Parque Nacional da Gorongosa

2021

Our Gorongosa – Together we are stronger

www.gorongosa.org
We revere the Earth and the miracle of the evolution of life. We seek to protect all native species and to maintain all ecological functions within an intact greater Gorongosa ecosystem.

We believe all people have the right to a sufficient livelihood and to the preservation of their culture in order to live dignified lives.

We seek to catalyze a green economy through sustainable development that will simultaneously protect the greater Gorongosa ecosystem and assist families to increase their income.

We believe in gender equality and we work to empower all women and girls to enjoy full participation in society.

We support inclusive, quality education, and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

We align our Project objectives with local government plans, Mozambican national policy and the United Nations Sustainable Development goals.

To achieve the above, we the employees of the Gorongosa Project pledge 100% honesty in the workplace. We promise to work each day with efficiency and to the best of our ability, and to help our colleagues do the same.
The Gorongosa Project works with the national directorates and district representatives of the Central Government of Mozambique (Ministry of Land and Environment, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Human Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and others). We work with traditional leaders in community "regulados" a traditional governance structure) through Natural Resources Management Committe.

We collaborate with UN Habitat, the Red Cross and the World Food Program. We receive support and advice from partners such as USAID, Irish Aid, Norway, Canada, Portugal, EU, HHMI and many more. We work in scientific research with more than thirty universities around the world, including Eduardo Mondlane University, UniLúrio, Unizambeze, ISPM, University of Lisbon, University of Oxford, University of Princeton and many more.

Finally, it is with great satisfaction that I extend warm greetings to our donors and partners who are friends of Gorongosa, because without them, this integrated process of protection and development would not be possible.

2021 was a year of many emotions for the Gorongosa Project. COVID-19 extended into this year and continued to affect many of our activities in the Park, particularly in tourism and in our human and sustainable development departments which work directly with the local communities.

On a more positive note, I would like to extend my sincere thanks for the good government collaboration at the Central, Provincial and District levels. Together we are protecting biodiversity and developing communities around the Park. This year has shown once again reforestation is an imperative mission for every citizen, in schools, churches, cities, and villages. I also want to thank the workers of all Park departments, for the employee dedication shown during a very complicated year.

Allow me to highlight some key activities of which we are very proud:

- Reintroduction of more leopards to Gorongosa National Park and the donation of painted wolves to Malawi, historic landmarks in the life of Gorongosa Park;
- Creation of Community Conservation Areas in the Sustainable Development Zones of the Park in the districts of Dondo, Mhurundu and Cheringoma, which once again shows the interest of the Park, the National Conservation Areas Administration (ANAC) and the Ministry of Land and Environment in the decentralization of biodiversity conservation and the creation of sustainability and resilience of our communities to face new environmental challenges; and
- Building resilient infrastructure in communities around the Park.

"Always ready to conserve the environment!"

Pedro Muagura
In Focus
Notable events
Gorongosa employee vaccination rate nears 100%
COVID has remained a serious health challenge throughout 2021. Our health team continued its work with communities to educate to reduce transmission and slow the spread of the disease. In the Park, almost all staff, led by Gorongosa Rangers, are vaccinated against COVID.

Gorongosa Park is the first conservation area to receive Mozambique’s “Clean & Safe Seal”. The seal, awarded in July 2021, is part of a national inspection to assure visitors that a tourism attraction or hotel meets national health and safety standards.

Gorongosa Park employees are doing their part to control and eradicate COVID-19. More than 248 people were vaccinated on the first day of the vaccination program.

The Gorongosa Park Health Team increased access to drinking water and strengthened sanitation standards early in the pandemic. Teams at water wells provided hygiene products and distributed 30,000 face masks to prevent the spread.

Mozambique Minister of Health Professor Dr. Armindo Tiago, visits Gorongosa Park.
Publication of “Montane to Mangrove”
Dr. Ken Tinley’s monumental 1977 D.Sc. thesis “Framework of the Gorongosa Ecosystem” was published as a book “Montane to Mangrove” by Hamilton-Fynch. The 396-page, large format book captures the original text and its exquisitely drawn graphics. The book is available for US$150.00, excluding shipping, from megancarolla@gmail.com.

International recognition 2021
Dr. Susana Carvalho, paleoanthropologist, is studying primate evolution in Gorongosa Park. In 2021, she was recognized for her outstanding research work with a British Academy Mid-career Fellowship which will enable her to further her research into our distant past.

Dr. Dominique Lüdecke, geochemist for the Paleo-Primate Project in Gorongosa, was awarded a €1.3 million grant by the German Research Foundation (DFG) to research the evolution of meat-eating in human ancestors.

Global Biofest 2021
Wildlife ranges in parks around the world face danger every day. They battle, often with limited resources, to hold poaching at bay and to protect our remaining wildlife. Rangers and wildlife conservation experts from across the world spent World Ranger Day in a Zoom convocation on July 31. Veterinarian Dr. Mercia Araújo and two Gorongosa Rangers – Helton Chuva and Maria Faife – shared their stories, challenges and their victories during a 24-hour virtual World Ranger Day celebration. The event was part of Global Biofest 2021 and recognized wildlife ranges and the role they play in protecting our environment.

