

Gorongosa Ventures



Gorongosa Restoration Project

Annual Highlights 2025

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Message from Aurora Malene

Gorongosa Restoration Project President

As we close another year, I extend my sincere thanks to the Gorongosa team, our partners and donors, the Government of Mozambique, and the communities who walk with us every day.

In a challenging global context, we reaffirm our commitment as a partner of the government in protecting biodiversity, advancing sustainable development, and creating real opportunities for people, demonstrating that conservation, social impact, and responsible economic activity can move forward together.

Gorongosa's strength lies in its people. Your professionalism, dedication, and sense of mission turn vision into measurable impact.

We enter the year ahead with focus, discipline, and a deep conviction: when purpose guides action, we deliver lasting value for communities and for the country.

**Moving forward together.
For Gorongosa.
For Mozambique.
For the future.**



Who We Are

Message from Pedro Muagura

Gorongosa National Park Warden

It is with great pride and gratitude that we present our 2025 Annual Highlights. Throughout the year, we continued to advance our mission of conservation, community partnerships, and sustainable development in one of Africa’s most remarkable ecosystems.

I would like to thank His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Mozambique, Daniel Chapo, for awarding me the Medal of Merit for the Environment. I dedicate this award to the entire Gorongosa team: community members and leaders, government partners, donors, our rangers, scientists, and all the people who contribute to this globally recognized success story.

In 2025, investments in ranger training, technology, and inter-agency collaboration strengthened our capacity to protect wildlife and people, while simultaneously maintaining a culture of professionalism and accountability.

But conservation cannot succeed without local leadership—and shared opportunities. This integrated approach strengthens both livelihoods and the long-term sustainable management of natural resources, all closely coordinated with district, provincial, and national authorities. We are grateful for their partnership.

Thank you all for your continued support, especially our funding partners. Together, we are creating real impact, ensuring that this extraordinary Greater Gorongosa landscape—and the people who call it home—continue to thrive and prosper.



Gorongosa Ventures is a family of for-profit, nature-based businesses in Central Mozambique, creating local employment and lasting prosperity in tourism, agriculture, forestry, and aviation.

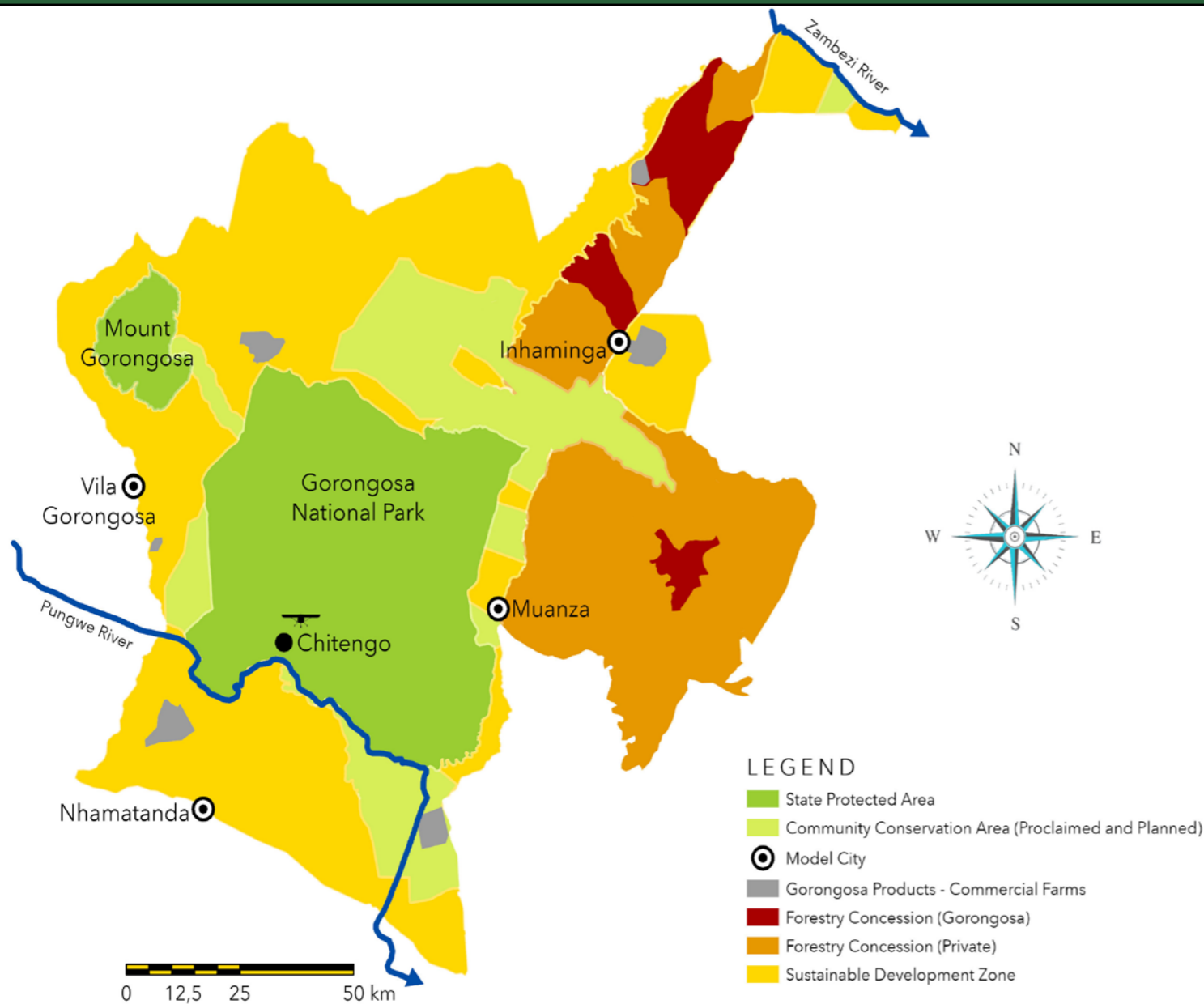
We practice Community-based Capitalism, an economic model built on a simple conviction: capitalism works best, and most legitimately, when those who live with its consequences also share meaningfully in its rewards and decision-making.

