



Parque Nacional da  
**Gorongosa**

2023

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

A Park for the People

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## Our Mission:

*To generate prosperity and protect biodiversity across two million hectares of Africa's Great Rift Valley.*

*“The strategy to restore this national park is holistic and encompasses everything from advanced ecological and biological research to building schools, supporting farmers, reintroducing wildlife, and reforesting the land.*

*For a place that lost 90 percent of its wildlife population, the herd numbers are staggering...”*

*The Robb Report*

# INTRODUCTION

## GORONGOSA

### A Park for the People

In 2008, the Government of Mozambique signed a long-term agreement (LTA) with the Greg Carr Foundation to create the Gorongosa Restoration Project, committing to rewild Gorongosa National Park and promote education, healthcare, and sustainable economic activity in the ‘Sustainable Development Zone’ around the Park.

*“Gorongosa is home to the greatest  
wildlife restoration in history.”*

*(National Geographic)*

## Message from Gorongosa Park Warden Pedro Muagura

First, I would like to wish everyone a prosperous 2024 from Gorongosa National Park.

As you will read in these pages, 2023 marked an exciting and successful year on the Gorongosa Restoration Project. We made great progress on many important goals.

I would like to sincerely thank all our national and international partners for their loyal support and friendship, especially the Government of the Republic of Mozambique, led by His Excellency Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, and the National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC).

I would also like to recognize the efforts of the Mozambique Public Police for their help protecting the natural resources of the districts of Muanza, Cheringoma, Gorongosa, Dondo, Nhamatanda and Maringué.

This year, we welcome the Joaquim Chissano Foundation back to Gorongosa. President Chissano invited Greg Carr and USAID staff to Gorongosa in 2004. Their visit led to the 35-year partnership between the Government of Mozambique and the Carr Foundation to restore Gorongosa National Park. In November 2023, the Joaquim Chissano Foundation and the Gorongosa Restoration Project signed a new agreement to advance sustainable development in Sofala Province.

Finally, I wish everyone in our communities a prosperous 2024, especially the local District Administrators, the Provincial Government of Sofala, and all our dear friends in Mozambique and beyond.



Pedro Muagura

*Pedro Muagura  
accepting the Grande  
Premio (Grand Prix)  
Award from  
Mozambique's Ministry  
of Land and  
Environment  
in recognition of  
Gorongosa's support of  
local communities and  
conservation work in  
Mozambique.*



## Welcome from the President of the Gorongosa Restoration Project Aurora Malene

Dear Reader,

As 2023 comes to an end, I want to thank our team who work hard to fulfill our mandate and mission: to promote the sustainable development of local communities and preserve the natural, cultural, and spiritual heritage of Gorongosa National Park.

In this report, we share some of our proudest achievements in 2023. These accomplishments would not be possible without the invaluable contribution and support of our Partners and Stakeholders, especially in the local community. We express our sincere gratitude to them all.

Gorongosa National Park is considered a world treasure for its rich biodiversity and unique ecosystem. Protecting Gorongosa is more than a mission, it's an urgent calling. Our work makes a significant contribution to a more resilient Mozambique, and a healthier planet.

Every year, we commit to improving our performance and strengthening our interventions and 2024 will be no different: more children in school (especially girls), more health services for underserved communities, more sustainable agriculture support for local farm families, and deeper Community engagement. We invite you join us in this life-changing, future-shaping work.

*Aurora Malene*

Aurora Malene

# HIGHLIGHTS 2023

2023 was a busy and rewarding year: new projects, new partnerships, and new discoveries. Over the next few pages, we spotlight some of our proudest achievements in 2023.



© Piotr Nasrecki

## Our New Brand

We launched a new brand, “A Nossa Gorongosa”, to market our sustainably produced shade-grown coffee, wild honey, chili, and other natural products. 100% of the profits are invested back into our community projects such as girls’ education, healthcare, and wildlife restoration. (This is just one of three for-profit companies we have founded.)

## New Film About Coffee

A new film about Gorongosa Coffee premiered as part of a new TV series called “Wild Hope” about projects that help protect our planet. The episode, “Coffee for Water”, features local farmers joining forces with the Gorongosa Park team to cultivate shade-grown coffee that restores the rainforest on Mount Gorongosa.

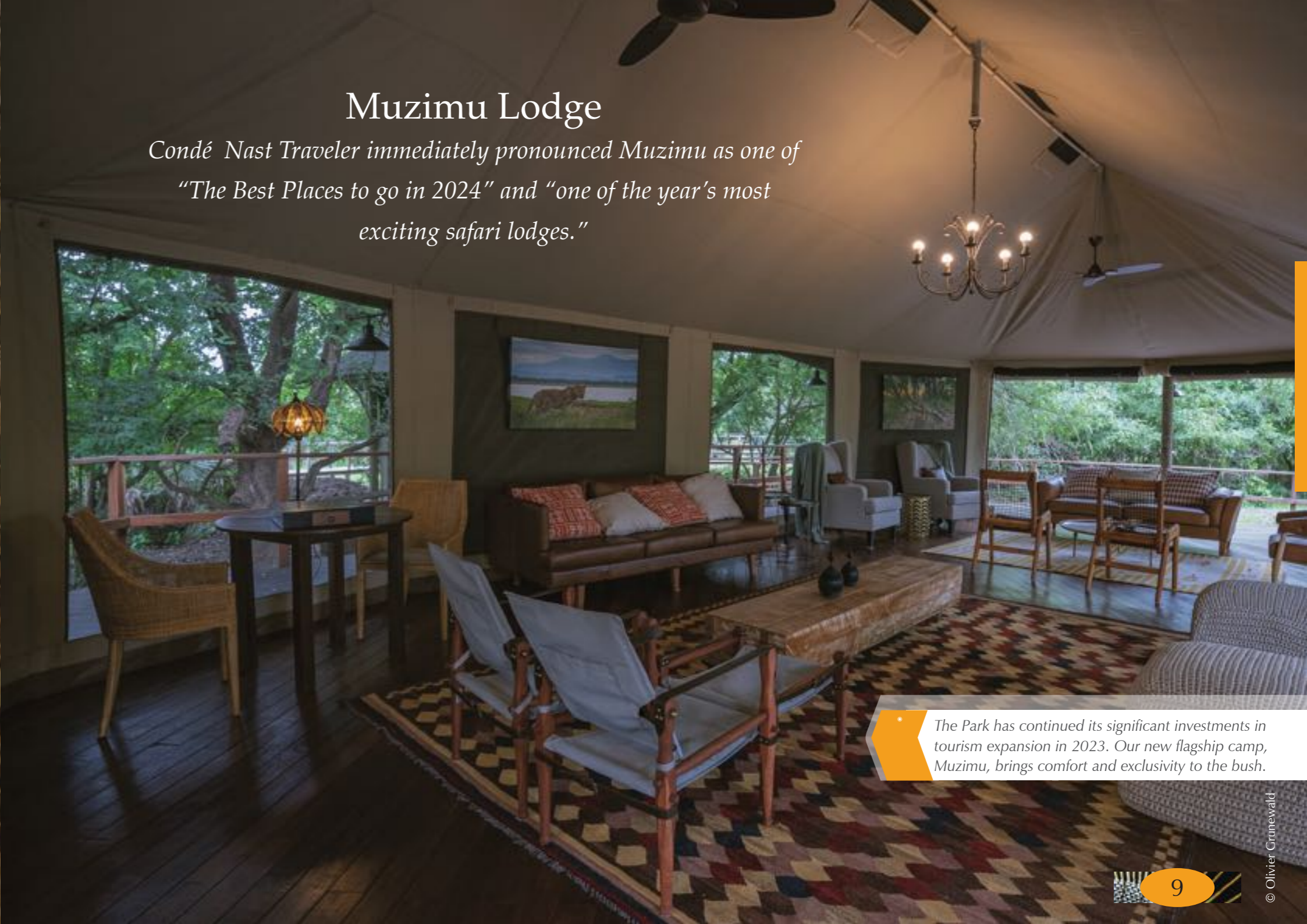
## Sweet Success

Our honey won the “Best in Category” award for ‘liquid dark honey’ at a regional competition held in South Africa. Gorongosa Chief Honey Processor, Juvencio Antonio, accepted the Certificate of Excellence.

The Gorongosa honey project supports over 550 beekeepers. Beekeeping, or apiculture, is one of several agroforestry projects funded by the Gorongosa Project to help build a sustainable economy, create employment, restore the rainforest, and protect the biodiversity of Gorongosa Park.

## Muzimu Lodge

*Condé Nast Traveler immediately pronounced Muzimu as one of “The Best Places to go in 2024” and “one of the year’s most exciting safari lodges.”*



The Park has continued its significant investments in tourism expansion in 2023. Our new flagship camp, Muzimu, brings comfort and exclusivity to the bush.

### Cheringoma Community Conservancy Area

In 2023, we celebrated the creation of a 64,300 hectare Cheringoma Community Conservancy Area on the Cheringoma Plateau, the first stage in the creation of a vital ecological corridor "linking Gorongosa National Park with the Zambezi River." Our science team conducted a biodiversity survey in the area and confirmed its unique natural value and need for protection.

To the north of Cheringoma, we began building a new center in Inhaminga to support our education, health, and agriculture activities in this area.



© Janado Cher

Elisa Langa, Maria Waite (Administrator of Cheringoma), and Thais Glowacki discuss a sustainable urbanisation model for the District.

*"The old-growth forests that we explored deep in the Cheringoma gorges are some of the most spectacular and completely undisturbed forests found in Africa"*

Dr. Piotr Naskrecki.

### Exciting Discoveries

Scientists and students from the Gorongosa Paleo Primate Project, led by Dr. Susana Carvalho, discovered hundreds of rare fossils from the late Miocene epoch (23 million years to 5.3 million years ago), an important but little-known period in the evolution of African ecosystems and African apes. Until recently, Miocene sites from the S.E. region of Africa were unknown. Their discoveries of marine fossils such as shark teeth reveal that Gorongosa was beside the sea at that time.