Coffee exports
Produtos Naturais da Gorongosa exported six tons of green coffee beans to the United States and is on track to start selling to Nespresso. Working with commercial partners “Bean There” and “Nando’s South Africa”, Produtos also exported its first batch of green coffee beans to South Africa.

Featured films
Several films featuring Gorongosa National Park were made during 2021. Two of the most notable were:

- “Gorongosa: Rebirth of Paradise” (co-production between National Geographic and Gorongosa Media) premiered on National Geographic Channel International and National Geographic Wild in November 2021; and
- “Our Gorongosa — A Park for the People”, an award-winning film produced by Gorongosa Media and Howard Hughes Medical Institute’s Tangled Bank Studios.

Education
USAID and the Carr Foundation each pledged $9 million USD over five to seven years for rehabilitating or building local infrastructure, including 40 schools and health facilities in the sustainable development zone. Education sector projects include the PEACE project (Peace through Economic Action and Community Empowerment) and Peace Clubs.

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Map of Gorongosa Project and its Interventions

A long-term goal of the Gorongosa Project is to extend protection all the way to the Indian Ocean through the Marromeu National Reserve to the mangroves of the Zambezi delta.

At the end of 2020, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with ANAC (National Administration of Conservation Areas), valid until December 31, 2021, to establish cooperation on the management of the Marromeu National Reserve. Since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding we have been gathering information about the Marromeu Reserve, the Zambezi Delta and the mangroves in general. Our team recently assessed the status of this proposed expansion of Gorongosa National Park.

We have decided not to renew this agreement for Marromeu because this area, contrary to what we initially thought, is to a degree, fairly self-protecting due to the inhospitable conditions created by its swamps. In contrast, we face acute pressures on Mount Gorongosa and in other parts of the Park and Sustainable Development Zone. To extend ourselves at this stage may compromise the successes already achieved and might jeopardise further progress.

This is not to say that the mangroves of the delta are not immensely important. The vision of “Montane to Mangrove” still remains very relevant for the future.
Peace in Our Time

PEACE Project (Peace through Economic Action and Community Empowerment)

The Canadian government has committed to $5 million CAD in support over five years to fight poverty and increase access to basic social services including health care and education – with a strong focus on women and girls – in the neighboring Gorongosa communities.

The initiative, led by the Sofala Secretary of State, Novo Zeca, and Canadian High Commissioner, Caroline Delany, was launched in September 2021.

“...if you want to end the war then instead of sending guns, send books. Instead of sending tanks, send pens. Instead of sending soldiers, send teachers.”

Malala Yousafzai (Nobel Peace Laureate).

Clubes da Paz

On the May 6, 2021, members of the Government of Mozambique and the opposition political party, RENAMO, joined with international partners and officials from Gorongosa National Park to launch the Clubes da Paz (Peace Clubs) Initiative, funded by the Portuguese Government.

The Gorongosa Project worked with the Park’s neighboring communities for more than a decade to build a strong and sound relationship. It is this relationship which allows our teams to assist with the reintegration of former combatants into society. Peace Clubs (Clubes da Paz) provide literacy and other education programs for young children, youth and adults and are an important step in the peace-building process.

In time, ex-combatants and their families will participate in other programs offered by Gorongosa National Park, including health care, and sustainable agriculture activities such as growing Gorongosa coffee, cashew, and honey production.

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.”

Martin Luther King Jr.
Our Goals

The Gorongosa Project recognizes environmental conservation, especially in Africa, is possible only through socio-economic community development leading to 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. 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; and, support civic education for local participation in community planning, disaster resilience in collaboration with the respective Mozambican ministries. We have a strong focus on expanding girls’ and women’s participation and leadership opportunities in all areas.

- Support balanced urban growth in the towns surrounding the Park’s boundaries by constructing/rehabilitating safe haven schools, health clinics and public libraries. We encourage and empower our employees to be community members and to work with local authorities on local planning. 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 Gorongosa Project and the Mayor of Vila Gorongosa signed a MOU where these initiatives will be piloted. Together the Gorongosa Project and Vila Gorongosa will build and put into practice the concept of a Model Village for Mozambique.

- Drive sustainable economic development for the women and men who live in Gorongosa Park’s 600,000 hectare (soon to be expanded) Sustainable Development Zone. We support small-scale farming, commercial agriculture, employment in agricultural processing factories, ecotourism 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. All projects implement program monitoring, evaluation, learning processes (MEL) and provide feedback to Project management, the Government of Mozambique, and all stakeholders.

Our 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, including the Sofala provincial and district directorates for each ministry. We work with traditional leaders in community “regulados” (a traditional governance structure) through Natural Resource Committees.

The Project receives support and advice from partners such as Irish Aid, USAID, Norwegian Embassy, Canada, European Union, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, OAK Foundation, Global Environment Facility, United Nations Development Programme, Rainforest Trust, US Aid, The Fund and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Gorongosa, Schindlerische Hildesheimerstiftung, The Wildcat Foundation, National Geographic, Zoological Society of London and the Gorongosa Business Club members (please see in last page).

Project scientists also engage in investigations with more than thirty universities around the world, including Eduardo Mondlane University, UniLúrio, Unizambeze, ISPM, University of Lisbon, Oxford University, Princeton University and many more.

