, circumstances beyond Releasees' control, or otherwise.
4. I undertake that I will only drive a Park, rental or other vehicle, whether within or outside of the **Gorongosa National Park and its Buffer Zone**, on the basis of being in the possession of a valid driving license and having the required driving experience to safely use said vehicle under the dangerous and unpredictable field conditions created by terrain, weather and wildlife.
5. I acknowledge that where I am a passenger in a plane, ultralight, helicopter, truck, boat and other mode of transportation within the **Gorongosa National Park and its Buffer Zone** I do so out of my free will.
6. I agree that it is my responsibility to obtain adequate insurance, including medical and evacuation insurance and insurance coverage for claims related to bodily injury, loss of life and property damage to cover my participation in research or any other activities in the **Gorongosa National Park and its Buffer Zone**.
7. I further release Releasees and all other officials or professional personnel from any claim whatsoever on account of first aid, medical treatment or other health-related services rendered to me during my research or any other activities in the **Gorongosa National Park and its Buffer Zone**, and shall assume full responsibility for payment of any such aid, medical treatment or other services so rendered.

Initials \_\_\_\_\_

8. I agree to indemnify Releasees from any loss, liability, damage or cost they may incur as a result of my participation in research or any other activities in the **Gorongosa National Park and its Buffer Zone** including attorneys' fees.

9. I further agree that Mozambican laws are the only laws applicable to this matter, and that the Mozambican Courts have exclusive jurisdiction to resolve any dispute which may arise from it. I expressly renounce any right I may have to institute or join proceedings relating to this matter in any other court or arbitral forum.

10. This Release and Waiver of Liability contains the entire agreement between the parties. The terms of this Release and Waiver of Liability are contractual and not a mere recital.

11. I have been fully and completely advised of potential dangers incident to participation in research or any other activities in the **Gorongosa National Park and its Buffer Zone**. I have carefully read the foregoing Release and Waiver of Liability, am fully aware of the legal consequences of signing it, and have signed it of my own free will.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## Gorongosa Restoration Project

### Permission for Emergency Medical Treatment

I, *[full name]* \_\_\_\_\_, hereby grant Gorongosa Restoration Project (“GRP”) permission to authorize medical treatment on my behalf, including, but not limited to, administration of antibiotics, anesthesia and other medications, transfusions or blood products, life-saving and other necessary surgical procedures, and hospitalization, in the event that I am unable, for any reason, to authorize or approve of such treatment on my own behalf. I further agree to hold GRP harmless for any or all actions relating to or arising out of any such emergency medical treatment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## Guidelines for researchers in the field

Scientists working at Gorongosa National Park should be aware of the following to help ensure their safety and successful research.

### Institutional context

- You will be conducting research in the flagship National Park of Mozambique. Your research is subject to a research permit issued by the Gorongosa Restoration Project under the auspices of the Long Term Agreement between the Government of Mozambique and the Gorongosa Restoration Project. You will abide by the laws and regulations of the country in general and the Park in particular. All researchers are required to sign a Waiver of Liability, effective for the duration of their presence and activity in the Park.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

### Access to the field

-If you are new to the park, you must initially go to the field accompanied by a ranger (fiscal) until you are familiar with your working area prior to doing fieldwork alone. Working with a ranger will help you get to know the park safely.

- A ranger must accompany you if you will be leaving your vehicle for measuring, sampling and collecting purposes. Rangers will help you be aware of your surroundings, particularly of the presence of lion or elephant. But the presence of a ranger does not eliminate the need to remain alert and aware of your surroundings while conducting fieldwork!

- Over time, you may be allowed to work unaccompanied by a ranger even when exiting the vehicle. The specific circumstances of your work, including the area of the Park, the distance from your vehicle, prevailing ecological and political conditions, etc. will all need to be taken into account. This concession will be at the discretion of the Director of Scientific Services and Director of Conservation and may be withdrawn at their sole discretion.

-All activities are to be undertaken during normal daylight operating hours unless you have received permission for extended working hours necessitated by your specific research requirements.

-You must receive prior permission for any overnighting in the field or at the ranger's outposts. Personnel at these locations need to be informed prior to your arrival.

-Gorongosa is home to many large crocodiles. Approach any waterbody, however small and however far from the larger rivers and lake, with extreme caution. Do not linger on the banks of rivers and pans. Remember that crocodiles are able to surprise wild animals that are very aware of their natural environment (we humans are far less aware).

- Other dangers: In addition to large mammals and crocodiles, other animals may pose a significant risk to researchers in the field. Gorongosa is home to nearly 40 species of snakes, including several highly venomous ones. Never attempt to catch or approach snakes, especially if you are not intimately familiar with the herpetofauna of Mozambique. Colonies of wild bees are common in Gorongosa and attacks on people by large swarms happen frequently. If you are allergic to insect stings, or are unsure if you are, always carry an epinephrine autoinjector ("EpiPen") while in the field. Vectors of tropical diseases, especially malaria, are present in Gorongosa. Before beginning your project in the park, you must acquire all necessary vaccinations and prophylactic medications.