© Piotr Naskrecki



Gorongosa Park veterinarians, Mercia da Conceicao Angela and Elias Mubobo, fit a GPS satellite collar on a sedated leopard to allow them to monitor her movements around the Park.

### Predators Return

The restoration of Gorongosa National Park achieved another milestone with the arrival of more carnivore species: eight jackals, six hyenas, and eleven painted wolves. A few months later, our camera traps recorded a historic moment: the first hyena cubs born in Gorongosa in decades.





### Nautilus Special Edition

Nautilus, a prestigious US science magazine, published a special edition about all the fascinating scientific research happening in Gorongosa National Park, a place “fusing science and conservation in a way that hasn’t been done elsewhere in the world.”

### Employment Increases

1,807 people are now employed by Gorongosa (1,086 full-time staff and an additional 721 seasonal / part-time workers).

### New Partnerships

We signed three Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with (a) the Joaquim Chissano Foundation, (b) the Norwegian Embassy and (c) Cartier Foundation to enhance our programs in the Sustainable Development Zone.



© Peter Domorak / Explorers Club  
NEW EXPLORER AWARD

### Explorer’s Club Awards

Dominique Goncalves and Greg Carr won awards at the prestigious Explorer’s Club Annual Dinner in New York City, known as the “Oscars of Exploration”.

Dominique (Manager of Gorongosa’s Elephant Ecology Project) received the “New Explorer Award”, and Greg won the “President’s Award for Conservation”.

Another young Gorongosa scientist, Jacinto Mathe, won a Baldwin Fellowship from the prestigious Leakey Foundation to support his continuing education “in fields of research related to human origins.” Jacinto is completing his Ph.D. at Oxford University on the science of fossil formation.

### New ‘Resilient’ Schools

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), we began construction on 26 schools in 6 Districts of the Sustainable Development Zone using ‘resilient architecture’ techniques. UN-Habitat provides technical assistance and two other NGOs with construction expertise—OIKOS and AVSI—act as the implementing partners. Upon completion, 15,000 elementary students will benefit from modern classrooms. Even better, the schools will serve as safe havens and temporary shelters during extreme weather events such as cyclones.

### Celebrating our Youth

Members of the Gorongosa Youth Club, students from Escola Secundária de Savane in the District of Dondo were crowned winners of the IX National Festival of Culture in Beira. Three winners took first place in different categories: Filipa (local gastronomy), Sofia (traditional beverages), and Wilson (arts with an environmental message). The three winners qualified for the national competition in Maputo. Good luck!

### New School for Nhandar

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education and supported by the Mozambican Embassy of Japan, we opened a new three-room primary school in Nhandar (Gorongosa District). Governor Lourenço Ferreira Bulha and Kimura Hajime (Japanese Ambassador to Mozambique) inaugurated the school in late March.

## Impact beyond Gorongosa in 2023

### Featured on American television

Gorongosa's elephants starred in a six-part documentary series called "Human Footprint" on America's PBS channel, hosted by Dr. Shane Campbell-Staton. Coincidentally, Shane (an assistant professor in the ecology and evolutionary biology department at Princeton University) had already spent time in Gorongosa researching 'tuskless' elephant genetics.

### International Primate Conference

The Gorongosa Paleo-Primate Project team represented Gorongosa and Mozambique at the International Primate Conference in Malaysia, sharing their ground-breaking research on primate behavior from the Park. One of their many fascinating discoveries is that baboons, just like us, engage in "leave-taking behavior" when they part.

### Former Students Thriving

We're always delighted when our team members go on to share their knowledge and experience with Mozambique and the World. Here are just a few examples of their impact:

Ana Gledis da Conceição achieved her Master's in Conservation Biology in Gorongosa National Park and participated in numerous biodiversity surveys here. Today, she brings all her skills to the head office of ANAC, the National Administration of Conservation Areas.

Lorena Matos (pictured right) researched lungfish for her Master's in Conservation Biology in Gorongosa National Park. Today, Lorena brings her aquatic experience to her new role as a marine conservationist at Bazaruto National Park.



© Piotr Nasrecki

### African Filmmakers in Gorongosa

Twelve filmmakers (pictured below) from nine African countries spent two months in Gorongosa as part of the Nature, Environment, Wildlife Filmmaking (NEWF) African Science Film Fellowship, supported by the National Geographic Society. Each filmmaker returned home with new skills and knowledge, enabling them to make science films for their own audiences in their own languages.



### Mozambican Journalists visit Gorongosa

A group of Mozambican journalists participated in a "African Conservation Journalism" program funded by "Space for Giants" and focused on the Gorongosa Restoration Project. Over three days, six journalists researched Gorongosa's science, conservation, and human development projects.





### Neglected Species Conference

Gorongosa conducted a five-day “Conservation of Neglected Taxa” conference in 2023, gathering scientists from over Africa to study the insects, bats, plants and other “non-charismatic” species that often don’t get enough attention in conservation efforts.

### Gorongosa Bat Workshop Attracts Students, Scientists.

Gorongosa National Park hosted a workshop on bats for Mozambican students and scientists in August. Participants studied bat biology, behaviour, and conservation. The course was partly taught by Gorongosa ex-students Ana Gledis da Conceição and Cesária Huo.



### Gorongosa Coffee Represents Mozambique

Our coffee team attended the signing of the International Coffee Agreement in London. Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Celso Correia, signed the Agreement on behalf of the Government of Mozambique. By joining the ICO, Gorongosa and Mozambique will “contribute to the development of global policies on coffee sustainability and participate in the exchange of knowledge with other coffee-producing nations.”

# OUR PURPOSE

## Our Values

1

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.

2

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

3

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.

4

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

5

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

6

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

7

To achieve these goals, we the employees of the Gorongosa Project pledge 100% honesty in the work place. We promise to work each day with efficiency and to the best of our ability, and to help our colleagues to do the same.

## Our Goals

1

Support the livelihoods of local communities through the creation of a sustainable green economy, including ecotourism, regenerative agriculture and well-managed forestry.

2

Protect and restore the unique biodiversity of the Gorongosa ecosystem through the maintenance of large-scale, intact and connected habitats.

3

Improve the resilience of communities through improved infrastructure development, healthcare provision and educational access.

4

Advance scientific understanding of the landscape, including biodiversity exploration, ecological dynamics and evolution.

5

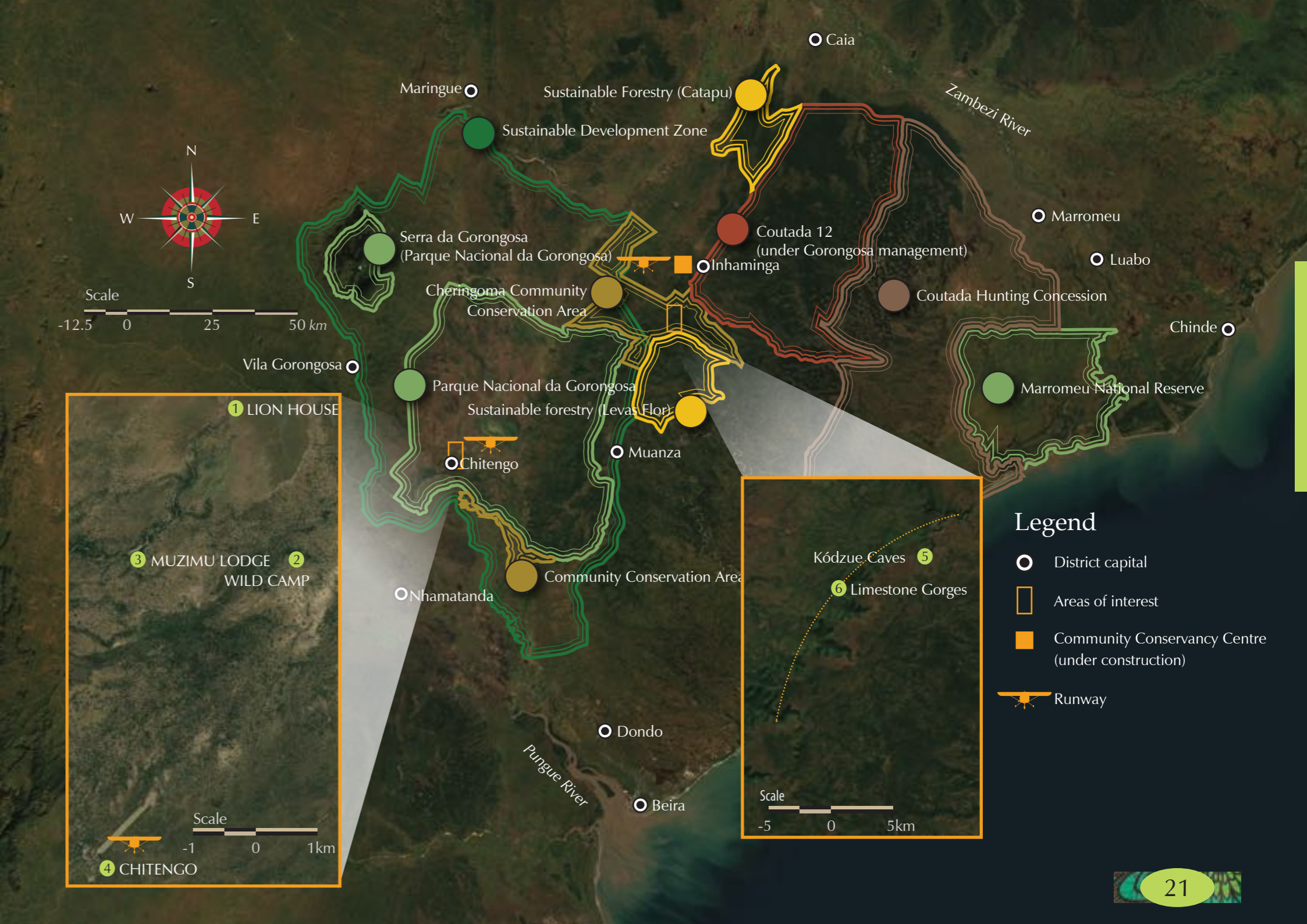
Operate as a modern, high-performance organisation with a relentless focus on local capacity building and continuous improvement.