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.
Gorongosa – a Park for Human Rights

The Gorongosa Project has a goal to ensure that 50% of our employees are women by the year 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 female rangers and tourism safari guides in the Park. At least half our scientists and science students are women.

In the Sustainable Development 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 ten young women graduate from secondary school. We are making progress in improving these statistics, in favor of healthier lives and greater opportunities for women.

Gender equality and respect for traditional communities

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 and 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 often bear the opportunity costs of not being able to use land for their farms.

Gorongosa National Park aims to be a human rights park, motivated by the words of the late Wangari Maathai, the renowned Kenyan social, environmental and political activist and the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace 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 those 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.”

“Gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good governance.”

Kofi Annan
Gorongosa Programs

The Gorongosa Project achieves its mission through 50 programs that fall within eight departments. Each program is led by a manager, and 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’s position is defined in Mozambican Law. The Warden connects the Project to the National Administration of Conservation Areas, attends their meetings and aligns the Park’s efforts with the policy of the Ministry of Land and Environment. At all levels of government, we liaise with other ministries, including Education, Health and Agriculture as appropriate. The Project organigram shows a Stakeholder Relations Department that supports the Park Warden, as he facilitates the alignment of provincial, district and local government policies with the Gorongosa Project objectives. We are in a co-management contract with the Government of Mozambique, so our goals are the same.
Conservation

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 — 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 km² of the Greater Gorongosa;

■ Wildlife management — this team is responsible for protected species monitoring and consering reintroductions of painted wolves, pangolins, leopards and other species;

■ Training wildlife veterinarians, wildlife rangers, and engaging in conservation law training partnerships with attorneys, prosecutors, and members of the judiciary.

■ Ecosystem Integrity and Human-Wildlife Coexistence teams oversee community partnerships and projects that use strategies such as beehive fences, elephant-proof silos and predator-proof bomas to contribute to a healthy coexistence between humans and wildlife.

■ Conservation technology includes field-testing cutting-edge tools, and integrating multiple datasets across all our programs for real-time Park management using Vulcan’s EarthRanger, and Tableau analytics.

Wildlife population growth

Our most recent aerial wildlife count in 2020 confirmed a spectacular rise in large mammal populations with more than 100,000 animals counted — including 1,200 buffalo, nearly 1,000 elephants, and a large number of other mammals. In the swatneys and wetlands, we counted 750 hippos and 2,700 crocodiles.

Protection and rehabilitation of pangolins

We continue to rehabilitate pangolins trafficked and voluntarily delivered to the Park by communities and individuals before releasing them back into the wild. Pangolins are the most trafficked animals in the world, mostly destined for Asian markets. In 2021, a total of 11 pangolins were recovered from illegal trafficking, and two were handed over voluntarily by local communities.

Painted wolves

Critically endangered, painted wolves are believed to number no more than 7,000 in the whole of Africa. The first painted wolf reintroductions Gorongosa Park were in 2018 and 2019, with nine more in 2021. All were flown in from South Africa, thanks to the support of Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT). The Park shared three young male painted wolves with neighboring Malawi, specifically for the Majete Reserve, where painted wolves had been absent for three decades. Fifty-five pups were born in the Park this year bringing our total population to 123.

Law enforcement

Much of the conservation work in Gorongosa National Park depends on Law Enforcement. Led by Mozambicans Tsuere Buramo (Head of Law Enforcement) and pilot Alfredo Matevele (Deputy Head of Law Enforcement), the Gorongosa Rangers are a 300-strong team of women and men, trained in conservation and human rights law as law enforcement officers. A number of our top rangers participate in advanced training abroad. Several have been awarded local and national awards for their outstanding service.

Gorongosa rangers patrol over 11,900 km² of habitat spanning the Park, including an additional area adjacent to the Zambezi River north of the Park (since 2018), and the surrounding Sustainable Development Zone. Our efforts continue to expand to include several areas adjacent to the Park as part of a long-term vision to extend wildlife corridors from “Montane to Mangrove” with a mosaic of Park, community conservancies, and sustainable forestry.

Many Gorongosa rangers are from the communities that they serve and help establish long-term trust by mobilizing local leaders and educating local communities. In March of 2019, the Gorongosa rangers were among the first reaching flooded communities to provide food and medical support to families affected by Cyclone Idai.
Reintroduction of leopards
Elusive and shy, agile, mobile and very powerful, leopards have the widest habitat tolerance of any species in the cat family. Leopards are apex predators and a vital component of the ecosystem. We have reintroduced five leopards so far, four females and one male, thanks to a great collaboration between the Gorongosa Project, Wildlife Vets-SA andMpumulanga Tourism and Parks Agency.

Training
■ Selection and training of over 31 new rangers (three women), six refresher courses, a patrol leader’s course and two courses on the behavior of dangerous animals; and
■ Two training courses on handling of environmental crime scenes. Participants included judicial magistrates, prosecutors, SERNIC (National Criminal Investigation Service) directors, PRM (Republic of Mozambique Police) commanders and Gorongosa rangers.