100% of the profits of these Gorongosa Ventures companies, as well as generous support from our donors, support our education, health, and environmental stewardship programs in the local communities—including the management of Gorongosa National Park.

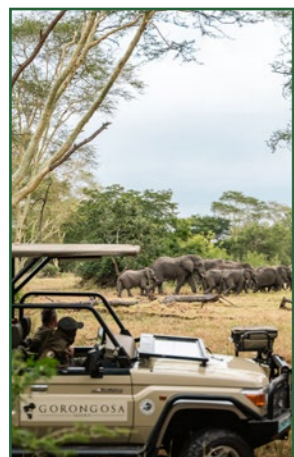
These community and conservation initiatives are led by the Gorongosa Ventures sibling non-profit company, **Gorongosa Restoration Project (GRP)**, guided by the philosophy of One Health—a unifying approach that recognizes that the health of humans, animals, and ecosystems are deeply interconnected and mutually dependent.



Where We Work & What We Do



Tourism



Creating lasting connections with guests, creating jobs, training staff, and funding GRP conservation programs.

Aviation



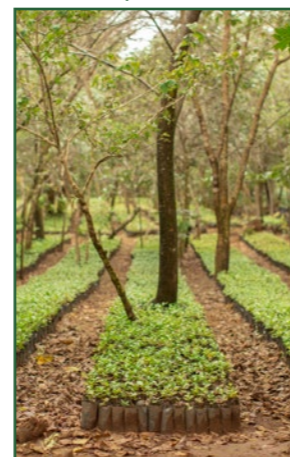
Connecting Gorongosa to the world, serving Mozambique, and funding GRP health programs.

Agriculture



Creating employment, growing food, improving livelihoods, and funding GRP education programs.

Forestry & Carbon



Restoring forests, developing carbon projects, building community partnerships, and promoting sustainable land use.

Health



Operating mobile clinics, supporting community health workers, improving nutrition, providing clean water, and building resilient health infrastructure.

Education



Building schools and preschools, running after-school programs, training teachers, supporting school councils, providing scholarships for girls, and advancing adult literacy.

Conservation



Protecting communities, wildlife, and landscapes, providing veterinary services, managing human-wildlife coexistence, supporting conservation law enforcement, and liaising with district government.