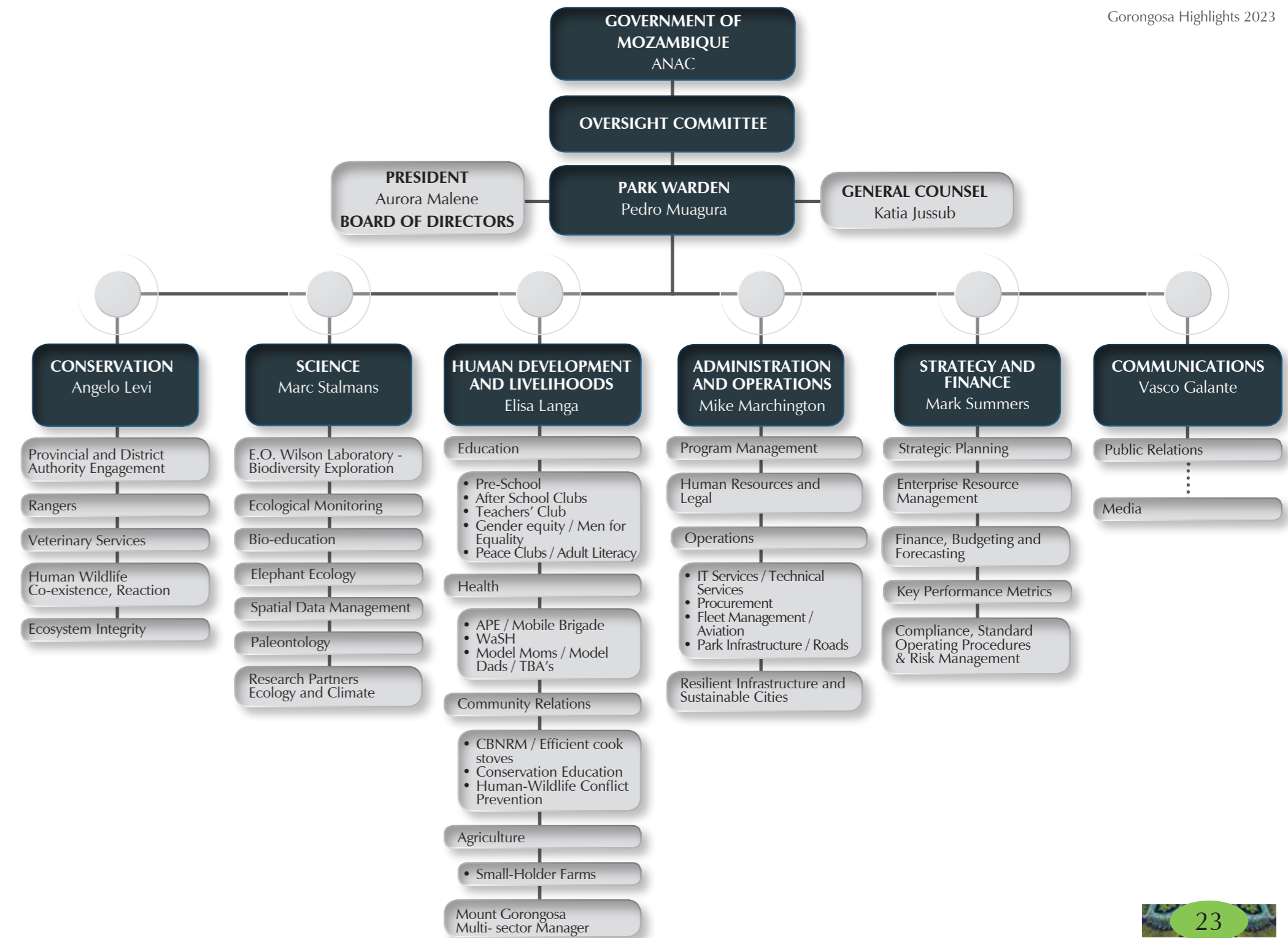


Parque Nacional da  
**Gorongosa**

## Map of the Gorongosa Restoration Project

Tourist attractions in and around Gorongosa National Park. The Cheringoma Community Conservation Area was proclaimed in 2023. Muzimu Lodge opened. Construction began on the Community Conservation Center at Inhaminga.





# DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Gorongosa Programs

The Gorongosa Project achieves its mission with 36 programs across six departments. The mission of each program aligns with the policies of the Government of Mozambique. At all levels, we liaise with other Ministries (including Education, Health, and Agriculture) under our co-management contract with the Government of Mozambique. An advisory board is composed of external experts and appropriate industry professionals. The Board provides advice, guidance, recommendations, feedback, and specialised expertise.



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## Conservation

Protecting Gorongosa's unique ecosystem is the duty of our Department of Conservation. Over 300 men and woman on this dedicated team (99% of whom are Mozambican) work tirelessly to protect Gorongosa using a variety of approaches: conservation law enforcement, wildlife tracking and management, veterinary care for animals, re-introduction of species, fire management, liaising with Provincial and local Governments and legal representatives, and working with local communities to achieve human wildlife coexistence.

### Rangers

All our 269 rangers are rigorously selected and trained in field skills, and conservation and human rights laws. Several of our rangers have received local and national awards for their outstanding service. In 2023, our Rangers carried out 1,141 patrols on foot, by road and by air.

### PARTICIPATION IN TRAINING ACTIVITIES

To ensure that rangers are equipped with the latest technologies, techniques, and processes, they participate in a range of training programs during the year. The 2023 programs included:

- Human rights, biodiversity law, and conservation intelligence — 28 rangers;
- EarthRanger wildlife tacking technology (daily monitoring of more than 150 instruments; satellite collars, digital radios, inReach satellite communicators and more) — two rangers and one veterinarian;
- Veterinarian Training — one veterinarian participated in the EarthRanger workshop held in Maputo organized by the National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC) and partners. In November he participated in the annual meeting of the EarthRanger platform held in Cape Town, South Africa.

Our ranger team has proven its effectiveness over the years by a reduction in illegal hunting by more than 70%.



© Piotr Nasrecki

### APPLICATION AND ACQUISITION OF TECHNOLOGY

The EarthRanger platform collects, integrates, and displays all historical and available data relevant to protected area management and combines it with reports from the field to provide a unified view of collared wildlife, rangers, enforcement assets, and infrastructure within a protected area. In 2023 we purchased:

- Radios: 15
- InReach devices: 12
- iPads: 8
- Cellphones: 33
- Computers: 3



© Piotr Nasrecki

### PANGOLIN REHABILITATION PROJECT

We address the plight of what is perhaps the most globally trafficked mammal, through our pangolin rescue and rehabilitation program.

- Through our Pangolin Rescue and Rehabilitation program, we contribute to the conservation of this beautiful but threatened species;
- Total rescued since inception in 2018: 106 pangolins;

- Trafficking: 106 (83 from illegal wildlife trafficking, 23 voluntarily handed in by communities);
- Rescued in 2023: 10 (six from illegal wildlife trafficking, four voluntarily handed in);
- Visitors to the Pangolin Centre: 671.



Park veterinarians Mercia Angela and Antonio Paulo "Tonecas" fit a GPS-tracking collar on a sedated male lion. The collar allows them to study and protect Gorongosa's lion population.

### Veterinary services

We currently have three veterinarians supported by nine rangers, four security guards, and a wildlife management technician. This team monitor and maintain the health of our wild animals and manages the safe translocation of animals to Gorongosa as part of the restoration plan.

### ESTIMATED POPULATION SIZE OF SOME OF GORONGOSA'S LARGE MAMMALS:



Angelo Levi  
Director of  
Conservation

Rangers transfer a newly arrived leopard to a truck for eventual release inside the Park.

HUMAN-WILDLIFE COEXISTENCE

In many areas, humans and wild animals living side by side presents challenges for both. Elephants can be particularly problematic because they sometimes destroy crops and traditional grain silos. The Park uses several strategies to facilitate the peaceful coexistence of humans and wildlife. This unit currently employs 22 staff.

MITIGATION TECHNIQUES

Community rangers, community awareness campaigns, two ton grain silos, land use planning, problem-animal control (PAC), fireworks, horns, etc.

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS

Training and collaboration in human-wildlife coexistence techniques is critical. To achieve this, we initiated knowledge-sharing visits with the Government of the Caia District and ANAC.



© Piotr Nasrecki

Judite Zipe  
Head of Operations Carnivore Unit  
CONSERVATION

My name is Judite Daniel Zipe. I'm originally from Caia and I live in Gorongosa Village. I'm married and I have one daughter. As a child, I often heard people talking about Gorongosa National Park, and I developed an interest in becoming a ranger.

I attended the Park's ranger selection and training process and was one of the few women selected from a pool of more than 2,000 candidates, both men and women. I finally joined the Gorongosa family as a ranger.

In 2019, I was promoted to Deputy Patrol Leader and in 2022 I was promoted to Head of Operations of the Carnivore Unit, a group of more than 22 rangers responsible for carnivores and other protected species such as pangolins. I am the first woman to hold this position. This year I received the award for the Best Ranger in Mozambique at an event organized by ANAC and the Ministry of Land and Environment.