In the field
■ Eight hundred and thirty patrols, 203 arrests, and the confiscation of 12 firearms, 236 traps, 1,603 steel cables and one vehicle.
■ Forty-five traffickers found in possession of live animals and products of protected species, were arrested in the province of Sofala, Manica and Tete.
■ Twenty four traffickers of ivory tusks, 20 dealers in pangolins and one dealer selling a leopard skin were prosecuted.

Human-wildlife coexistence
Subsistence farmers can lose as much as a whole season’s crop largely due to elephants. Beehive fences, have 90% success in protecting both crops and elephants, and placing metal sheets at crossing points helps ensure a peaceful co-existence. Beehive fences have the added advantage of providing community revenue through honey collection.

Some of our achievements to reduce human-wildlife conflict during 2021 include the construction of:
■ One hundred and fifty elephant-proof improved silos;
■ Twenty-seven predator-proof improved bomas; and
■ Improved beehive fences, using zinc-plated steel sheets, on elephant pathways.

These strategies are bringing positive results with a significant reduction of elephant crossings into croplands.

Vulture research
While vultures play a critical role in ecosystems they are at risk outside of protected areas from poisoning and collection of vulture body parts for traditional medicine use. Our research teams – working with students from Boise University in the United States, partner us in vulture research.

Science
Science generates the information required for the long-term conservation of the greater Gorongosa landscape and the sustainable development of its Sustainable Development 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 enable the Gorongosa 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 Sustainable Development Zone are profound, and new scientific tools, techniques and theories are now available and accessible.

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 realised through our own staff in partnership with a wide range of external researchers and institutions.
The E.O. Wilson Biodiversity Laboratory

The E.O. Wilson Biodiversity Laboratory in Chitengo is the physical facility and central hub through which many different science programs are delivered. Considering the expanding activities of the Gorongosa Project across the broader landscape from Mount Gorongosa to the sand forests of Coutada 12, it will be important to establish additional satellite science facilities.

Bird count on Lake Urema

A third monitoring survey of the large water bird colony on Lake Urema was undertaken by our Scientific Services and Tourism teams during the month of March. Together, this field team counted a total of 4,382 nests belonging to nine species. Openbill stork nests increased by 45% from the April 2019 count and represented the species with the highest number. Yellow-billed stork nests increased to 1,281 (equating to 2,562 birds - far exceeding the 1% RAMSAR threshold for wetlands of international significance sub-Saharan Africa.

Skipper’s licence

Two staff members underwent training in March for their skipper’s licence which allows them to take small boats on Park waterways. Celina Dias qualified as the first female skipper (“marinheira”) with the Gorongosa Project.

Half-earth Project Fellowship

Funding from the inaugural Half-Earth Project Fellowship in Taxonomy and Biodiversity Exploration, allowed two young Mozambican botanists to be trained in plant collection and herbarium techniques. Two experts from the Meise Botanic Garden in Brussels, Belgium spent a month in the Park with the two botanists.

New laboratory

The new “ambient lab” was inaugurated on September 17, 2021 by the Portuguese Minister of Ambiente e Ação Climática. The lab was built with the financial assistance of the Fundo Ambiental. Students, external researchers and staff can now conduct plant growing experiments and insect rearing at “normal” temperatures. There is also a special room that allows experimentation with bats.

Blast from the past – the very distant past

Africa’s Great Rift, one of the most important sources of human fossil remains, runs through the heart of Gorongosa National Park. Dense bush makes fossil clues difficult to find but artificial intelligence and satellite imagery are used by the Gorongosa paleontological team of Susana Carvalho, João d’Oliveira Coelho and Robert L. Anemone, to detect potential fossil sites.

Masters in Conservation Biology students

Twelve Masters in Conservation Biology students (6 women and 6 men), are continuing to conduct their thesis research during their second and final year of the program. Several of these students are focusing on the long-term vegetation-herbivory and herbivory-experiment interactions established near Chitengo.

Elephant collaring

Elephant Ecology manager Dominique Gonçalves, with the Park veterinarians and other experts, four more elephants were newly collared, including several crop raiders in the Sustainable Development Zone. For the first time, six elephants were also collared in the Marromeu complex.

Unless humanity learns a great deal more about global biodiversity and moves quickly to protect it, we will soon lose most of the species composing life on Earth.”

E. O. Wilson
Human Development

The Human Development Department focuses on improving the wellbeing of Sustainable Development Zone communities.

Education

The Education sector currently has four programs:

- Gorongosa Clubs (primary school)
- Girls’ Clubs (primary school)
- Teachers’ Clubs (primary school)
- Youth Clubs (secondary school)

These clubs enhance the skills and abilities of teachers, children and youth by supporting projects that extend their school life by:

- Introducing girls to jobs in bio-education, tourism and beekeeping;
- Project youth why forests matter through Project “Plant the Future”; and
- Supporting families of former RENAMO combatants as they rejoin local communities through Peace Clubs.

The Gorongosa Project created the conditions that allowed the launch of the Gorongosa Park Clubs in primary school, (mixed boys and girls and support for teachers) during 2021. Pre-school clubs will be launched during 2022. These 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 an opportunity to finish school.

Support for schools

There are 110 primary schools and 6 secondary schools in the current Sustainable Development Zone.