Science

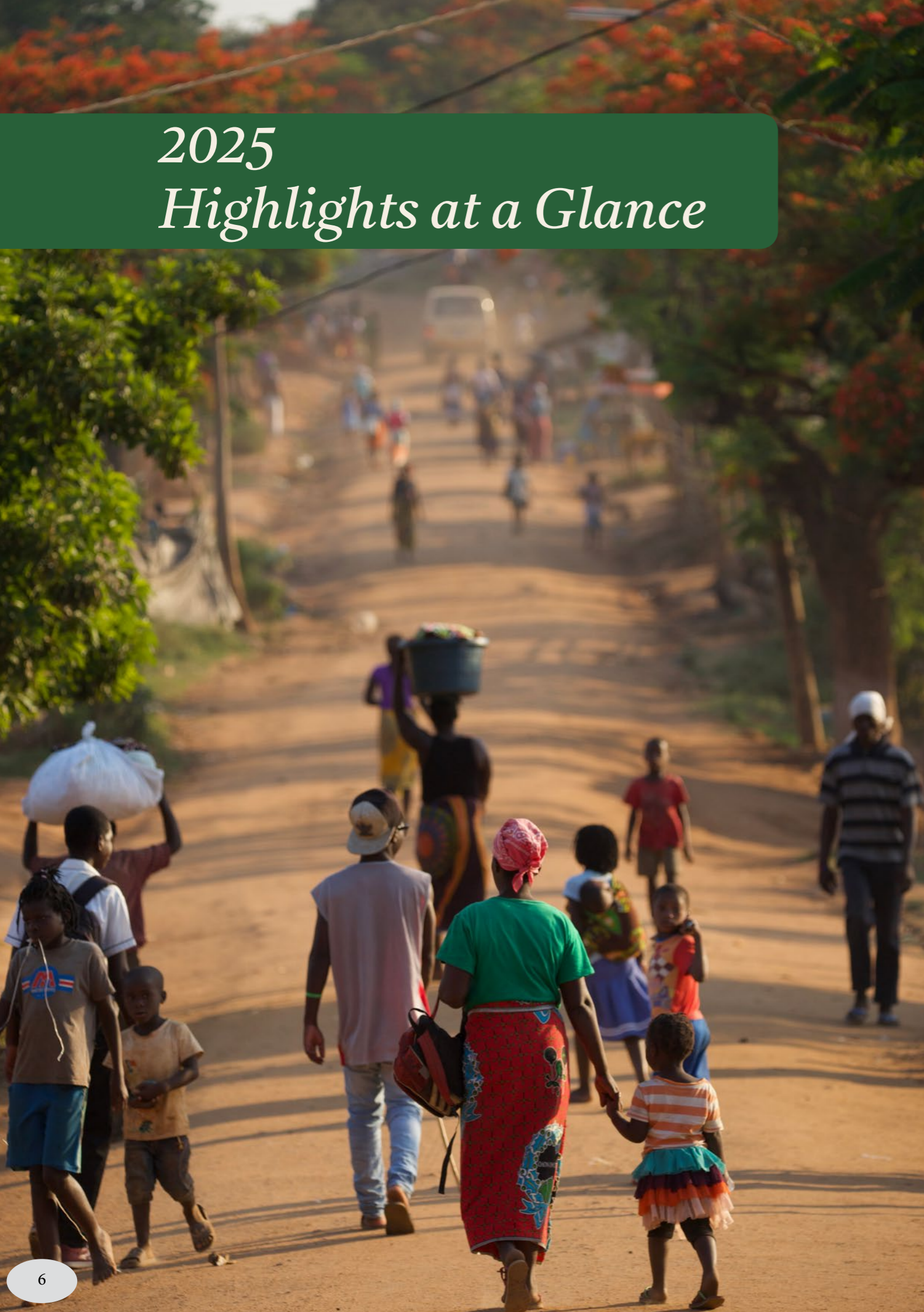


Conducting ecological monitoring, leading biodiversity research, building international research partnerships, collecting data, and training Mozambican scientists through BioEducation and specialized programs.

Communications & Media



Producing international, national, and local journalism, creating and distributing media, engaging audiences, hosting VIPs, and supporting nature filmmaking education.



2025 Highlights at a Glance



Tourism

We built and opened Chicari: a luxurious, low-impact 20-bed camp, welcoming guests from Mozambique, southern Africa, and the world. We hired more than 15 new Mozambican team members, the majority from the Park’s Sustainable Development Zone, taking our total employee count to 90 full time employees. We invested in new state-of-the-art camping facilities in Chitengo (Gorongosa National Park’s headquarters), opening early 2026.



Aviation

Air Gorongosa (formerly Safari Air) expanded beyond a charter operator into a strategic aviation service with 12 aircraft, supporting the Park’s health programs and long-term growth, as well as contributing to Mozambique’s broader aviation sector. We launched a twice-weekly flight between Gorongosa National Park and Vilanculos, connecting “bush and beach” for the first time in Mozambique.



Agriculture

6,040 beehives now support more than 1,200 apiarists, resulting in a 10,100 kg honey harvest processed at our new facility. Cashew production expanded with almost 2,000 producers harvesting 41,000 kg of cashew. 400 farmers supplied 8,000 kg of Birds Eye chili. 11,782 small-scale food producers increased productivity and income through updated practices, better input access, improved water efficiency, and stronger market linkages.

Gorongosa Restoration Project (GRP)

– Non-profit Programs –

Health



353 mobile health clinics delivered vital services to 160,755 people, including 24,760 children.

Our Childhood Nutrition Program reached 34,578 children and 22,802 mothers, reducing chronic malnutrition from 52% to under 25%.

More than 3,500 families received emergency food support (due to late rains and low crop yield).

Thanks to our water, sanitation, and hygiene programs, 4,200 people gained access to clean water; 84% of 150 communities were declared Open Defecation Free.

Education



1,400 children attended our 13 preschools, benefiting from early education and our nutritious school meals program.

Approximately 4,500 girls and 1,000 boys attended our 102 after-school clubs.

714 teachers participated in our Teacher Training program, improving educational outcomes.

1,160 adults, including 418 ex-combatants, gained reading and writing skills in our Peace Clubs.

Approximately 2,000 people attended our Youth Clubs; 31 alumni advanced to universities and technical institutes.

Community Relations



13 community-led projects in beekeeping, fish-farming, and cashew-production benefited approximately 30,000 people in 3,500 households.

Approximately 350,000 trees (all indigenous species) were planted across 312 hectares.

We engaged with approximately 40,000 people through our Community-based Natural Resource Management committees.

85 schools piloted our new Environmental Curriculum, reaching 45,516 pupils and 734 teachers.

Social Infrastructure & Urban Development

We completed construction of 28 new schools, serving 15,000 students, built using “resilient architecture” techniques that can function as community shelters during bad weather.

We completed an additional five new health clinics that will provide care for more than 40,000 people.

We completed the 10-hectare Cheringoma Community Conservancy Center.

256 community members (including 98 women) were trained during construction projects.



Conservation



The Pangolin Rehabilitation Center received 12 animals, and welcomed over 1,000 visitors (including 362 Mozambicans).

GRP team members traveled to Spain to receive the prestigious 2025 BBVA Foundation Worldwide Award for Biodiversity Conservation, a recognition of the successful restoration of Gorongosa National Park over the past 20 years.

Our veterinarians vaccinated 966 domestic dogs and cats against rabies in the local community as part of our ‘One Health’ program.