© Piotr Naskrecki

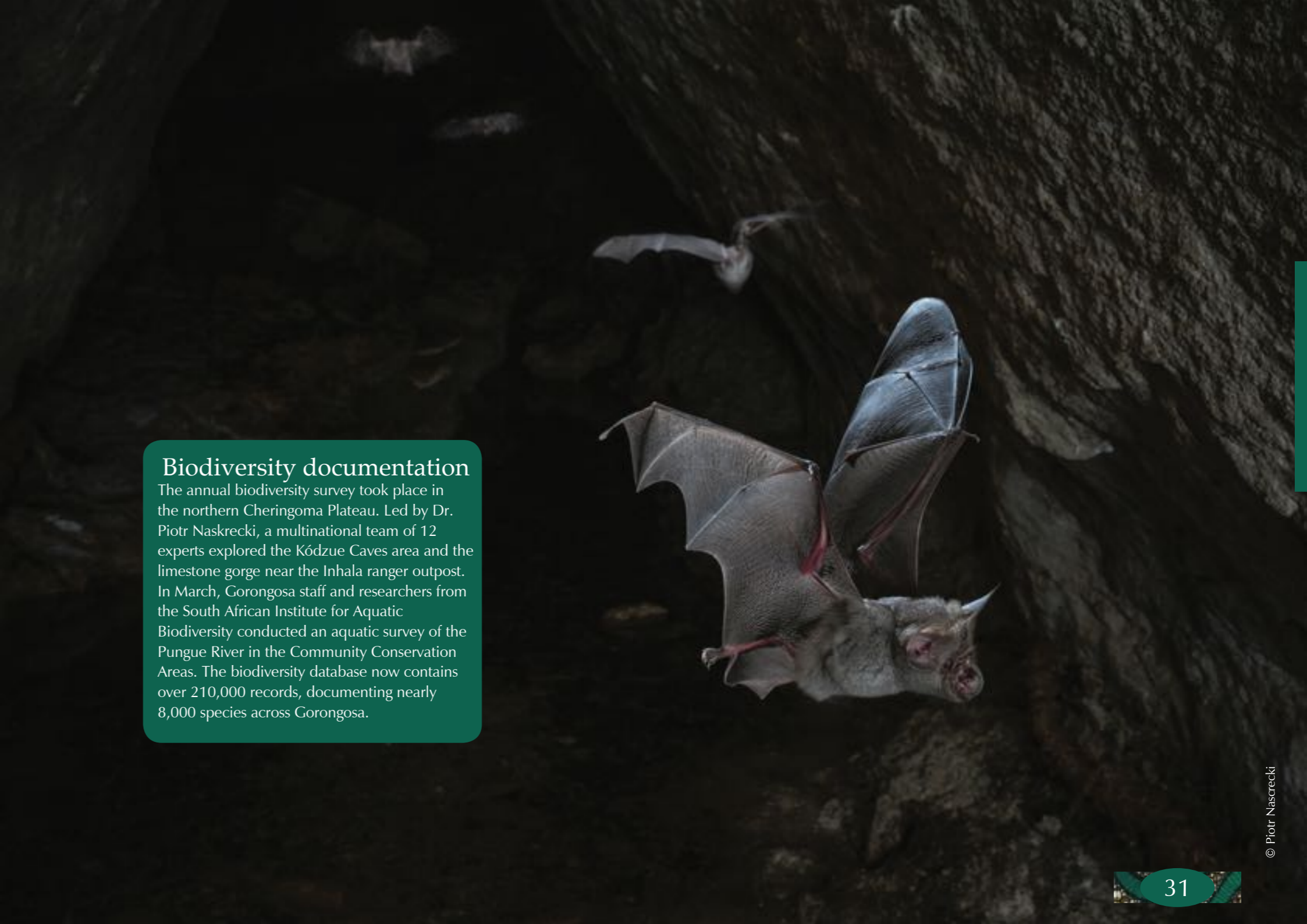
## Science

Science generates the information required for the long-term conservation of the Greater Gorongosa landscape and informs the planning of programs in the Sustainable Development Zone. The Science Department allows management actions to be properly defined and targeted and their probable outcome and effectiveness to be predicted.

New scientific tools, techniques, and theories now accessible to a new generation of researchers have greatly expanded our knowledge of Gorongosa.

- The three main areas of science activities are:
- Gathering new knowledge about the Park's biodiversity and ecology.
  - Long-term ecological monitoring and evaluation of change across the Greater Gorongosa landscape.
  - Educating and building the scientific capacity of a new generation of Mozambican scientists.

The Department runs seven interlinked and mutually-supporting programs in collaboration with a wide range of external researchers and institutions.



## Biodiversity documentation

The annual biodiversity survey took place in the northern Cheringoma Plateau. Led by Dr. Piotr Naskrecki, a multinational team of 12 experts explored the Kódzue Caves area and the limestone gorge near the Inhala ranger outpost. In March, Gorongosa staff and researchers from the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity conducted an aquatic survey of the Pungue River in the Community Conservation Areas. The biodiversity database now contains over 210,000 records, documenting nearly 8,000 species across Gorongosa.

© Piotr Naskrecki





### BIO-EDUCATION (INCLUDING THE MASTER'S IN CONSERVATION BIOLOGY DEGREE)

During 2023, the 12 students in the third intake of the M.Sc. Conservation Biology course were in their final study year. After successfully completing their theoretical modules, they conducted intensive field data collection, particularly at the Gorongosa Savanna Ecology Experiment site near Chitengo and on Gorongosa Mountain.

The Bio-education program offers advanced science workshops to small groups of Mozambican students and professionals. In 2023, we held workshops in field botany, bat biology and conservation, field ornithology and conservation.

### MARGARIDA RETURNS FROM IRELAND

GIS technician Margarida Victor successfully completed her M.Sc. in Geographical Information Systems & Remote Sensing at Maynooth National University in Ireland. Her studies in Ireland were made possible through a bursary under the Ireland Fellows Programme of Irish Aid. This covered all her costs of tuition, travel, and accommodation. Margarida has returned to work in Gorongosa.

### PALAEONTOLOGICAL EXPLORATION AND EXCAVATION

The Paleo-Primate Project (PPP) Gorongosa conducted a two-week long palaeontological excavation on the Cheringoma Plateau. A team of senior researchers, led by Dr. Susana Carvalho, were assisted by students from Eduardo Mondlane and Oxford universities. The senior team is affiliated with institutions from the USA, UK, Portugal, Germany, Spain and Mozambique. They expanded the main excavation site near Mt. Menguere and found hundreds of fossil specimens from the Miocene epoch (23 million years to 5.3 million years ago). They carefully transported the fossils back to the palaeontological laboratory in Chitengo for further analysis. The PPP also hosts a field school in human evolution every year for Mozambican and international students.

### ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL RESEARCH

A significant number of senior researchers and students from local and international institutions spent time in the Park on a variety of projects. These institutions included Eduardo Mondlane University and the Instituto de Investigação Agrária de Moçambique (Mozambique), Princeton, Harvard, Stanford, University of Idaho and Boise State University (USA), Cambridge and Oxford Universities (UK), University of British Columbia (Canada), University of Lisbon (Portugal), Wageningen University (The Netherlands), University of Pretoria and the Endangered Wildlife Trust (South Africa), Ghent University (Belgium) and the University of Würzburg (Germany).



### MOZAMBIQUE'S FIRST PRIMATOLOGIST

Congratulations to Rassina Farassi for completing her Master's degree in Primatology at the University of Girona, Spain, achieving a remarkable score of 9.44 (out of 10). She is the first Mozambican to obtain a Master's in primatology. Rassina spent 13 months in Gorongosa tracking baboons on foot from dawn to dusk to collect data for her Master's.

### Raúl Chomela

Molecular Biology and Genetics Laboratory Technician  
**SCIENCE**

I'm Raúl da Silva Armando Chomela, a biologist from Beira with a degree in Biological Sciences from Lúrio University. I trained in molecular biology techniques through an Erasmus+ fellowship at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland. I subsequently began working as a lecturer in ecology and environmental sciences at the Institute of Management and Technologies, and later participated in the Half-Earth Fellowship in Taxonomy and Biodiversity Exploration in collaboration with the E.O. Wilson Biodiversity Laboratory.

I now serve as a molecular biology and genetics lab technician at the Park. In this role, I manage the lab, coordinate activities, conduct fieldwork, and assist researchers in tasks such as DNA extraction, PCR, bioinformatics, and DNA bar-codes for species identification. I've contributed to biodiversity surveys, obtaining genome sequences of various species, and mentored students in metabolite extraction. Every day in this extraordinary environment is a unique opportunity to learn and make a meaningful and positive impact in conservation.





© Janado Nazare Chet

## Human Development and Livelihoods

Our core purpose in the Human Development and Livelihoods Department is to support the well-being, resilience, of over 200,000 people in the 600,000+ hectare Sustainable Development Zone outside Gorongosa National Park.

Our mission is to unlock the economic and social benefits of sustainable natural resource use with a strong focus on improved health and education services, forestry, and agriculture. In 2023, 647 of our dedicated staff members worked tirelessly to achieve this critical mission.

Some of our specific objectives are:  
 Improve Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) and community participation in local development processes, including sustainable resource use, land-use planning, and decision-making.

Improve quality and access of education and health services in the Sustainable Development Zone (with particular emphasis on girls and women, especially young mothers).

Improve livelihood resilience of smallholder farmers (especially women) through increased agricultural productivity and agribusiness activities in the Sustainable Development Zone.



## 2023 by the numbers

- New 64,300 hectare Cheringoma Community Conservation Area.
- 26 new “resilient infrastructure” schools under construction.
- 178,861 people reached with conservation education campaigns.
- 175 “elephant-proof” grain storage silos.
- 10,000 efficient-cooking stoves to local households.
- Health support for 200,000 people.
- 18 new boreholes serving over 7,000 people.
- 3,200 culinary demonstrations to improve nutrition.
- 384 mobile health brigades in 2023 and 2,340 home-based visits.
- 120 Girls’ Clubs supporting 4,800 girls.
- 6 pre-schools graduating 177 children to 1st grade.
- 550 beekeepers harvested nine tons of honey.

© Janado Nazare Chet



## Community Relations



© Brett Kuxhausen

Children from a local community watch films about the Park dubbed into the Sena language.