Several include distance-learning education centers.

The Gorongosa Project’s Education sector is working towards an active presence in these schools by providing after-school activities and improving infrastructure. Our goal over the next five years is to expand the clubs and programs to all 110 schools in the current Sustainable Development Zone, and to additional schools in the expanded Sustainable Development Zone.

Academic Marathons in secondary schools stimulate a passion in students for reading and writing, and involve them in academic activities where they explore and enrich their knowledge of conservation and the environment.

An award ceremony for students who won the Academic Marathons of General Secondary Schools was held during the year. Participating schools included Eduardo Mondlane, Cristo Rei and Nelson Mandela in the District of Gorongosa, and the winners from the districts of Nhamatanda and Cheringoma.

In addition to after-school programs for children, we launched Teachers’ Clubs during 2021. This program aims to raise the capacity of teachers and it was supported by the European Union, USAID and Irish Aid. 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, pledged $9 million, which will be matched by the Carr Foundation and used to build or rehabilitate about 40 schools, health clinics and public libraries in nearby municipalities in the Park’s Sustainable Development Zone. Construction or rehabilitation of these social infrastructure units will comply with safety standards and building codes to withstand the most common natural hazards and provide safe-haven spaces to community members during an emergency.

“Only by committing half of the planet’s surface to nature can we hope to save the immensity of life-forms that compose it.”

E. O. Wilson

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Youth Clubs

During 2021, the Gorongosa National Park Youth Clubs program established 10 working Youth clubs in high schools in three districts, Gorongosa, Nhamatanda and Cheringoma. The Youth Clubs are supported by the European Union. These clubs raise awareness of post-secondary school career options and encourage youth to invest in self-employment activities (entrepreneurship). We do this by providing technical skills that help them launch their own income generation projects such as tailoring, retailing of goods, poultry farming, vegetable farming, carpentry, cooking and welding. Youth Clubs also present talks on reproductive health, human rights, citizenship and biodiversity conservation.

Girls’ Clubs Foundation Learning

Education materials 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. These materials also created an opportunity for the girls to learn about wildlife and career opportunities resulting from education. Produced in units of 1,000, the materials enable extensive outreach. Life Skills Curriculum for girls, developed in partnership with Grassroot Soccer, helped educators gain expertise in delivering the life skills curriculum. At the moment we are working in 89 Girls Clubs (3,560 girls) in the six districts of Gorongosa, Nhamatanda, Cheringoma, Dondo, Maringue and Muanza.

Teachers’ Clubs

Teachers’ Clubs have established partnerships with all three teacher training institutes in Sofala and conducted workshops for more than 600 teachers, around 30% of them female. Teachers were trained in various topics related to participatory methodologies leading to improvement of teaching and learning processes. This included, but was not limited to, production of didactic material using local resources, creation of attractive and friendly learning environments in schools as well as gender-sensitive pedagogy. The program has also promoted professional competitions to motivate teachers, based on their competency, performance progress and child learning.

Gorongosa Clubs

The Gorongosa Clubs initiative is an education program currently piloted in five Gorongosa District primary schools in the Sustainable Development Zone. This program supports students with low academic performance at the primary schools. Through remedial classes implemented as part of extracurricular interventions. The Clubs also support school management through reinforcement of school council interventions and capacity building.

In 2021, about 630 students with low academic performance participated in remedial classes and more than 100 showing marked improvement in their performance. We aim to make school a more positive and attractive space for children by using sport and cultural activities to create a more “fun” learning environment.
Health
The Health sector has three programs:

■ Community Health Workers/Mobile Brigades (APEs)
■ Water, sanitation and health (WaSH)
■ Model Moms/Traditional Birth Assistants (TBAs).

These programs are collaborative 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 (diabetes, malaria, respiratory infections), testing for sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, family planning, antenatal and postnatal care, vitamin A supplementation, growth monitoring, diagnoses, and other care and treatment as needed.

Community Health Workers/Mobile Brigades (APEs)
The Mobile Brigades and Community Health Workers (APEs) vaccinated an estimated 9,450 children; 6,142 of whom were girls under five years of age. About 13,218 couples received counseling about the several available family planning options: in Cheringoma (1,080), Gorongosa (8,876), Muanza (905), Nhamatanda (2,357).

During 2021, 210 Community Health Workers from Muanza, Cheringoma, Nhamatanda and Gorongosa were trained in upSCALE, a digital data collection platform used by the Ministry of Health to improve the quality of care and speed up data collection.

Model Moms (MMs) and Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs)
Model Moms (MMs) and Traditional Birth Attendants programs continued supporting women and children by teaching younger mothers healthy eating habits and the benefits of institutional births. The pre-natal care program referred 6,209 pregnant women to health centers for further assistance such as nutritional supplements and pregnancy monitoring. Women who attended pre-natal care are more likely to continue with family planning after the birth and lower their risk of maternal and child death. The volunteer Model Moms and Traditional Birth Attendants supported almost 3,000 women who had institutional births in the Sustainable Development Zone of the Park. School Gardens were introduced to five primary schools in Gorongosa District: Nhambita, Samora Machel, Madzimachena, Nhamussongora, Matacamachaua. Fifty seven teachers and 4,186 students participated in the program which aimed to improve nutrition as a means of raising academic performance.