96 rangers completed training in human rights, biodiversity law, and wildlife crime investigation.



Science



Our interns completed 800+ field training hours; 540 students in nine schools received conservation science education.

\$140,000 in science grants supported 14 peer-reviewed studies, two PhDs, two Master’s theses, and eight international presentations.

Five staff members earned international scholarships (three PhDs, two Master’s).

The Elephant Ecology team put GPS-collars on 18 elephants, bringing the collared total to 50.



Gorongosa Ventures

Gorongosa Ventures is a portfolio of for-profit enterprises that deliver economic growth and profitable investment outcomes in central Mozambique. Our companies operate across three sectors: tourism, aviation, and agriculture (with activities in forestry and carbon). We create jobs, build infrastructure, and expand international trade for Mozambique. Our Mozambican-based businesses use the Gorongosa brand and intellectual property and gain access to low-interest financing and shared services that improve margins and scale.

Community-based Capitalism is an economic philosophy and operating model that harnesses the mechanisms of capitalism—private enterprise, profit incentives, competitive markets, and investment—and deliberately structures them to benefit and empower a defined community. Rather than replacing capitalism, it reorganizes it so that local people become participants, co-creators, and long-term beneficiaries of the value generated in their region. It rests on a simple conviction: capitalism works best, and most legitimately, when those who live with its consequences also share meaningfully in its rewards and decision-making.

The model begins with a recognition that communities possess valuable assets—talent, knowledge, culture, and natural resources—that traditional capital structures often undervalue. Too often, outside investment extracts value with limited reinvestment. Community-based Capitalism reverses this pattern by designing enterprises where local participation and value retention are structural features, not charitable add-ons.

In practice, this includes: ensuring profits circulate locally to fund infrastructure and opportunity; embedding participatory governance in key decisions; building hybrid enterprises that combine commercial discipline with community-rooted purpose; and committing to long-term stewardship over short-term extraction.

At its core, Community-based Capitalism is not charity. It embraces markets and profit but repositions the community as a strategic asset rather than a passive beneficiary. By aligning incentives between investors and residents, it reduces political risk, strengthens social cohesion, unlocks hidden value, and builds strong local economies. In regions marked by exclusion or extractive histories, it offers a framework for shared prosperity—proposing that capitalism is most effective, and most defensible, when prosperity is something a community builds and owns together.

Turismo de Gorongosa

-Tourism-



Every visit to Gorongosa supports conservation and community development. From Park Fees and Community & Conservation levies to jobs and partnerships created through tourism, each guest becomes part of a shared effort to protect nature and strengthen livelihoods.



Every safari experience at Gorongosa supports a bigger mission—protecting nature, strengthening communities, and sustaining the Park for the long term. In 2025, approximately 7,000 visitors from Mozambique and around the world experienced the wonder of Gorongosa National Park.

Partnership with Classic Portfolio

Turismo de Gorongosa signed our partnership with Classic Portfolio, placing Gorongosa's properties alongside some of the most recognized names on the continent.



We received extraordinary PR and media support from the travel industry, appearing in multiple leading international media outlets in 2025: BBC Travel Show, AFAR magazine, The London Times, Financial Times, Condé Nast Traveller, Getaway, Travel Africa, and many others.

Explore our tourism offerings at gorongosasafaris.com.



“Gorongosa offers one of the most exciting wildlife experiences in Southern Africa.”

Condé Nast Traveller





Opening of Chicari Camp

Chicari Camp offers an intimate, low-impact safari experience rooted in Gorongosa’s landscapes. The 20-bed camp features ten raised canvas tents—including two tree-hide tents—designed to blend seamlessly into the environment.

Guests enjoy guided game drives, walking safaris, birding, and seasonal boat trips, with solar-powered amenities and open-air dining designed to minimize environmental impact while maximizing connection to the Park.

The opening of Chicari Camp was marked by the arrival of the Kingsley Holgate Foundation’s Greater Gorongosa Expedition—an initiative blending exploration with humanitarian and conservation work across the region. Led by renowned explorer Kingsley Holgate, the expedition brought vital health interventions, including malaria prevention and eye care, to communities surrounding the Park, while also helping to spotlight Gorongosa’s ongoing restoration. The team joined park staff in informally inaugurating Chicari, celebrating the camp as part of a broader vision linking conservation, community, and sustainable tourism.



“Chicari Camp puts you at the heart of one of conservation’s great redemption stories, as it unfolds in real time.”

Afar magazine, August 2025

Investing in Our Team

Turismo de Gorongosa hired a full-time Learning and Development Manager, launched an expanded guide training program, as well as strengthened continuous professional development across multiple divisions.

We also hired more than 15 new Mozambican team members, the majority from the Park’s Sustainable Development Zone, taking our total employee count to 90 full time employees.

We invested in high-quality staff accommodation for 20 staff at Park headquarters (opening March 1st, 2026).

We restructured our team, made several promotions, and improved the overall structure and functioning of our organization.

Featured Program:

Bush & Beach Flight Connection

A new first-of-its-kind flight linking Gorongosa National Park (via Beira) to Vilanculos now connects Mozambique’s premier safari and coastal destinations. With seamless international access through Ethiopian Airlines and Airlink, visitors can easily combine wildlife experiences with the country’s iconic beaches.