### CONSERVATION EDUCATION

With deep respect for traditional knowledge and culture, we provide additional information and tools to local communities that promote sustainable behaviors, with a particular focus on practices around agriculture, deforestation, and the use of fire.

Our awareness-raising campaigns in 2023 reached 178,861 people. We support 267 Community Animators to share environmental messages with their own communities. We currently have 70 Eco-Clubs with over 2,300 youth members and 140 teachers, all provided with supplies and uniforms. In 2023, we trained an additional 734 teachers in local schools in conservation education.

We conducted mobile cinema screenings in the Park’s communities and schools, reaching over 4,200 people with educational and engaging films showcasing environmental themes. We supported the creation of an environmental curriculum for schools and communities in the Sustain-able Development Zone. And we organized seven major environmental commemorative events (e.g. World Elephant Day and World Forests Day) to share positive messages about wildlife and the environment.

### WOMEN’S DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES

These committees provide a safe space for women to discuss gender-based violence, women’s rights, governance and receive training in social inclusion, financial literacy, and community leadership. The goal is to increase women’s skills to better engage in community planning and decision-making and achieve more equity in their own lives.

In 2023, 11 Women’s Development Committees comprised of 209 members in Catemo and Nhabawa in Cheringoma District were legalised.

### HUMAN WILDLIFE COEXISTENCE

In collaboration with communities sharing boundaries with Gorongosa National Park, we identify and implement Human-Wildlife-Coexistence measures that help reduce conflict—and increase coexistence—with wild animals such as crop-raiding elephants. We work closely with the Department of Conservation on this cross-cutting work.

We built 175 “elephant-proof” grain storage silos with a storage capacity of two tons for families in Bebedo and Nhampoca bringing the total households with grain silos to 687.

We identified 71 wildlife crossing points (where wildlife cross from the Park into communities) and created more beehive fences to deter animals like elephants.

We built approximately 16 km of beehive and chili fences and employed 54 fence facilitators. Beehive fences now protect over 18,000 people using 66 km of beehive, chili rope, and iron sheet fences, well-proven human-elephant conflict mitigation techniques from Kenya.

We built 30 improved bomas (aka corrals) to protect domestic livestock from the risk of large wild predators/carnivores. We conducted coexistence training and awareness classes for 1,215 community members south of the Pungue River, and shared prevention/mitigation strategies with communities in Cheringoma and Gorongosa.

### COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

We respect and honour the traditional governmental structures of the local communities. We help them create Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) committees that enable the sustainable management of their land. Through these committees, we want to improve community engagement in biodiversity protection, resource use planning, and decision-making.

In 2023, we achieved a major milestone: the creation of the 64,300-hectare Cheringoma Community Conservation Area (CCA). We hope it’s the first of many. These CCA areas create new opportunities to improve the socio-economic conditions of communities. Eight more community conservation areas are in development and two more community projects for beekeeping and ecotourism are in the financing phase.

Additionally, we developed 19 new natural resource management plans with communities, a total of 60 management plans so far. We signed 41 new conservation agreements with villages that implement natural resource plans. We created several community revenue generating projects in beekeeping, ecotourism, and fish farming with a total value of US\$200,469.00. And we supported 307 community rangers.

At the end of the year, just like every other year, communities received their share of 20% of the entrance fees to Gorongosa National Park.



*Ernesto Jeque’s crops will now be safe thanks to this new “elephant-proof” cement silo.*

© Augusto Bila

### LAND USE, RESTORATION, AND REFORESTATION

Our goal is to work with local communities towards sustainable land use in the Sustainable Development Zone, increasing biodiversity and securing the ecosystem services such as pollination, pest control, and air and water quality. In degraded areas, we create restoration and reforestation projects to bring people and nature back into balance.

In 2023, we supported 225 reforestation facilitators and park-supported nurseries produced 440,000 seedlings of native plants to be planted in the Sustainable Development Zone. We conducted participatory meetings in 11 villages in the Canda community on Mount Gorongosa. 68 guardians were trained for service on Mount Gorongosa. Community leaders from Mount Gorongosa were trained in environmental awareness. And 15 motorbikes were supplied to community leaders to support restoration activities on Mount Gorongosa.

We also delivered over 10,000 efficient-cooking stoves to local households in 2023, bringing the total delivered so far to over 20,000. These stoves are far healthier for families (especially young children) and require less wood for cooking and heating (reducing reliance on firewood and charcoal and alleviating deforestation). Another benefit is less time spent cooking and more time for play, learning, or socializing.



## Health

Our health programs are driven by a simple but powerful idea: the health of Corongosa National Park is directly linked to the health of the people living near the Park — and vice-versa.

We work together with the Ministry of Health to provide fixed and mobile health clinics, and to train and support health-care workers and volunteers.

In 2023, the Health Sector continued its long-standing, deep service to communities and reached over 200,000 people through the following programs.

### WATER AND SANITATION PROGRAM (WaSH)

This program aims to improve access to safe water, better hygiene, and improved sanitation in communities within the Sustainable Development Zone.

The WaSH Program operates in all 6 local districts. In 2023, the program continued to assist waSH sanitation committees by repairing and constructing new boreholes. It mobilized communities to embrace improved hygiene and sanitation practices by constructing latrines, pantries, landfills, and drainage systems. The program also provided sanitation support to schools, creating a healthier and safer environment for thousands of students.

In 2023, we constructed 18 boreholes in four different districts, providing drinking water to over 7,000 people. We trained 18 Water and Sanitation Committees in Management and operations of water boreholes.

We also held a fun competition between schools called “Clean Hands Detective” to transmit knowledge about the importance of handwashing and disease prevention.

### MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROGRAMS

This program promotes primary health care, especially for pregnant and lactating women, children, and adolescents in local communities, with a focus on sexual reproductive health and nutrition. In 2023, the program monitored and guided the activities of 632 community health workers.

To combat child malnutrition, we provided food and conducted 3,200 culinary demonstrations to improve nutrition in children under five years of age, nursing mothers, and pregnant women. At the same time, issues such as early marriage, teenage pregnancy, gender-based violence, and gender inclusion were also addressed. In total, a total of 290 children under five years of age were screened for malnutrition this year.

This year, the program successfully expanded its reach to two new districts, reaching 74 new mentors and 100 new ‘Model Moms’ and ‘Model Dads’, further strengthening support for the well-being of mothers, children, and families.

## COMMUNITY NURSES AND MOBILE CLINICS

This program aims to improve the skills of community nurses and ensure that more people have access to primary health care in the Sustainable Development Zone. We conducted 384 mobile health brigades in 2023 and 2,340 home-based visits thanks to the dedication of our over 400 community-based agents.

This year, 126 Community Health Workers formerly (known as APEs or Agentes Polivalente Elementares) were active in all the districts. We plan to triple the number of APEs and expand to two new districts due to demand and the proven success of the program.

Our fixed clinics provide medical and medication assistance to GNP visitors, employees, and nearby communities. In 2023, a total of 2,234 staff and 2,369 community members were served at our Chitengo and CEC clinics.



A total of 111 bicycles were distributed among Elementary Polyvalent Health Agents

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## Vanessa Ramos

Manager, Maternal, and Child Health and Nutrition  
**HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND LIVELIHOODS**

My name is Vanessa and I'm from Alto Molocué, Zambézia Province, I'm 29 years old and mother of two children. At the age of 12, I went to live in Gurué and then came to Beira in 2013. Before that, I attended primary school in Molocué. In 2007 I moved to Gurué where I studied a general electricity course, I have also graduated in Nutrition and Food Safety, and I am currently finishing my degree in Environmental Management. I began working in 2016 in Marromeu as District Nutrition Supervisor.

I am now the manager of the Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition program in Gorongosa National Park for three years. My mission as team leader is to raise awareness about changing behaviour and adopting healthy lifestyle habits, promoting health care, especially for pregnant women, breastfeeding women, children and adolescents in communities in the GNP Sustainable Development Zone. I focus strongly on reproductive health rights, prevention of premature unions and early pregnancies, and treatment of acute malnutrition.



## A Special Guest



## Allyson Felix

With 31 medals, Allyson Felix is the most decorated female U.S. Track and Field Olympic athlete of all time. Allyson visited Gorongosa in May as an Ambassador for the Right to Play USA Foundation. She met members of our Girls Clubs program as part of their mission to protect, educate, and empower children to rise above adversity using the power of play. Their work encourages children to stay in school and graduate, resist exploitation, and overcome prejudice. She spent several days with local girls and reminding them of their "right to play".

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## Education

Education is a powerful tool to open the door to a better life. We support and provide programs that range from primary level to post graduate, working with local school children and community leaders to ensure that all segments of society are included.

We build schools, train teachers, and provide after-school clubs for girls and boys, with an extra focus on girls at risk of early marriage. We do all this in collaboration with the Ministry of Education in line with national policies.

### TEACHERS' CLUBS

Gorongosa National Park supports the Gorongosa District Education and Youth Service by training and supporting in-service teachers. The aim is to improve teacher attendance, motivation, and quality in as many classrooms as possible. Ninety clubs train 734 teachers from 90 schools.

### YOUTH CLUBS

Thirty-one Youth Clubs provide study support for teenage boys and girls, providing on-the-job learning opportunities, mentoring support, preparing them to thrive in work and life. Forty-eight Youth Club members were employed after participation in the program.



## Cândida Geraldo

Cândida speaks to a Girls' Club about the disadvantages of early marriage. Cândida got married when she was 15 years old but returned to school after she joined a Girls' Club. She successfully graduated secondary school and now works as a Girls' Club promoter and role model.

### GIRLS' CLUBS

In this highly successful and long-running after-school club (held every weekday), girls learn literacy, numeracy, life skills, sexual and reproductive health, the risks and costs of early marriage, and their human rights. They're also provided with school materials and uniforms to allow them to continue attending school. In 2023, we had 120 Girls' Clubs with 4,800 members.

Excursions give girls the opportunity to learn about career options and meet female role models from the Park—scientists, guides, managers and more. To date, our 120 clubs support about 4,800 girls.