- Part of the year it is very hot in Gorongosa. It is wise to bring sufficient drinking water with you in case of a car breakdown or puncture.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

### Vehicle

- Only go into the field using a suitable four-wheel drive (4x4) vehicle. If the vehicle does not belong to GRP, it should have a temporary GRP magnet on it to identify it as an approved researcher vehicle.
- You should feel comfortable driving on rough roads and you should be able to change a tire. If you need help gaining these skills, please talk with the research manager.
- Prior to leaving the camp, check the air in your tires, coolant, and oil. Ensure that you have sufficient fuel. Also make sure that tools to change a tire are in your vehicles before going to the field. Be aware that you could have a puncture far out in the Park where you may be 2 or more hours away from any help. You could easily end up spending the night in the field if you did not check that you have a spare (inflated) wheel and jack! You should have your vehicles serviced by the park's mechanics regularly and can ask the research manager for help in this regard.
- Gorongosa presents some extremely challenging and debilitating conditions for vehicles in the field. The wear and tear on vehicles could be one of your main project costs. Please be extremely aware of your vehicle and of driving conditions.
- Only use the roads that can be safely driven in terms of wetness, vehicle ability and your own 4x4 driving ability. If in doubt, do not proceed. Much of the park is underlain by heavy clays. Under wet conditions, roads quickly become impassable. Even if you can make it through, you will cause rutting and other damage to the roads. If you notice that you are causing new ruts on wet roads, do not proceed. You may be asked by the park staff not to drive out of the camp if conditions are judged to be too wet.
- The speed limit within the park is 30 km per hour. Safe operating speeds are generally well below this. In particular when driving through thickly wooded areas and under low light conditions travel slowly. This will assist you in spotting elephants and in avoiding killing smaller animals on the road. Do not drive across columns of raiding Matabele ants. Pay attention to smaller animals, such as snakes and frogs – they are all equally protected in the National Park.
- In general, all driving is to be confined to the existing roads and tracks only.
- You may be given permission for off-road travel for your particular research activities. This concession will be at the discretion of the Director of Scientific Services and the Director of Conservation. Do not drive off-road if you are causing any ruts. Always drive off-road at slow speed. Be extremely aware of the ground in front of you in terms of hidden stumps and holes. If you cannot see the ground surface, you should have someone walk in front of the vehicle to spot for you. This also applies to recognized roads and tracks that may not yet have been cleared in the current field season.
- There have been some vehicles hit/tusked by elephants. Do not provoke them by driving too fast, making a lot of noise or approaching too closely. Elephants, and other wildlife for that matter, always have the right of way.
- If you find places where trees or bushes felled by elephants block the road, please report the location to the Park management

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

## Communication while in the field

- Inform your colleagues/research manager of your daily plans and approximate area of work. Sign out on the vehicle check-in/out board at the lab.
- The cell phone service with the best coverage inside the park is Movitel. You should go to the park with a working cell phone (although coverage is not complete) and phone numbers of the Research Manager and the Director of Operations.
- Your ranger should have a fully charged, working, radio. Please double-check this before going to the field.
- If you will not be able to get back within normal operating hours, try to inform someone, first and foremost law-enforcement (code "201") via fiscal radio. This allows the ranger at the gate to prepare for your late arrival or to coordinate a search-and-rescue if necessary.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

### Collecting

- Only collect samples necessary for your work or to assist the work of colleagues. In Gorongosa, we try to foster a collegial approach to research and we try to support each other's work. Therefore, it is permissible for you to collect specimens/samples that fall outside the items mentioned in your approved research project, but only if there is a clear use of those samples/specimens by another colleague/park staff. Please immediately inform the Research Manager that you have made such an extra collection.
- A similar rule applies to data and observations – the Wilson Lab maintains a database of specimens and biological observations, and all researchers are strongly encouraged to contribute their data and observations, even those that fall outside the scope of their particular project, to our shared database.
- Only collect the necessary quantities of samples/specimens and avoid wastage.
- There will be no collecting of specimens for personal use or keepsakes.
- Do not collect skulls or bones to bring them back to camp. These are part of the biological and visual landscape; they form habitat and food for various animal and plant species; their slow decomposition returns nutrients to the soil; and there is no need for them in camp. Leave them alone unless they are required for a specific defined and authorized research project.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

### Illegal activities

- If you see poachers or signs of illegal activities, please note the time and location and report it as soon as possible. Particularly if poachers are seen, please encourage the ranger accompanying you to radio in the location immediately.
- You are not to take any active part in any law enforcement operation. Although your field trip may by coincidence become a law enforcement operation because signs of illegal activities are encountered, you need to stay out of it. Do not try to apprehend poachers or perpetrators of any other illegal activities. Leave this to the Park staff.
- Any mortality of wildlife should be treated like a crime scene until we know further. As such, Park rules require that Conservation-Law Enforcement respond to static signals of any collared/ tagged individuals first. It generally prevents researchers from walking in to dangerous situations, e.g. possible poachers, an ambush by LE, a poisoning scene, etc and interfering with evidence. If researching the given species you may, however, request to accompany LE to the site of the static signal.
- Respect the humanity and dignity of any person arrested for poaching or other alleged illegal activity in the Park. Do not take photographs of any people that have been apprehended.

