



Welcome to Gorongosa National Park!

Whether it is your first time to Gorongosa National Park (GNP) or you are returning, please make yourself familiar with the information below about living and working at Chitengo Camp and the E.O. Wilson Science Center.

RESEARCH PERMITS

If you haven't already applied for a Research Permit to conduct your studies in GNP, the first step is to submit a short proposal that contains the *Title of the Project, Name(s) of the Researcher(s), Institutional Affiliation, Objectives, Methodology, Time Frame, Expected Outcomes, and Statement of Financial Responsibility for costs incurred*. This proposal should be submitted to the Director of Scientific Services, Dr. Marc Stalmans: stalmans@gorongosa.net

VISAS & CUSTOMS

Visitors should request assistance from GNP in selecting the right type of visa and a letter of support at least one month prior to the time you will apply for your visa. The following information should be sent to Vitor dos Santos of Human Resources (vitors@gorongosa.net): *full name, title and affiliation, nationality, passport number (send scanned copy), date of issue, validity date, which Embassy/consulate will be used for the application, and proposed travel plans (approximate dates of entry and exit)*.

An online immigration (<https://evisa.gov.mz/>) website was introduced in 2023 to facilitate the visa application process. The system is new so you should also contact your local Mozambican Embassy or Consulate to receive the most updated information regarding visa application procedures.

As of 2023, it is also still possible to obtain a **30-day (non-extendable) tourist visa** upon arrival in Mozambique. You should have a valid passport with at least 6 months, proof of your accommodation and proof of your itinerary to show at immigration. This visa costs 60 USD.

You may also be able to extend certain types of visas within country at the Beira immigration office but there might be a significant cost each time you request an extension. Please confirm this with Vitor dos Santos so he can advise you on how to proceed.

Long-term visas in Mozambique have been a challenge for researchers to obtain. **It is your responsibility to look closely at what type of visa and length of stay you are granted and plan your trip accordingly.** You can accrue hefty fees for overstaying your visa for each day you remain in the country after your visa has expired.

In order to facilitate clearing any research equipment you wish to clear through customs, we also advise that you send a list of items **at least 2 weeks prior to traveling to Legrand Mapinde: legrandm@gorongosa.net and copy in Tiriva Baira (tirivab@gorongosa.net) and Lacson Wendumba (lacsonw@gorongosa.net).**

CONSERVATION FEES

The Conservation Fees which were initiated in 2019 will continue with all visitors, whether tourists or researchers, being required to pay the daily conservation fee of 20 USD for international visitors. However, this fee is capped to a maximum of 15 days for a calendar year like a season pass. Therefore, the maximum would be for any calendar year:

- Mozambique National MZN 1,500 meticaís
- SADC 150 USD
- International 300 USD

GETTING TO AND FROM CHITENGO CAMP

We can arrange transportation for you from the airport in Beira to Gorongosa. Please communicate your travel itinerary upon making your reservation, and should your flight be delayed, please make an effort to email Anne Marchington as soon as possible: annem@gorongosa.net , so that she can help you book your transfers depending on either availability of vehicles or aircraft on that day. As of 2023, a one-way dedicated road transfer between Beira and Chitengo costs \$100 per vehicle (+\$20 per passenger) and a one-way flight will cost \$125. **As many of our transfers are done by small planes, for the sake of yours and your fellow passengers’ safety, the allowable luggage weight is strictly limited to 20 kg in soft bag or luggage.**

Always send your transfer requests to Anne Marchington and Feli Msaya (felim@gorongosa.net) so they can assist with organizing the best and most cost-effective solution for your transport. Please let us know in advance if you will need special assistance with extra luggage as this can be transferred by road. However, you will also be charged for the transfer of your luggage by road. Coordination on your way out is very important as well if you have brought large amounts of luggage since there is no time to make alternate arrangements. As of 2023,

Transfer (One-way)	Dedicated	Non-Dedicated
Road Transfer	\$100/vehicle + (\$20/passenger)	\$20/passenger
Flight Transfer	Chartered directly through Safari Air (full price)	\$125
Luggage Transfer	\$100/vehicle	\$10/bag

TRAVELING AROUND GORONGOSA NATIONAL PARK

Most researchers find it necessary to rent a vehicle in order to conduct their fieldwork in Gorongosa. There are several rental companies operating in Beira airport. Renting a 4x4 vehicle in Beira can be quite expensive but since the rates may change it will always be necessary to ask for new quote from the different companies.