In late 2023, as part of our annual 16 Days of Activism, we assembled 63 dynamic girls for the 1st Annual Girls' Club Conference with "Unite! Invest to prevent violence" as the inaugural theme. Attendees enjoyed a day full of inspirational speeches, poetry, and the declaration of the "Girls' Club Charter", a commitment to unity, equality, and respect for human rights.

### PEACE CLUBS AND PEACEBUILDING

We believe that our collective activities will contribute to lasting peace in our region. We conducted 23 Peace Clubs with 1,069 members to help former combatants and their families to reintegrate into society.

As part of the DDR (Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration) process, we conduct literacy programs for ex-combatants and their families, particularly in the Cheringoma and Gorongosa Districts. Topics and trainings include peacebuilding and conflict resolution, adult education and literacy, post-conflict rehabilitation, environmental conservation, community development projects, and financial savings groups with a special focus on financial literacy for women.

Former RENAMO combatants and their families (209 women and 168 men) were integrated into several Park programs and projects. One thousand and eighteen community members including ex-combatants and their families attended adult literacy classes.

Twenty-four Peace Club promoters improved their skills at a three-day training in the Community Education Centre. Forty scholarships were awarded to young people from the Gorongosa district on short-term vocational courses specializing in plumbing and refrigeration. (Each course was attended by 20 young people and 19 of were the sons and daughters of ex-combatants).



Project Highlight  
PRE-SCHOOLS

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**Elisa Langa**  
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND LIVELIHOODS

### Pre-Schools (Early Childhood Development)

Elisa Langa, a former teacher and our Director of Human Development and Livelihoods, champions our exciting new preschool initiative. The first five years of a child's life are foundational for future health and success and preschool attendance is proven to boost performance in subsequent education.

Children engage in three hours of educational play each weekday morning, acquiring essential relationship skills, literacy, numeracy, and Portuguese language proficiency, distinct from their native Sena. This preparation will give them an advantage when they start elementary school.

Parents' feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and the children's progress is remarkable. With ambitions to expand to 100 preschools serving 10,000 children, we envision significant benefits for the children, their families, and communities, as education paves the way to a brighter future for Mozambique, starting with preschool.

When these kids start elementary school at age 6, they'll have a headstart. Imagine the difference it will make. Imagine the powerful ripple effects through these kids' lives, their families, and their communities. And it all starts here at preschool...



To date, we've distributed tens of thousands of beehives to the local community. Honey is a wonderful and sustainable way to improve the incomes and lives of farm families.

### Sustainable Livelihoods Development Program

We support local farm families with our "Livelihoods" sector. We help farmers get a greater yield on their crops and help them sell their output for a fair price in the market. We provide training, inputs, and access to the market.

Our two affiliated Gorongosa companies (Gorongosa Restoration Project and Gorongosa Trust) are now the largest employer in Sofala Province. However, we recognize that local society will be more resilient if there are many successful companies, owned by local entrepreneurs. Through our Livelihoods sector, we also support the creation of small and medium sized businesses.



### Honey

In 2023, we harvested 9 tons of honey. 'Produtos da Gorongosa' worked with more than 550 beekeepers (including 154 women) in five districts of the Sustainable Development Zone. To 'sweeten' the deal, some of the honey comes from the beehive fences that protect farms from crop-raising elephants. Integrating beehives into our orchards also helps boost coffee and cashew yields by 50%.

### Cashew

This year, Gorongosa Products purchased another 10 tons of cashew nuts from local farmers. The company also signed a memorandum of understanding with Condor Anacardium, a major food processor, to develop the cashew value chain to benefit local farmers and their families.

### Fish farming

In 2023, we worked with an association of 17 fish farmers (including nine women) trained in the production and maintenance of three tilapia fishponds in the Vunduzi community. In 2023, the Producers' Association harvested and sold a total of three tons of fish.

### Chillies

In 2023, we planted 10 hectares of high-value piri-piri (chillies) in 4 districts of the Sustainable Development Zone. To date, 160 producers (including 59 women) support the piri-piri project.

### Gabriel Samuel

Coffee processing technician

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

My name is Gabriel Samuel. I was born in the community of Tazaronda on the 1st of January 197. I grew up in Corongosa Village where I attended primary school and also where I now work and raise my three daughters of nine, six and three years old. I began working in the Corongosa Restoration Project when the Mapombué campus in Corongosa Village was first established. I began by working on the rehabilitation of buildings. Later, I was encouraged to apply for a permanent position with the Project as a warehouse assistant. Soon after, in 2019, I began learning about coffee roasting. In the beginning, I used a 2.5 kg capacity roasting machine in Chitengo camp. Later, we transferred the operation to Mapombué in Corongosa where I am now responsible for roasting all coffee for "A Nossa Corongosa". Without the project I would not have been able to find work to improve the lives of my family and myself.



### Coffee

As part of our shade-grown coffee and reforestation project on Mount Corongosa, we've planted over a million coffee plants across 243 hectares in partnership with over 1,000 smallholder farmers (including 40% women). We're turning coffee into a lucrative, sustainable, forest-friendly income. It's also delicious!

Coffee producer Manuel Isaías Manejo was named the Top Producer of 2023, earning a profit of MT152,564 (US\$2,388.52) for the year.

In early 2023, we exported nine tons of green coffee to the South African and UK markets. We also purchased more than 120 tons of coffee 'cherries' from local coffee project producers. The 'A Nossa Corongosa' brand is now one of only six national brands to reach the standard required to export coffee.



## GORONGOSA 2030

### QUADRO DE DESENVOLVIMENTO SUSTENTÁVEL 2030 DA VILA DE GORONGOSA



### Model Cities: Building a Future for People and Nature

Model Cities' aims to create well-planned, environment-friendly urban areas in the Park's Sustainable Development Zone that support the biodiversity and ecological values and enhance the prosperity of local communities. The programme employs a comprehensive approach that encompasses three aspects:

**Social - Integrated Planning and Participatory Governance:** Development of a Regional Planning Strategy, Master Plans, and the establishment of Governance structures i.e. local committees ensuring that the voices of local people are integrated in all processes.

**Environmental - Climate Resilience and Ecosystem Services:** Construction of resilient infrastructure and deployment of nature-based solutions for basic infrastructure and public spaces.

**Economic - Local Economy Empowerment:** Stimulate job creation and strengthen rural-urban market linkages to enhance food security and drive sustainable growth.

### A Model of Sustainable Urbanisation

Imagine Vila de Corongosa as thriving, sustainable, and inclusive. That's the vision captured in the Corongosa 2030 Sustainable Development Framework (pictured).

Through inclusive workshops, the Municipality, members of the community, UN-Habitat, and GRP co-created a roadmap for a brighter future, outlining 50 concrete projects and initiatives to start now paving the way for the future.

In 2023, a dedicated Local Committee was established to ensure the implementation and oversight of the Corongosa 2030 Framework. Comprised of diverse stakeholders, the Committee developed a statute that reflects its principles to transparency and accountability. As Professor Mading, a Committee member, states: "Community participation is crucial for the development of an area. When the community is involved in the process, it becomes a significant lever for its success."

*This framework is more than just a document. It's a call to action for partners to join forces. Let's align efforts, contribute, and embark on a collaborative journey towards shared success!*

## Resilient infrastructure

### Project Spotlight

Mozambique is highly vulnerable to extreme weather events like Cyclone Idai in 2019. These events have significantly increased the vulnerability of communities in the Gorongosa National Park Sustainable Development Zone, causing serious economic and social repercussions such as the disruption of classes and the availability of basic health services. In this context, the Resilient Infrastructure project funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by the Gorongosa Restoration Project (GRP), carries out activities in the Education sector across all Districts of its Sustainable Development Zone (Cheringoma, Dondo, Gorongosa, Maringue, Muanza, and Nhamatanda), which were severely affected by Cyclone Idai. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, 26 schools (150 classrooms) are being constructed in using resilient architecture techniques. UN-Habitat is bringing its expertise to the project and providing technical assistance to GRP and two NGOs with experience in construction – OIKOS and AVSI—are the implementing partners.

Resilient infrastructure uses a mix of locally-sourced materials with standard building materials and can withstand the high winds and flooding of cyclones. It involves a comprehensive approach that integrates resilient design principles, materials, and construction techniques. When completed, approx. 15,000 elementary students will have enhanced learning environments.

The project seeks also to actively involve local community members in building the schools, both men and women. This not only creates jobs, but also fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility for these important structures. Through capacity building trainings and equipping those community members with construction skills, they gain the knowledge and ability to maintain the schools themselves and share resilient building techniques with others and also can apply in other constructions. This proactive approach strengthens the community's preparedness for future challenges instead of relying on emergency responses.



The project advocates for the inclusion of women occupying technical roles. There are nine women hired as construction technicians and community mobilizers. When we look to the numbers of the community there are in total 293 members of the community employed and working on the construction and among them 92 are women. From the 92, 65 are learning and gaining new skills as bricklayer and carpenter assistants. These women are occupying new roles and acting as a positive female model for others.



The project utilises 100% certified structural wood, fulfilling the commitment to improved construction standards as in Ministerial Decree 122/2021 and to the environmental responsibility through the use of legal wood. Forest concessions in the SDZ played a major role in supplying wood for the construction which also minimised the project's environmental footprint by reducing transportation distances.

These schools will also serve as safe havens – in other words, temporary shelters - in case of extreme weather events hit the region, assisting in restoring normality to communities.

Resilient architecture involves a comprehensive approach that integrates simple layouts, stronger connection between materials and good quality of those materials. It can be applied for both conventional or mixed-materials construction techniques (pictured).

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## Administration and Operations

The Gorongosa Restoration Project is a large and multi-faceted organisation. The Project comprises 36 different programs across conservation, science, and development, including habitat management, species reintroductions, social health, environmental education, sustainable development, and gender-focused activities. The Operations Department provides all the supporting services that enable the efficient and effective functioning of these projects.