The Water Sanitation and Health (WaSH)
The Water Sanitation and Health (WaSH) program rehabilitated 57 school water systems and boreholes in five districts of Cheringoma, Gorongosa, Muanza and Nhamatanda, providing drinking water to an estimated 14,500 students, of which 6,479 were girls. Girls often miss school during their menstrual period due to the lack of water and this program has improved school attendance.
Community-based Natural Resource Management and Governance

This focuses on three specific areas:

■ Community institutional development and governance which focus on establishment, capacity building and management of community-based institutions or organizations, including community leaders and district government representatives;

■ Community-based sustainable natural resources management focusing on establishing community-managed areas, secure land tenure, landscape restoration; and

■ Gender.

Community-based Natural Resource Management is a holistic, people-centered approach that links conservation with improving livelihoods and ensures all our activities support conservation goals set by the Park Management Plan.

Gorongosa National Park’s 30-year Vision and Strategy recognizes the needs and aspirations of people living in the Sustainable Development Zone must be considered for the conservation objectives of the Park to be achieved. Therefore, the Gorongosa Project has a dual mandate of biodiversity conservation and human development. The basic assumption – supported by science and the Project’s 15 years of experience – is conservation is a human and nature dynamic that can only be effectively addressed holistically.

This people-centered approach integrates the conservation of natural resources and development to overcome poverty, hunger and disease. It recognizes the interdependence of the environment and the local communities, acknowledging all are part of the ecosystem.

A key concept is empowerment of local communities living in the Sustainable Development Zone to govern their natural resources – and through this empowered self-governance, create long-term sustainable and supportive structures and development benefits. The close and trusting relationship built by the Gorongosa Project Community Relations team fosters a discussion of attitude changes and practices related to the empowerment of girls and women in local communities. Women are always included in the Natural Resource Committees and in decision making.

Community relations
Conservation Education Program

The Conservation Education Program is a behavior-change program that encourages communities around Gorongosa National Park to adopt behaviors that benefit both nature and people. The aim of this program is to inspire children and adults to adopt best practices that will reduce or end deforestation, preserve natural areas, and conserve species, while simultaneously contributing to community wellbeing.

Multiple strategies are used to engage with diverse groups to achieve our goals. Eco-clubs are the main areas and include:

■ Raising awareness about environmental issues and motivating people to sustainably manage their resources, be proactive in environment initiatives, and promote biodiversity conservation;

■ Creating groups of youth and adults able to teach about the value of and how to protect nature;

■ Promoting the adoption of behaviors aligned with sustainable environmental practices.

Sustainable Development Zone Eco-Clubs are established in primary schools and are composed of 15 boys and 15 girls from grades 3 to 7 and assisted by two volunteer teachers (female and male).

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"Respect for the environment, and respect for what was naturally occurring in nature: that was the bedrock of all original peoples. Harmony, coexistence, not conquest and conquer."  
L. A. Banks
Sustainable Development

The Gorongosa Project is committed to the kind of sustainable development that ensures long-term survival of both human society and natural resources by making sure livelihoods are improved without depleting natural resources.

Coffee

The coffee project on Mount Gorongosa, integrated with our rainforest restoration program, has gone from strength to strength. Our signature single-origin Arabica coffee blends, “Girls Run the World”, “Speak for the Trees”, “Lion’s Blend” and “Elephants Never Forget”, are now available in more than 50 countries with the USA and UK as major distributors.

The coffee project has created 400 additional jobs. Local coffee farmers planted over 600,000 trees in 2021 – a twofold increase over previous years – and harvested 105,210kgs of green coffee beans in 2021. More than 800 local families are now growing coffee.

Prodoti Naturais da Gorongosa exported six tons of green coffee beans to the United States market and is on track to start selling to Nestle.

A line of roasted coffee and honey launched for the national market is showing a 60% increase in sales since the beginning of 2021 compared to the same period in 2020.

Prodoti Naturais da Gorongosa also focuses on improving internal processes that allow the company to fulfill market needs in a more efficient manner through a new inventory tracking and procurement system, and a new master with increased capacity and improved quality. Prodoti Naturais da Gorongosa, in partnership with the commercial partners “Bean There” and “Nando’s South Africa”, exported its first batch of green coffee beans to South Africa.

Cashew project

The Gorongosa cashew program built three more nurseries to minimize damage and dehydration during seedling transportation to farms. These are located in the strategic locations of Mazamba in Cheringoma, Bebedo in Nhamatanda and in Dondo.

Each nursery has the capacity to hold 7,000 seedlings.

Five hundred hectares were secured as demonstration fields for local farmers in Dondo.

The cashew sector team conducted 22 training sessions in mulching, 10 sessions in intercropping, and five sessions in cashew quality picking as a way of ensuring cashew productivity and quality.

A total of 3,803 (920 females) smallholder farmers have been reached with the district-wide sessions.

This year the park worked with 7,000 families in the Sustainable Development Zone, in which these farmers earned a total of MZM 1,800,000.00 (US$ 28,125) from the sale of raw cashew nuts.