New stay-pay collaborations between Gorongosa and Azura Marlin Beach make it simple for travelers to experience both bush and beach in a single journey. These partnerships strengthen Mozambique’s position as one of Africa’s most compelling, integrated travel destinations.



Rising Star:

José Montinho

A long-time member of the Gorongosa team, José “Monti” Montinho stepped into a management role this year, overseeing tourism activities at Chitengo (Gorongosa National Park HQ). His humility, work ethic, and eagerness to learn have made him a trusted team member—leading by example and inspiring those around him.





Air Gorongosa Takes Off

Aviation plays a foundational role in the Gorongosa model, serving as the connective infrastructure that enables conservation, tourism, emergency response, and sustainable economic development across the Park and its Sustainable Development Zone.

As a core operating arm of the Gorongosa Restoration Project, Air Gorongosa (formerly Safari Air) has evolved beyond a charter operator into a strategic aviation service supporting the Park's long-term growth while contributing to Mozambique's broader aviation sector.

In 2025, growth was defined by measured expansion (now owning and operating 12 aircraft), fleet modernization, strengthened aeromedical capability, and continued investment in safety and Mozambican capacity building. Reliable air access remains essential to protecting biodiversity, connecting remote communities, and reinforcing Gorongosa's community-based development model.

Get more information about our newest Ventures company at www.airgorongosa.com.

Operational Growth & Route Expansion

This year, Air Gorongosa expanded its operational footprint with the launch of the Vilanculos–Gorongosa route, strengthening the “Bush & Beach” tourism corridor and improving regional access. Flight hours increased year-on-year across tourism charters, conservation and research support, industrial logistics, and aeromedical response.

Increased frequency between Beira, Gorongosa, and northern Mozambique improved reliability and reinforced aviation's role in connecting people, projects, and protected areas across the region.

Fleet Expansion & Modernization

A defining milestone of 2025 was the transition into turbine operations with the integration of:

- 3 Cessna 208B Grand Caravans
- 1 Beechcraft King Air 200

The Caravan fleet provides expanded passenger and cargo capacity, flexible aeromedical configurations, and short-field performance for remote strips. The King Air 200 adds pressurized, all-weather capability and higher cruise speeds for long-distance and time-sensitive missions.

Maintenance systems were digitized and standardized, improving forecasting, compliance, and operational efficiency while reducing downtime.



Aeromedical Expansion:
A National Response Model

This year also marked a strategic shift in aeromedical capability. In partnership with Evacomed, Air Gorongosa established multiple aeromedical bases across Mozambique and began integrating Spectrum Aeromedical life-support platforms.

This distributed response model enables faster patient response, broader national coverage, and stronger coordination with hospitals and medical providers. Combined Caravan and King Air capability now supports both short-field bush recoveries and long-range transfers—significantly strengthening emergency response for communities, tourism operators, and industrial partners.

Safety & Professional Standards

Aviation maintained a strong safety record this year, with zero major incidents and full regulatory compliance. Enhancements to the Safety Management System included structured hazard reporting, defined performance indicators, internal audits, and continued refinement of standard operating procedures.

Growth in turbine operations was matched by disciplined oversight, ensuring expansion did not compromise safety.

Conservation & Emergency Support

Air Gorongosa continued to support wildlife surveys, wildlife translocations, conservation monitoring, and rapid-response logistics within the Park. Turbine aircraft extended survey endurance and improved access to remote areas, strengthening biodiversity protection and emergency response capability.

Featured Program: Building Mozambican Aviation Capacity

One of this year’s most impactful initiatives was the structured development of Mozambican pilots and technical crew within the turbine fleet. Through supervised line training, type familiarization, and operational exposure to Caravan and King Air platforms, local team members gained experience that previously required international placements.

This investment strengthens operational independence, technical confidence, and long-term national aviation capability—aligning with Gorongosa’s commitment to locally led, sustainable growth.

Rising Stars: Sandra Fumo & Bachir Chimuaza

Several team members stood out this year for exceptional dedication and leadership within the Aviation division.

Sandra Fumo demonstrated remarkable skill and consistency in bookkeeping, administration, and accounting, ensuring operational stability during fleet expansion and turbine integration.

Bachir Chimauza took on increasing responsibility during critical growth phases, upholding high professional standards.

Other Mozambican team members and colleagues across flight operations, maintenance, and aeromedical readiness exemplified the culture Air Gorongosa continues to build—disciplined, safety-focused, and committed to excellence.



Produtos da Gorongosa

-Agriculture, Forestry, and Carbon-



Agriculture is central to Gorongosa’s mission to build sustainable livelihoods around the Park. By pairing local knowledge with improved planting material, technical training, and market access, the Agriculture team helps farmers turn effort into opportunity—strengthening households, value chains, and ecosystems together.

Across six districts, nearly 12,000 small-scale food producers were trained; over 3,000 developed improved market connections to better align production with demand; and over 2,000 adopted solar-powered irrigation systems, boosting productivity and household income.

Growing the Produtos da Gorongosa Brand

Produtos da Gorongosa continues to connect farmers to markets through coffee, cashew, honey, dried fruit, and newly launched hot and sweet chili sauces.