- Provision of logistics;
- Statutory compliance;
- Fleet management;
- Program Office;
- Infrastructure;
- IT infrastructures;
- Human resources management;
- Strategic planning.

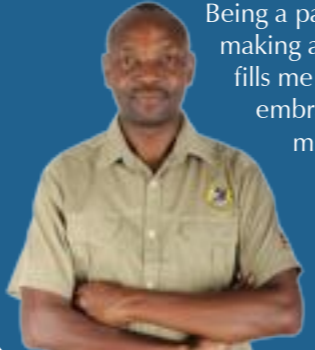
**Richard Musarara**  
Monitoring and Evaluation Manager  
**ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATIONS**

I am Richard Musarara, an adventurous individual who has spent over six years immersing myself in the vibrant atmosphere of Mozambique. With an M.Sc. in Public Policy and Governance, as well as a B.Sc. Hons. in Local Governance Studies, I've been able to pursue my passion for human development.

My journey to make a positive impact began in 2010 when I focused on HIV/AIDS programs and livelihoods. Later, I was drawn to the relationship between human development and conservation. This led me to Gorongosa National Park in 2020 where I currently serve in the Program Office.

In my role, I assume diverse responsibilities ranging from monitoring and evaluating a wide array of projects to developing programs and providing support for fundraising. I also engage in coordinating project planning and ensuring compliance with our valued donors. By preparing comprehensive project reports, I demonstrate the long-term value of our organization and provide crucial support to the implementation teams, contributing to the fulfilment of our 30-year vision.

Being a part of the Gorongosa team and making a tangible difference in the world fills me with joy and a readiness to embrace whatever challenges we might face.




© Janado Nazare Cher



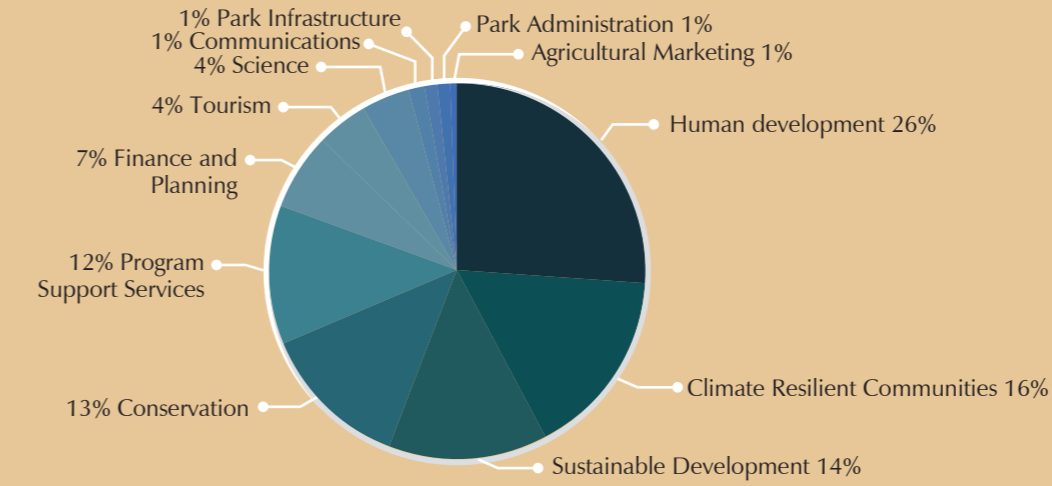
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## Strategy and Finance

The Strategy and Finance Department are responsible for establishing, implementing and maintaining efficient internal controls, administrative and accounting systems—and the related procedures to support the effective running of the Park. We have a sustained emphasis on the improvement of financial

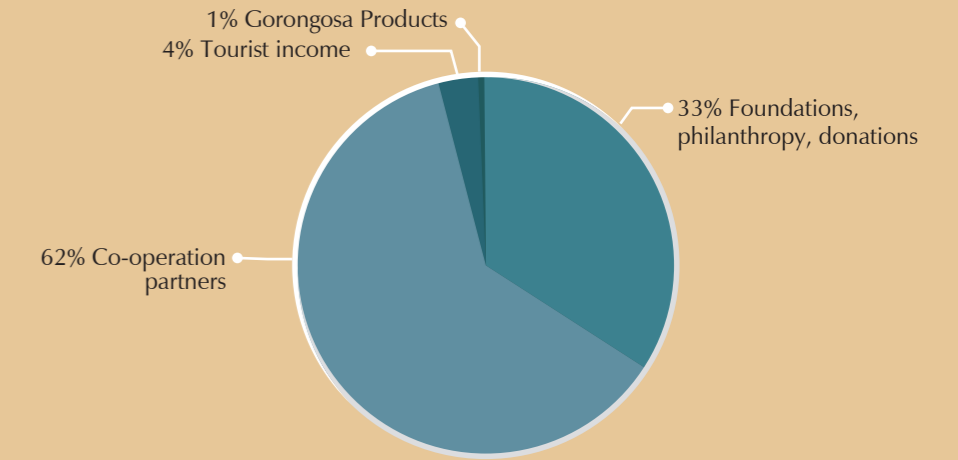
and administrative systems and the adoption of business intelligence solutions. These have had a positive management impact with the ability to report and analyze real time financial and administrative data.

2023 EXPENSES (ROUNDED)

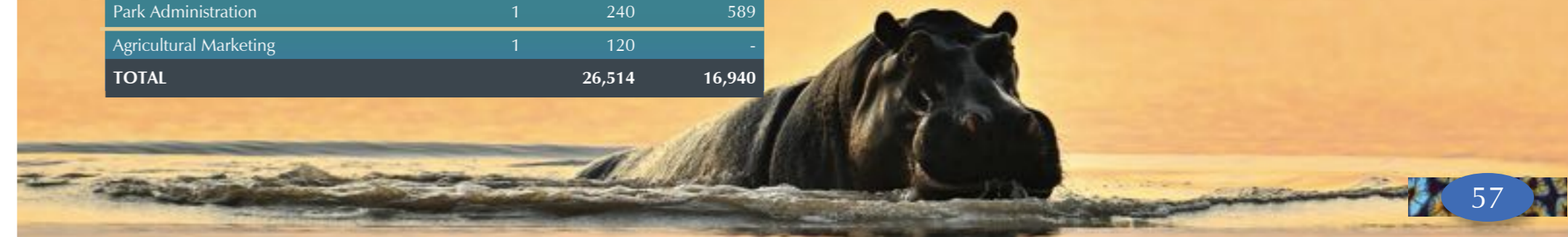


EXPENSES 2023	%	USD ('000)	
		2023	2022
Human Development	26	6,934	4,304
Climate Resilient Communities Infrastructure	16	4,332	3,035
Sustainable Development	14	3,565	3,343
Conservation	13	3,418	1,966
Program Support Services	12	3,132	578
Finance and Planning	7	1,836	1,099
Tourism	4	1,160	157
Science	4	1,097	953
Communications	1	372	232
Park Infrastructure	1	308	684
Park Administration	1	240	589
Agricultural Marketing	1	120	-
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>26,514</b>	<b>16,940</b>

2023 INCOME (ROUNDED)



INCOME 2023	%	USD ('000)	
		2023	2022
Co-operation Partners	62	16,490	8,303
Foundations, Philanthropy, Donations	33	9,211	8,470
Tourist Income	4	929	178
Gorongosa Products	1	145	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>26,775</b>	<b>16,951</b>



© Joao Fernandes



© Rich Uren

## Communications

Gorongosa Media partnered again with National Geographic on a new one hour special about Gorongosa's carnivores. It will be released in 2024. The film was made by Augusto Bila, our staff cameraman, and it is the first time a Mozambican has earned the Cinematography credit on a National Geographic Special.

HHMI Tangled Bank Studios released an episode about Gorongosa coffee as part of their Wild Hope series. (<https://www.wildhope.tv/>)

Award-winning US science magazine Nautilus made a 12-part series on Gorongosa's science work and will publish the articles in a special edition in late 2023.

12 African filmmakers spent two months in Gorongosa National Park participating in the African Science Film Fellowship held by Nature, Environment, Wildlife Filmaking, supported by the HHMI Tangled Bank Studios and National Geographic Society. All participants received filming and editing kits as well as training workshops and trips to several international film events. Their films will premiere in 2024.

Bernadette Gilbertas and Olivier Grunewald, an award-winning filmmaking couple from France, produced a beautiful 1-hr film for Ushuaia TV called "Gorongosa: The Park of Reconciliation". The film is now playing in festivals and on TV all over Europe to great acclaim. We hope to host them again in 2024 for a new film about the ebb and flow of Gorongosa's annual water cycle.

Finally, the world-famous BBC Natural History Unit (makers of Planet Earth and Blue Planet, etc) filmed in Gorongosa National Park for two months for a "top secret" project that will air in 2026. Watch this space!



## Augusto Bila Photography and video COMMUNICATIONS



I have always had a passion for photography and video. I grew up in a family of media and communication professionals and this led me to work in the same field.

In 2017, I joined the team at Gorongosa National Park as a cinematographer and editor. Since then, I have documented the Gorongosa story, working on several long and short form films for international channels such as National Geographic Television, PBS, BBC, and also our main national TV channels (TVM, STV and Miramar).

This year, I was honoured to be selected one of the 12 people on the African Science Film Fellowship held in the park and organised by NEWF (Nature, Environment, Wildlife Filmaking) in collaboration with HHMI Tangled Bank Studios. I was able to learn and exchange experience with filmmakers from different countries in Africa and acquire the skills needed to make science films.