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

## Respecting people and the park

- If you are a foreign researcher, be aware that you are a guest in the flagship National Park of a foreign country. Please remember that you will likely come from a very different culture and that you have a very different level of education and exposure from most of the staff and local residents. Please be respectful of all staff, however junior, as well as of the local residents and tourists.
- Please try to engage your ranger so that he/she understands the purpose of your work, what samples you are collecting etc.
- Do not instruct rangers or other park staff to undertake actions that clearly put them in an awkward position in terms of their level of authority and discretion. You have no authority over the staff of the National Park.
- If you notice an injured animal while in the park, please note the time and location and report it as soon as possible to the Research Manager or a responsible member of the Conservation Department. You do not have the authority to instruct park staff as to what should or should not be done with such an animal.
- You will need to abide by all lawful instructions of park staff.
- Do not leave any litter or collecting/marketing material in the park. At the end of your field season remove any flagging you may have used in the field.
- Consider the implications of your communications via social media. You are reporting from a very different biological, socio-economic and cultural context. Be careful about what could be 'lost in translation' and that therefore could unintentionally reflect badly on the Park, your colleagues, or on your own work.
- Please be considerate to our other visitors. Tourists and educational groups are very important to the sustainable future of the Park and have right-of-way in the game-viewing area. Please be courteous and patient. Do not spoil their viewing experience by rushing past and leaving them in a big dust cloud. Do not scare off animals which they are viewing. Generally, stop and stay behind the game-viewing vehicle (with lights off at night) and only pass slowly as the guide waves you past. Please stop and greet the guide and the tourists. Please respond to any questions that visitors may have when they interact with you in the field or in camp. Visitors love to learn more about the Park and you can be the perfect Park ambassador.
- Please be sure to sign a liability waiver upon arrival at the park declaring that you assume responsibility for yourself while working in the park.

*Enjoy your time in the field in Gorongosa; it is a diverse, fascinating park, and we are happy you decided to conduct your research here!*

I, ....., have read and do accept the above guidelines.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**PERSONAL & EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Full name</b>   |  |  |  |
| <b>Nationality</b>   |  |  |  |
| <b>Passport number</b>                                       |  |  |  |
| <b>Date of passport issue</b>                                |  | <b>Date of validity of passport</b>      |  |
| <b>Title and affiliation</b>                                 |  |  |  |
| <b>Medical / Evacuation Insurance (Company and Policy #)</b> |  |  |  |
| <b>Blood Group</b>   |  |  |  |
| <b>Allergies to medicines/antibiotics</b>                    |  |  |  |
| <b>Food allergies</b>  |  |  |  |
| <b>Any other medical condition of importance</b>             |  |  |  |
| <b>e-mail address</b>  |  | <b>Mobile number (with country code)</b> |  |
| <b>Emergency contact no. (with country code)</b>             |  | <b>Name of contact and relationship</b>  |  |



Laboratório de Biodiversidade E.O. Wilson  
Parque Nacional da Gorongosa

E.O. Wilson Biodiversity Laboratory  
Gorongosa national Park

### Researcher Information Form

#### *Personal information*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Position \_\_\_\_\_

Associated PI (for students, postdocs, etc) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Project title \_\_\_\_\_

Project funder \_\_\_\_\_

Dates in the park \_\_\_\_\_

#### *Resource needs*

Please note the information you provide below serves to make us aware of your needs. You should directly reserve field assistance, ranger, and office and lab space with Jason Denlinger ([jason.denlinger@gorongosa.net](mailto:jason.denlinger@gorongosa.net)).

Will you need field assistance? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, over what time period? \_\_\_\_\_

What skills do you require in a field assistant? \_\_\_\_\_

In order to schedule a ranger to accompany you as necessary (see Guidelines for Researchers in the Field) please provide tentative schedule, i.e. *How many days/week? Mornings/ afternoons only or both?*

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Will you require lab space? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, what are your needs? \_\_\_\_\_

Will you require desk space (each cabin also has a desk)? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, please provide a desired list of dates \_\_\_\_\_

Any other information you think might be helpful to share for your project to be successful \_\_\_\_\_