This year, 400 farmers supplied 8,000 kg of Bird’s Eye chili, processed at the Mapombue facility and introduced to the market in August. Expanded packaging, branding, and retail partnerships strengthened visibility across Mozambique, with shipments reaching South Africa.

Increasing Output and Revenue

Cashew production continued to expand across Gorongosa, Dondo, Muanza, and Cheringoma, with 1,890 producers managing 70,144 trees aged one year or older. Farmers harvested 41,000 kg of cashew, marketed through Permacashew near Maputo. An additional 65,986 seedlings were planted, expanding cultivated land by 658 hectares and bringing the total to 1,359 hectares across the districts. Beekeeping also strengthened livelihoods in the surrounding communities, where 6,040 hives now support more than 1,200 apia-ristis. Hive occupancy increased from 49% to 58.9%, resulting in a 10,100 kg honey harvest processed at the Mapombue facility.



Supporting Our Farmers with Financial Literacy Education

Across the first three quarters of the year, 130 savings groups strengthened financial resilience by saving 158,560 MT, issuing 200,730 MT in loans, and receiving 174,070 MT in repayments. More than 640 members gained training in financial literacy, budgeting, and business planning—turning income into stability and growth.

Featured Program: Gorongosa Coffee

Coffee remains one of Gorongosa's most ambitious agroforestry initiatives. Since its launch in 2014 with fewer than 30 hectares, the program has expanded to 484 hectares of actively growing coffee managed by 1623 producers (570 women, 1053 men).

Farmers harvested 436,000 kg of red cherry (coffee) this year, yielding 41 tons of export-grade green coffee beans sold internationally, alongside more than 11 tons of locally roasted Produtos da Gorongosa-branded coffee. The program also revamped 23 nurseries and germinated over two million seedlings, laying the groundwork for planting more than 300 additional hectares during the 2025–2026 rainy season.

By 2028, the program aims to reach 567 hectares in production, combining ecological restoration with long-term income for farming families.

European coffee experts gave Gorongosa's coffee an impressive score of 85/100—officially classified as 'Excellent' by the Speciality Coffee Association. Critics describe our coffee as having honey, pomegranate, and raisin notes, with lively acidity and a smooth, balanced body: clean, complex flavors.

Find out where you can buy our coffee and other delicious Produtos da Gorongosa foods at produtosdatorongosa.com

Rising Star: Juvêncio António

Juvêncio António has emerged as one of Gorongosa's most dynamic agricultural leaders. Beginning at the Mapombue honey processing unit, he strengthened quality control and farmer coordination, helping establish Gorongosa honey as a trusted brand.

This year, he led the development of the chili value chain, mobilizing more than 400 farmers and guiding production from field to finished sauce—including branding and test marketing. He later launched a dried fruit initiative that purchases fresh produce from local farmers, processes it locally, and sells directly into Mozambican markets.

His leadership blends technical skill, entrepreneurship, and deep community trust—demonstrating how sustainable agriculture can empower farmers while strengthening Gorongosa's rural economy.

Forestry & Carbon

Forestry and carbon represent an important next phase in Gorongosa's integrated landscape approach—linking conservation, community livelihoods, and long-term environmental investments. While implementation is still in its early stages, 2025 has focused on building the partnerships, technical groundwork, and pipeline needed to deliver high-quality, scalable carbon projects across the Sustainable Development Zone.

We are currently developing a landscape-wide carbon program anchored in restoration, sustainable land use, and community participation. This approach reflects our broader model: protecting ecosystems while generating economic opportunities for local communities.

Three carbon projects are now in development. Two are Afforestation, Reforestation, and Revegetation (ARR) initiatives—one in Gorongosa District (covering the Sustainable Development Zone and Mount Gorongosa) and another in the Cheringoma and Muanza districts within forestry concession areas. These projects focus on restoring forest cover in degraded landscapes while integrating agroforestry systems that support farmer incomes and long-term land productivity.

A third project, under development as a REDD+ program, aims to protect existing forest ecosystems by reducing deforestation and strengthening community-based forest management. Together, these initiatives position Gorongosa to contribute meaningfully to both biodiversity conservation and global reforestation efforts.

Throughout the year, we advanced feasibility assessments across the ARR portfolio and established partnerships with carbon developers, investors, and local stakeholders. In December, we submitted program documentation to the Government of Mozambique as part of the licensing process—an important milestone toward implementation.

With regulatory approvals and final project design underway, forestry and carbon are poised to become a significant pillar of Gorongosa's long-term impact—restoring landscapes, strengthening rural livelihoods, and delivering long-term environmental and economic value.





Gorongosa Restoration Project

The Gorongosa Restoration Project is a long-term, science-driven effort to restore and protect the ecosystems and communities of Gorongosa National Park in central Mozambique. By combining conservation, research, and sustainable development, the project is rebuilding one of Africa's most biodiverse landscapes. Through habitat restoration, wildlife recovery, and ongoing ecological monitoring, Gorongosa has become a leading example of how complex ecosystems can thrive when supported by sustained investment, scientific insight, and strong local partnerships.

At its core, the project is guided by a One Health approach—recognizing that the health of people, wildlife, and the environment are deeply interconnected and mutually dependent. Efforts to restore forests and wildlife go hand in hand with investments in education, health, and livelihoods for surrounding communities. By strengthening each part of this system, the Gorongosa Restoration Project fosters resilience across the entire landscape, demonstrating how integrated solutions can create lasting benefits for both nature and people.