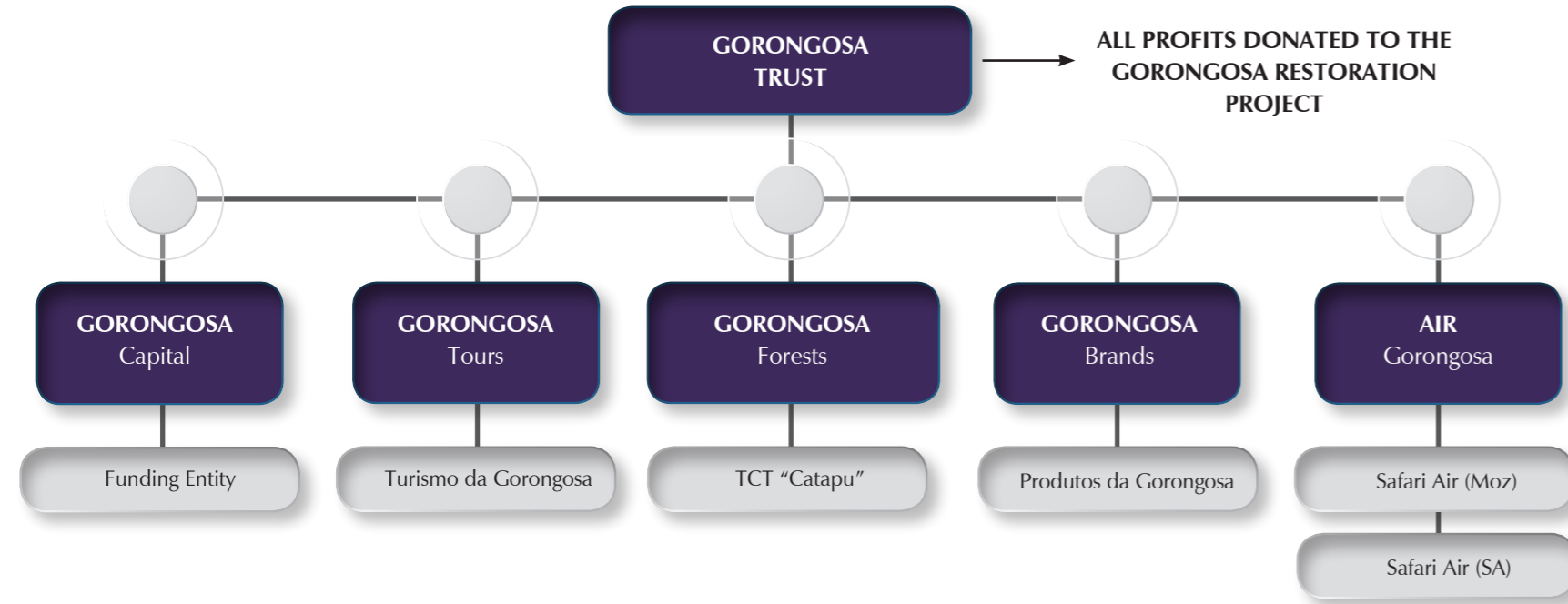
I feel extremely proud to be part of the Gorongosa family and to work with a team of talented and dedicated people who give their best to help restore one of the greatest conservation areas in the world.

© Piotr Nasrecki

# Gorongosa Trust

We are two organizations working side-by-side that share the name and brand of Gorongosa: The Gorongosa Restoration Project (non-profit) and the Gorongosa Trust (for-profit). The Gorongosa Trust creates for-profit businesses that utilize the land and brand of the national park. The Trust companies have no shareholders. They deliver all their profits to the Gorongosa Restoration Project. Our economic activities nested within the Gorongosa Trust will support conservation and development by providing equitable, high-quality employment based on ecosystem services.

These activities include tourism, coffee production, honey production, and carbon credits for reforestation and forest protection. It is our goal that the Trust companies will be the largest donor to the Gorongosa Project by 2030.



Inspired by the explorers of old, Wild Camp is designed to bring you 'up close and personal' with Gorongosa's famous wildlife.

© Gorongosa Media

## Gorongosa Tourism

This year we were proud to be recognised by Condé Nast Traveler as one of “the best places to go in Africa”, building on previous recognition in National Geographic, Time Magazine and The Telegraph.

Tourism expansion is a key pillar of Gorongosa’s development approach: strategic investments in tourism create a ‘multiplier effect’ on job creation and local economic growth.

Tourism development in GNP continued to make major strides in 2023. Thanks to the dedicated work of our team, there are now a broad suite of accommodation offerings – from self-catering facilities and comfortable chalets, to our adventurous ‘Wild Camp’ experience and exclusive Muzimu Lodge. The diversity and quality of activities available have also continued to grow: in the words of Conde Naste, “the traditional daily game

drives seem almost mundane compared with the other excursions on offer: you’ll be up mountains; visiting local research labs and coffee plantations; on epic bike rides; and exploring deep limestone gorges and waterfalls.”.

We are proud of what the team has achieved this year, and are looking forward to our most exciting season yet in 2024. Come and visit us!

[safari@gorongosa.net](mailto:safari@gorongosa.net)



Our renowned walking safaris take you into the heart of Gorongosa’s vast wilderness.

© Olivier Grunewald



Get up close and personal with Gorongosa’s iconic wildlife.

© Olivier Grunewald



# OUR PARTNERS

*Without our loyal and generous partners, many of our ambitious human development, science, and conservation goals could not be achieved. We greatly appreciate their support.*

*And we welcome some new partners into the Gorongosa family.*



Gwendolyn Sontheim (Aqualia International Foundation)



CIMMYT



Joaquim Chissano Foundation

## New Partners for 2023

### GWELDOLYN SONTHEIM AND THE AQUALIA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

Through the Aqualia International Foundation, Ms. Gwendolyn Sontheim supports our Regenerative Agriculture program. Agriculture between the border of Gorongosa Park and urban environments provides a livelihood for families as it also enhances biodiversity in the region.

Regenerative agriculture uses techniques that revitalize the soil and environment, leading to healthier soils and food, increasing both food production and farmer income.

### CIMMYT

In 2023, we signed a new MOU with CIMMYT to develop resilient agri-food systems, benefiting farmers' livelihoods and improving community nutrition. CIMMYT focuses on improving production systems for key cereals in the Global South through partnerships like ours. This strengthens farmers' resilience and promotes a productive agri-food system appropriate to the needs of the stakeholders.

### JOAQUIM CHISSANO FOUNDATION

In November 2023, the Joaquim Chissano Foundation and Gorongosa Restoration Project partnered to promote sustainable development in Sofala Province. Their initiative aims to protect the environment, support regenerative agriculture, create jobs, improve education, and advance gender equality. Former President Joaquim Chissano emphasized the importance and connection of biodiversity conservation and economic activity, a vision he shared with Nelson Mandela that inspired our approach and model.



Parque Nacional da  
**Gorongosa**

## DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AND DONORS



**CARR**  
FOUNDATION



**and supported by many more – THANK YOU!**

# IN MEMORIAM

We pay tribute to the two rangers from Gorongosa National Park who died in 2023 performing their duties protecting the biological, cultural, and spiritual heritage of Gorongosa. Their names are Lucas Martinho Vinte from the Zambézia Province and Chadreque João Raposo from Sofala Province. We would like again to extend our deepest condolences to their families.

We also mourn the passing of Baldeu Chande, a former Administrator of Gorongosa National Park and one of Mozambique's conservation heroes. Mr. Chande led the team that reopened Gorongosa National Park after the signing of the 1992 Peace Agreement. He was also Park Warden of both Limpopo and Quirimbas National Parks,

Niassa National Reserve, among many other senior and influential roles.

At the time of writing in early 2024, we learned of the passing of two more of our Gorongosa colleagues.

We also mourn the loss of Prof. Dr. Sónia Maciel of UniLúrio who was instrumental in the development of our Master's in Conservation Biology program. She leaves an invaluable legacy to the next generation.

Finally, Bernardo Beca Jofrissee served on the Gorongosa National Park Oversight Committee from 2008 to 2021. We benefited immeasurably from his wisdom, guidance,

and knowledge. And we were warmed by his kind heart. To his bereaved family members, former colleagues, friends, we offer our sincere condolences.

*May they all rest in peace.*

# OUR VISION FOR 2024

As we bid farewell to 2023 with hearts full of gratitude and joy, we set our sights on the promising horizon of 2024 brimming with hope and optimism. It's with great pleasure that we share a glimpse into some of the exciting initiatives that lie ahead:

In June, we will proudly commemorate the 20th anniversary of our partnership with USAID. In 2004, former President Chissano invited Greg Carr, USAID staff, and Mozambican officials to visit Gorongosa, and a dream was born. This enduring collaboration has evolved into our vision today of "A Park for the People."

To further our support for local farm families, we embark on the establishment of a new Regenerative Agriculture Institute and Farmer Training school. This innovative project will enable us to broaden our impact within nearby communities and fortify our collective resilience amidst a changing climate.

Exciting developments are also underway as we begin the design phase for a Visitor Centre at our Chitengo headquarters. Collaborating with international experts, we aim to create educational exhibits that will enrich the visitor experience and deepen understanding of this unique ecosystem.

We also hope to open the Cheringoma Community Conservation Centre in Inhaminga to serve as a regional headquarters for the Gorongosa Restoration Project north of the Park. With this centre, we reaffirm our commitment to fostering prosperity and safeguarding biodiversity in the Greater Gorongosa landscape.

Thank you for reading.

*Aurora Malene*



*"Despite the many years I have spent working in Gorongosa National Park, I am still amazed every day with the breathtaking beauty of this place".*

Dr. Piotr Naskrecki.



Mozambican student Rosa Félix Tivane releasing a Paradise Flycatcher after taking its biometric data. This photo was taken during a Teaching Biodiversity Survey in Gorongosa National Park, organized every year by the park's BioEducation program that introduces Mozambican students to methods of biodiversity documentation and conservation.



Parque Nacional da  
**Gorongosa**

## Contacts

### Gorongosa Project

Av. Mártires da Revolução Nº 1452, Edifício CPMZ – 1º Andar  
Bairro do Macuti | PO Box 1983 | Beira – Moçambique

Email: [contact@gorongosa.net](mailto:contact@gorongosa.net)

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