Fuel can be purchased in Chitengo by providing your vehicle registration and signing the appropriate forms each time you fill up. **As of 2023, the price for fuel in Chitengo is \$1.65 per liter.**

Millenium Bank in Vila Gorongosa has ATMs where international debit cards work, and US Dollars, Rand, and Euros can be exchanged in Beira and Chimoio. ATM Machines in the airport are the easiest way to draw Mozambican currency (meticaís).

Science Cabins	< Week Stay	>Week; < Month	>Month
A - Cabin Single room & bathroom/ outside kitchenette	\$50/ night	\$40/ night	\$30/night
B - Cabin 2 separate rooms/ shared bathrooms	\$55/ night	\$45/ night	\$40/ night

BILLING, ACCOMMODATION, AND CHECKING IN/OUT

Please speak to Miguel at least 2 days prior to departure so you can confirm the charges for which you'll be invoiced from the Gorongosa Project. The bill should be paid via electronic transfer according to instructions on the invoice. Accommodation and restaurant costs from Montebelo need to be paid at their reception, using credit card or cash, before you depart. **If camping or staying in a science cabin, please sign in and out with Anne or Miguel upon leaving or returning to Chitengo. If staying with Montebelo, please inform reception.**

ALL room keys should be left with Anne, or Miguel. A 50 USD replacement fee will be charged for lost keys.

LIVING IN CHITENGO

Normally, you can purchase meals at the Chikalango Restaurant operated by Montebelo Tourism where meals can range between 12 to 30 USD depending on what you order. In the event that accommodation is full at the E.O. Wilson Lab, you might also request a booking for lodging with Montebelo. There is also a staff canteen available in Chitengo that serves three very basic meals for staff and external researchers/visitors. If you are vegetarian, there is usually an alternative to fish or meat. Please inform us ahead of time so we can let the kitchen know how many vegetarian meals they must prepare. Researchers and external visitors are charged **12 USD per person, per day for the 3 daily meals at the staff canteen.**

The tap water in Chitengo is treated and the vast majority of staff living here have been drinking it for several years without any issues.

There is a basic common kitchen at the science center where you may cook. Please remember, the kitchen is shared by many and should be maintained and cleaned by everyone using the facility. Please also take note that baboons frequent the area, so it is important to lock food in the kitchen and maintain cleanliness in all areas including your living space. **It is very important that everyone please wash their dishes directly after use as many people are sharing common spaces. Please also label and date your food and throw food away that has gone bad.** It is also very important to not feed the baboons or the vervet monkeys (or any other wildlife). The nearest place to buy groceries is in Vila Gorongosa, which is 60 kilometers from Chitengo. If you need a shopping trip, please ask around to organize an outing with the next vehicle leaving the station. Beira (4 h away) and Chimoio (3 h away) are the nearest cities where one can purchase more specialized groceries. **We might be able to organize a monthly free trip for several people, but we will have to charge for dedicated shopping trips.**

If staying in a science cabin, it will be cleaned once a day during the workweek. Laundry should be left in the laundry bag or basket provided for washing.

There are unsecured wireless networks available at the camp. Movitel is usually the most reliable cell phone operator in the field, whereas Vodacom is preferred in Chitengo camp. SIM cards are cheap in Beira or Vila Gorongosa, but do not come with credit so be sure to purchase 200-300 meticaís worth of credit to start with.

The free Wi-fi in Chitengo is used by many people so many visitors and staff choose to obtain their own internet access by creating a hotspot on their cell phone with a SIM card or modem from Vodacom.

It is easy to hear people between offices, so please be respectful in your conversations; particularly if you are meeting virtually or talking on the phone, it may be best to find a place away from the offices so as to not disturb your neighbors.

Power supply: It would be useful to ensure that you have the correct electric plug sockets or adaptors for any charging stations before you arrive in Mozambique. Mozambique power plugs are mostly two pin, the other option is three pin square.