Health

By working alongside the Ministry of Health (MISAU), frontline healthcare workers, global partners, and local communities, Gorongosa expands access to care—even in the most remote villages.

From mobile health clinics (also called mobile brigades) and home visits, to maternal care and nutrition programs, our Health team delivers essential services with skill, compassion, and impact. They detect, treat, and prevent disease while strengthening health systems and building stronger communities.



Mother & Child Care

Maternal and child healthcare work remained a priority this year. More than 8,000 women received prenatal care, with Gorongosa and Nhamatanda leading service delivery. Early pregnancies continued to decline, reflecting sustained outreach and the work of child protection teams.

Safe and supervised birth rates continued to rise, with 1,960 women delivering their babies in health centers.

Nutritional education through the Model Mothers and Gorongosa Childhood Nutrition programs reached nearly 35,000 children and more than 22,000 mothers, contributing to a drop in chronic malnutrition among low-birthweight infants in Muanza from 52% to under 25%.

Community mentors led over 2,000 discussions on family planning, healthy pregnancies, and gender-based violence, engaging women, men, and youth. In the final quarter alone, mentors conducted 2,287 home visits, reaching 2,502 pregnant women and involving partners in 79% of consultations—strengthening shared responsibility for maternal health.



Mobile Clinics & Community Health Work

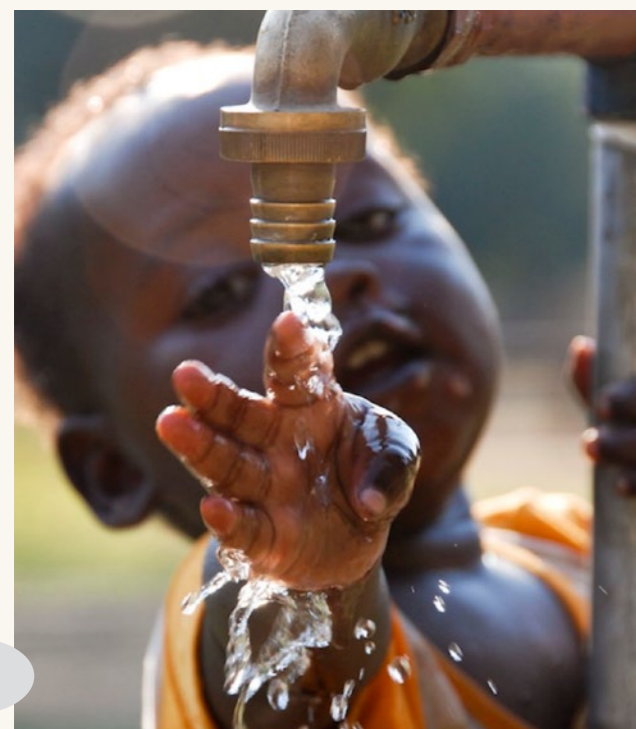
Mobile health clinics bring essential care to families far from the area's main health centers. 353 mobile clinics reached more than 160,000 people—including nearly 25,000 children—delivering vaccinations, prenatal care, vitamin supplements, health education, and treatment for common illnesses. Schools were also incorporated into this outreach, expanding access for adolescents.

Community health workers (APEs) conducted more than 45,000 home visits, providing basic care, health guidance, and timely referrals. Fourth-quarter monitoring confirmed strong engagement, with 152 agents visiting nearly 6,900 homes and delivering nutrition screening, vaccinations, disease monitoring, and family planning support—bridging gaps in even the most remote communities.

Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene

Access to safe water and sanitation expanded, with more than 14,255 people gaining new water points and latrine access. A new 30,000-liter-per-day water system now serves schools, communities, and the Gorongosa coffee plantation. In the final quarter alone, 17 water stations were under construction to serve nearly 24,000 people, while 22 older access points were repaired—reducing long journeys for clean water. Trained Water and Sanitation Committees, with equal representation of women and men, manage these systems.

Radio remained a vital tool for reaching hard-to-access communities, particularly during the rainy season. Hygiene and sanitation messages reached more than 200,000 people, motivating nearly 1,000 families to adopt safer sanitation practices and help prevent many waterborne diseases, including cholera.



SPARK Gorongosa

SPARK Gorongosa demonstrates what's possible when local talent partners with global expertise. Launched in 2024 with SPARK Global, SPARK Africa, and the University of Pittsburgh Health Science team, the program accelerated this year—mentoring clinicians, training students, introducing new equipment, and expanding specialty care to local families.

In August, 20 African innovators joined 10 global leaders from Stanford University and the University of Pittsburgh for an intensive week of hands-on collaboration with Gorongosa's health teams. Together, they addressed practical challenges—from nutrition and clean water to hearing and vision care—focusing on solutions that could be implemented quickly and sustained locally.

Ear, nose, and throat care emerged as a key focus. Mozambican doctors trained alongside visiting specialists, strengthening their ability to diagnose and treat patients in remote areas, while SPARK mentors supported students from Eduardo Mondlane University and other institutions in developing locally-led health solutions.



Featured Program: Nutrition

The Gorongosa Nutrition Program continues to improve health and well-being, particularly for pregnant women and children under five. 1,440 culinary demonstrations reached more than 34,000 children and 22,800 women, promoting nutritious meals using locally available foods.