Fantastic fish

Two model ponds and 17 aspiring fish farmers were at the heart of the fish farming project in 2021, followed by construction of a third pond. Fish project managers anticipate two tons of fish will be harvested from the ponds.

The process began in cooperation with the government Economic Activities Services in the Gorongosa District Sustainable Development Zone. Meetings were held at the administrative post, bringing on board local leaders, to select the first 17 model farmers (9 men and 8 women). This ensured the involvement of the fisheries participant group and construction of three model ponds at the Vunduzi administrative post.

To ensure sustainability, the project is training community members in feed production using local resources. This valuable protein will enhance local nutrition as well as create an income stream for participating fish farmers. The production cycle lasts six months from maturation to the start of the first sales to outlets in fish markets in the nearest cities and towns.
Social entrepreneurship

The financial inclusion program is based on three pillars:
■ Savings groups
■ Financial literacy
■ Links to formal financial services.

In 2021, the first year of the program, 13 savings groups composed of 154 community members, (171 are women and 145 are men), were formed throughout the three administrative posts in Gorongosa District.

Honey and certifications

The Gorongosa honey project currently supports more than 600 beekeepers in the Sustainable Development Zone making sustainable honey production and income generation possible through direct support of improved hives, technical assistance and market assurance products. In 2021 more than 900 new hives were distributed and installed in the Sustainable Development Zone. Today, the honey project is in the process of organic certification that guarantees the commercialization of our honey in Europe and America, adding value and improving livelihood.

Craftwork

Craftwork has the potential to reach a lucrative tourist market which increases the benefits flowing from our programs in stakeholder communities. Craft activities are divided into:
■ Basketry
■ Cutting and sewing
■ Pottery
■ Sculpture.

Media

“Gorongosa: Rebirth of Paradise” (a co-production between National Geographic and the Gorongosa Media Team) premiered on National Geographic Channel International and National Geographic Wild in November 2021 as part of “Wild Africa Week.” The film features many new Gorongosa stories and key project staff—past and present— including Mercia Angela, Dominique Gonçalves, Jen Guyton, Greg Carr, Paola Bouley and many others.

Gorongosa National Park hosted in 2021 numerous international production companies such as BBC and Nova Productions filming for future broadcast projects and Gorongosa Media partnered with Seeker to make a film about the coffee project. Seeker is one of the most popular science brands on social/digital. The film was featured on many monthly views, #1 most engaging Science Publisher on social. Top 5 most viewed science and tech brands on social.

“Nature’s Fear Factor” — an HHMI Tangled Bank Studios production — featured the reintroduction of painted wolves to Gorongosa National Park and was repeated nationally on PBS in September 2021. NOVA joined a team of Gorongosa scientists as they reintroduced the top predator to the Park in an effort to restore balance to an ecosystem decimated by war. The film won the Best Science and Nature Film category at the Jackson Wild Festival, and was nominated for an Emmy in the Best Nature Program category.

“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. It highlights the importance of girls’ education and the benefits of linking conservation and human development. This year “Our Gorongosa” was shown on the PBS World Channel in the USA, starting in June and at a number of key symposia including the IUCN World Conservation Congress later in the year. The film will be featured at high-profile and influential events such as Earth Optimism and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

“Wildlife films can inspire and mobilise people. In particular, they encourage people to conserve. To appreciate wildlife and to speak out against human-induced environmental issues.”

Rouxie van der Westhuizen
Operations

2021 has been another year of growth for the Gorongosa Project and this is reflected in the restructuring of the Operations Department with services now being delivered through two different departments, the Department of Operations and the Department of Finance & Administration.

These departments aim to provide the highest level of core services to the organization throughout its area of operations.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Bastiaan Boon to the position of Director of Operations. The Department of Operations continues to provide a full suite of technical and infrastructure services to the organization as well as providing the oversight for all of the organization’s supply chain services.

The Department is growing rapidly to support the addition of regional centers in Muanza and Inhaminga and also to support the implementation of the USAID funded “Resilient Infrastructure Project”, as well as the “Model Cities” initiative that aims to contribute to the improved urbanization of Villa da Gorongosa, Inhaminga and Muanza.

Human resources

The Gorongosa human resource team hired a total of 219 new employees (48 females and 191 males) in 2021. Today, 884 employees (864 nationals; 20 international) work in seven different departments.

“Our company’s greatest pride is having a team with professionals from all around the country and the world, who dream our dreams and serve with the most passion to make these come true. We would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every employee for their dedication and effort, as your effort is essential for our goals to be achieved.”

Infrastructure

The Gorongosa Project is working on a number of climate-resilient, community-related infrastructure projects in the sustainable development zone and inside the Park’s camps. The operations team has completed the following main projects:

- Three fish farm tanks for sustainable development;
- Main road access Mapombwe, Canda and Tambarara;
- Construction of a coffee quality control roasting laboratory;
- New clinic and science canteen in Chitengo;
- A dormitory for the Human Development Department in Canda;
- Construction of six Gorongosa Club activity rooms;
- Improved waste management facility in our community education centre and Chitengo; and
- Installation of eight rangers’ borehole pump systems.