RESEARCH AT GNP AND THE E.O. WILSON LAB

We want to facilitate your research to the greatest extent possible, so please communicate your needs to us well in advance. All researchers are required to go into the field accompanied by a ranger, if they will be exiting their vehicles. **Rangers should be reserved at least two days ahead of time, but it is better to send a schedule ahead of time if you know your needs prior to arrival;** coordinate with Miguel Lajas: miguellajas@gorongosa.net Ranger fees are now 5 USD whether half-day, full-day or a few hours and will be assessed for last minute cancellations as well. If you plan on going to the field very early and/or stay there for the entire day, you should always make sure to organize meals for yourself and for your ranger ahead of time. Please send an email to Miguel and Fernando (fernandof@gorongosa.net) so that packed lunches can be prepared accordingly.

If your research includes the use of a drone within the park, it needs to be authorized by Dr. Marc Stalmans and covered by your research permit. Please be sure to also seek authorization from our Conservation Department. Outside of the park authorization is required from the police from the relevant district.

We have a limited supply of laboratory consumables such as ethanol, silica gel, ziplock bags, etc. so be sure to bring what you need or plan to have them shipped here ahead of time. If we are able to provide you with any of these consumables, we will need to bill you for their costs.

Workspace is at a premium and should also be reserved through Miguel before your arrival at Gorongosa. Each cabin also comes with a desk and internet access reaches the cabins. A -40 °C degree freezer and a lab grade refrigerator are available. Please let Miguel know what you need to store in the fridge or freezer, so space can be optimized. We also have a herbarium and entomological collection for consultation, and some field guides and local reports are available for on-sight use. Please consult the gorongosa.net website for background information about the park.

If you need to store supplies at the lab, please pack things in a labeled box and leave a detailed list of the contents with Miguel. If your supplies are left for over a year without an update from you, they will be discarded in the interest of space. Please do your best to return home with as many batteries as you can that you may have brought with you in order to be environmentally responsible. It is basically impossible to dispose of them properly here.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

You are required to purchase international medical/evacuation insurance for the duration of your stay in Gorongosa. In the event of minor illness or injury, Gorongosa has a very basic onsite health clinic (outpatient only) staffed by a nurse and doctor. There is also an ambulance on site for transport to Beira or Chimoio in the case of an emergency. For very serious situations, you will likely have to travel to Pretoria (South Africa) for care. We can organize medivac services from Beira through Safari Air, the company who also operates the regular flights to the Park. Please contact Bastiaan Boon (Director of Operations) (+44 7743 998192 / +258 85 145 0188) or David Svendsen from Safari Air (+27 81 709 2716). Please call Miguel Lajas if medical assistance is required (Whatsapp:+351 912723857 / Local: +258 851895571). When in the field, you should have a Movitel or Vodacom cell phone and be always accompanied by a ranger with a radio. A limited number of radios can be checked out with Miguel or Margarida Victor.

Please read through and complete pages 9-17 of this packet and send back to Miguel electronically prior to your arrival in Gorongosa. Be sure to read through and understand the Guidelines for Researchers carefully as you are expected to abide by these guidelines while conducting your research.

OUR BIODIVERSITY DATABASE

One of the goals of research at Gorongosa is to exhaustively catalogue all species present. We have an interactive database that is constantly being updated. You can access it at the lab to learn about species occurrences. If you are willing to share data on your focal taxa or any interesting observations you make while at Gorongosa, your contributions would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Piotr Naskrecki for further information and to contribute data: pnaskrec@oeb.harvard.edu

Transport and Hotel Contacts in Beira, Mozambique

Country Code: +258

TRANSPORTE		
Nome	Contatos	
Transporte Gonsalve Botao	825828060 / 844615555	Aluguer de Viaturas
Transporte Riva	823680036 / 844186626	Aluguer de Viaturas
Taxi Eufrasia Pichem	849386126 / 847404749	Taxi, Reservas e Emissao de passagem Aeria
Six Renta Car	823005190 / 847214837	Aluguer de Viaturas
HOTELS		
Sena Hotel	23311070 / 23311071	Macuti
Vip Hotel	23322002 / 823054753	Baixa
Lunamar Hotel	23313578 / 79 / 825434528	Macuti
Tivoli Hotel	824107870	Baixa
Hotel Jardim das Velas	23312209 / 23311033	Macuti
Ranis Hotel	23313311 / 823336456 / 843116566	Estoril
Residencial e Guesthouse		
Residencial Boa Esperança	844532392 / 823791746	Ponta Gea
Residencial Beira Sol	23326420	Baixa
Pousada Beirsol Palmeiras	23313453	Palmeiras
Pousada Tropical	23327202	Ponta Gea
Suneilas Guesthouse	844836315	Macuti

What to Pack?