Forestry and Climate Action

This department was established late 2021 and its forest management masterplan aims to introduce sustainable forestry practices in the Muanza-Inhaminga Corridor. The master plan addresses sustainable use of 200,000 hectares in the corridor. The plan was formulated in consultation with stakeholders, local leaders, natural resource management committees, and forest communities.

The plan addresses the current status of the patches of forest in the corridor and recommends management strategies to enable informed decision-making about forest utilization and threat mitigation. To this end a barcode recording system that allows tracking of timber from source to processing has been piloted.

Larissa Sousa, as one of the Mozambican “Champions” represented the Park in different events in campaigns organized by the British High Commission in Maputo, towards the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference UK-2021. These events included virtual conferences, TV shows (in Media Mais TV), radio programs and field activities to achieve the COP26 objectives.

COP26 Objectives

- To raise global ambition and long-term commitments from governments and businesses;
- To promote the positive climate action taken by businesses and governments, including events such as panel discussions or seminars;
- To promote collaboration with non-government sector, such as civil society, third sector, youth, communities, partners, influencers or other stakeholders; and
- To promote inclusivity and diversity on COP26.
Finance

Global tourism has been heavily impacted by COVID. Nonetheless, the Gorongosa tourism season opened with several exciting activities including guided safari drives, walking safaris, tours of Gorongosa Mountain and the “Our Gorongosa Coffee” project, cycling trips, community visits, boat and canoe tours of Lake Urema, and birding adventures. Proceeds from Park visitors create local jobs, build schools and support education, healthcare and training programs, making the Gorongosa Project a true cooperative development initiative. Montebelo Lodge is undergoing restoration and will re-open during 2022. Development of the Park’s Muzimu tented luxury camp continues, with its opening scheduled for 2023. Our ever-popular Adventure Fly-camp, offering a true wilderness experience, will reopen in 2022.

The department has added resources to ensure that the management of Cooperative Agreements and Grants is of the highest standard. In this regard, we are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Simião Nhômnamwana as Program Director. Under Simião’s direction, the Program Office plans to appoint additional grant and impact managers to strengthen the management of grants. The deployment of a fully integrated knowledge management platform that provides comprehensive program management and monitoring and evaluation functions will also be rolled out during 2022.

We are also pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs. Edna Maiela as the Senior Human Resources Manager under whose leadership a dedicated manager of Training and Development as well as a number of additional HR posts that are being recruited in order to enhance the organization’s HR resources.

The department of Finance and Administration continues to provide legal and administrative services and to oversee the organization’s eco-tourism initiatives.

Our budget for 2021 was $16 million. Here’s a breakdown of how these funds were spent:

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<tr>
<th>INCOME 2021</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>USD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundations, philanthropy, donations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bi-/multilateral cooperation partners</td>
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<td>Gorongosa Business Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tourism Income</td>
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<th>EXPENSES 2021</th>
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<td>Operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Park administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tourism &amp; communications</td>
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<td>338,483</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Winie Tecla Andre Tomás**

I am Norina Carlos de Jesus Francisco Vicente. I was born in Chimoio in 1987. I am married with a friend. I trained street children to create crafts. I made my first dress by hand when I was 17 years old. I opened my first studio. I am passionate about crafts. I find my true self in handwork. I joined the beehive fences project, eventually leading beekeepers away from potentially dangerous animals. I was trained by Pedro Estevão in reforestation, installation of water erosion. I was trained by Pedro Estevão in reforestation, installation of water erosion. I was trained by Pedro Estevão in reforestation, installation of water erosion. I was trained by Pedro Estevão in reforestation, installation of water erosion.

**Norina Carlos de Jesus Francisco Vicente**

In 1994, I completed Grade 12 and in 1996 I moved to Milan to further my training. There, I trained in fashion, tailoring and design. In 2017 I came to Gorongosa to train a group of women in craft-making. Several months later, I was accepted into the Gorongosa National Park handicraft sector. I received on-the-job training before working in this sector. I joined the beehive fences project, eventually leading beekeepers away from potentially dangerous animals. I was trained by Pedro Estevão in reforestation, installation of water erosion. I was trained by Pedro Estevão in reforestation, installation of water erosion. I was trained by Pedro Estevão in reforestation, installation of water erosion. I was trained by Pedro Estevão in reforestation, installation of water erosion.

**Florinda do Amparo**

I trained as a permanent agent in birth registration and attendance at Francisco Manyanga Secondary school. I subsequently enrolled at Life APE’s and Mobile Brigades Program, and in January 2021, I began working in the Gorongosa National Park, in reforestation, installation of water erosion. I was trained by Pedro Estevão in reforestation, installation of water erosion. I was trained by Pedro Estevão in reforestation, installation of water erosion. I was trained by Pedro Estevão in reforestation, installation of water erosion. I was trained by Pedro Estevão in reforestation, installation of water erosion.
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

Promote the Park and help identify friends
Co-sponsor specific activities
Contribute through our community outreach programs
Support through a one-off donation
Join a circle of annual givers e.g. become a Business Club member
Take a sponsorship for a child’s education in the Buffer Zone
Organise your own fundraising events
Buy Gorongosa Coffee https://ourgorgonosa.com/services
and supported by many more – THANK YOU!

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Our Gorongosa – Together we are stronger