Clothing:

Sun hat/bush hat
Headscarf/bandana – particularly before the rains; from November to April
Golf-shirts and/or T-shirts – preferably with a sleeve to protect your shoulders from the sun
Long-sleeved cotton shirts – for the evenings as protection against biting insects
Shorts and/or skirts – really short skirts are not practical for getting in and out of vehicles
Long trousers/slacks
Track suit - for cold mornings
Underwear/ Socks
Good closed walking shoes
Sandals – preferably low heeled or flat
Swimming costume
Lightweight jersey or fleece
Rain gear or jacket for summer months
Lightweight jacket for early mornings in winter
Scarf, gloves and beanies for early mornings in winter
Scarf, gloves and beanies for early mornings in winter

Equipment/Other:

Good quality sunglasses, UV protected, preferably polarized. Tinted fashion glasses are not good in strong light.
If you wear contact lenses, we recommend that you bring along a pair of glasses in case you get irritation from the dust
Personal toiletries
Moisturizing cream and suntan lotion – SPF 30 or higher recommended
Insect repellent for body application, e.g. Tabard, Rid, Jungle Juice, etc.
Tissues/Wet Wipes
Basic medical kit (aspirins, plasters, Imodium, antiseptic cream and antihistamine cream, etc.)
Malaria tablets (if applicable)
Antihistamine tablets if you suffer from any allergies
Anti-nausea tablets if you suffer from motion sickness
Torch
Camera equipment including spare batteries, chargers, film, flash cards, memory sticks, etc.
Waterproof/dustproof bag or cover for your camera
Binoculars for viewing both wildlife and birds
Visas, tickets, passports, money, credit cards, insurance details, etc.

NOTE 1: Bright colours and white are not advisable whilst in the bush. Camouflage clothing is not recommended for travel in African countries.

NOTE 2: There may be a luggage restriction on your travels – please ensure that you familiarize yourself with the Airline luggage restriction details before traveling to Mozambique.

NOTE 3: A limited number of reference books are available in the steadily growing EO Wilson Laboratory Library for use during your stay.

EXPORTING SAMPLES FROM GORONGOSA NATIONAL PARK

Researchers often want to collect and export samples from Gorongosa National Park as part of their research projects. If you plan to collect and export samples from the Park you will need to have a valid Research Permit issued by the Science Department and all the necessary documents from Gorongosa National Park, supporting the removal of the samples. Please contact Miguel Lajas and Dr. Marc Stalmans in advance so that permits and letters can be issued on time.

Please bear in mind that exporting samples from Mozambique involves a fair amount of bureaucracy and the shipping costs may be significant. Your samples will most likely have to be transported to Maputo where the necessary permits from different institutions will be issued. This process may take a few weeks and you should monitor it closely. In Maputo, our colleague Patrícia Guerra (patricia.g@gorongosa.net) can help researchers to contact and interact with the different institutions to apply for the necessary permits.

We usually work with DHL in Maputo to export samples from Mozambique. Please note that costs with DHL can be handled internationally for those who have DHL contract agreement, otherwise, funds must be available for reimbursement within 24h.

PLANT SAMPLES

Student/Professors Responsibility

Correct labeling and detailed List (specimens description, packing, nr of units and total weight)
Import Permit from Institution/country importing/receiving the samples

SOIL, SEDIMENT, ROCK, FOSSIL SAMPLES

Student/Professors Responsibility:

Correct labeling and detailed List (specimens description, packing, nr of units and total weight)
Import Permit from Institution/country importing/receiving the samples
Check if CITES Permit is required in destination country

SAMPLES OF ANIMAL ORIGIN (TISSUE, BONE, FAECAL)

Student/Professors Responsibility

Correct labeling and detailed List (specimens description, packing, nr of units and total weight)
Import Permit from Institution/country importing/receiving the samples
Fill-in the sample Export Form Direção Provincial de Agricultura e Pescas - Dpto. de Pecuária (next page)
Check if CITES Permit is required in destination Country



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 staff member or a ranger 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. Having at least 10L of water with you is very important.

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 is a workshop in Chitengo where you can get assistance. However, we will have to charge you for any external vehicle servicing, repairs and consumables.
- 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

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 services with the best coverage inside the park are Vodacom and 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

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



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 Miguel Lajas (miguellajas@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?*

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 _____