Nutrition sites screened 6,840 children for malnutrition, identifying 30 cases and supporting 20 children to full recovery through integrated treatment and follow-up. Additionally, more than 3,500 vulnerable families also received emergency food support due to late rains and a poor harvest.

By combining practical nutrition education with consistent home support from Model Mothers and Fathers, families are adopting healthier approaches to meals, breastfeeding, and childcare—driving lasting improvements in dietary habits and overall well-being.

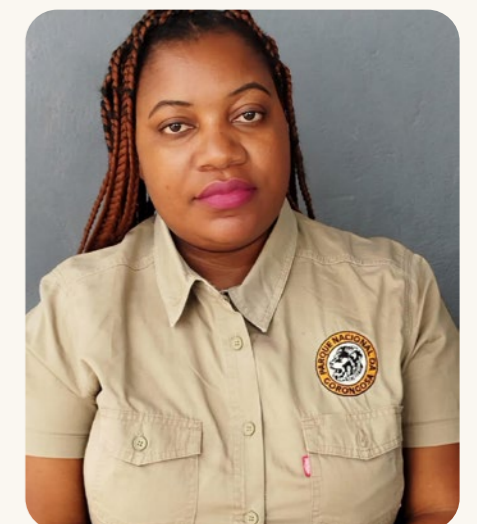


Rising Star: Vanessa Mário Ramos

Vanessa Mário Ramos is our rising star in the Maternal and Child Health & Nutrition program. As Program Manager, she keeps the work grounded in what families actually need, and makes sure our sexual and reproductive health and nutrition support reaches children, adolescents, and women of reproductive age through the community activists who are closest to daily life in the communities.

What stands out in her leadership is discipline. She does not let the work become “just sessions” or “just messages.” She pushes for simple, practical training that activists can use, regular follow-up in the field, and a referral pathway that works when a girl, a pregnant woman, or a sick child needs care. And she insists we learn from what we see. If the data shows drop-off, if referrals are not completed, or if one area is underperforming, she brings the team back to the basics and fixes it.

That is why she is a rising star. She protects trust in the program while keeping it accountable to results. The goal is not only to reach people, but to change what happens next: earlier care-seeking, better follow-through, and healthier practices that families can sustain.



Education



From building schools to supporting youth leadership, teacher development, and adult literacy, the Gorongosa Education team works alongside communities to deliver measurable impact.

Preschools

Gorongosa's early childhood development (ECD) program continues to expand, delivering strong results in children's development and school readiness. This year, we created preschools in eight new communities (total 13 communities), enrolling 875 new learners and reaching a total of 1,400 children. Children learn through play, stories, and games rooted in local experience; building language, creativity, social skills, and confidence. To support this growth, preschool facilitators are trained in child development, protection, and assessment. Parents and educators report that children begin their primary schooling more prepared, engaged, and eager to learn. In November, graduation celebrations marked nearly 600 children moving confidently into first grade in 2026.

School Meals Program

5,400 children benefited from a nutritious meal every day. Gorongosa's school feeding program helps keep children in class, focused, and healthy by providing reliable daily meals. These meals improve health, focus, and attendance—especially for younger students and children from the most vulnerable households. For many families, a school meal is both an incentive to enroll, and a reason children stay in school throughout the day.

Improving Literacy

Independent ASER assessments conducted this year show that students in Gorongosa-supported schools read at significantly higher levels than their peers. Grade 6 students demonstrate reading proficiency rates up to 22 percentage points higher than those in comparison schools, with particularly strong gains among girls. These results reflect sustained investments in teacher training, after-school clubs, and improved learning materials.



Supporting Teachers

More than 500 educators participated in our Teachers' Clubs: workshops, lesson planning sessions, and classroom observations designed to strengthen teaching practice. With support from Teacher Training Institutes, district teams, and ZIP coordinators, educators introduced more active, engaging approaches in the classroom. Stronger student participation and improved classroom management point to clear, measurable gains in learning outcomes.

Keeping Girls in School

Now in its tenth year, our Girls' Clubs program supports more than 4,500 girls and 1,000 boys with literacy, numeracy, life skills, and conservation lessons. Throughout the year, promoters and mentors conducted regular home visits to help keep girls enrolled. Our Scholarships program covered school fees, supplies, tutoring, and mentoring for more than 130 students at secondary and third-level education.

Eighteen community child protection committees were established to champion gender equality, human rights, and child safety—with strong support from educators and community leaders.



Youth Clubs

Thirty Youth Clubs reached more than 2,000 girls and boys, building confidence, leadership, and civic engagement. Through a SKILLZ approach and game-based learning, young people explored health, gender, malaria prevention, self-esteem, and leadership in supportive environments. Youth-led radio programs extended this impact beyond schools, giving young people a platform to speak about conservation, health, entrepreneurship, and social challenges across their communities. Youth Clubs also introduced basic business and money management skills, helping members launch small income-generating activities. 31 Youth Club members have gone on to universities and technical institutes in fields ranging from medicine to engineering.



Featured Program:

Peace Clubs & Adult Learning

Communities thrive when everyone feels included and respected. Gorongosa Peace Clubs bring adults together to learn, with a focus on ex-combatants and their families.

The clubs provide literacy and numeracy education, as well as lessons in different life skills (e.g. financial literacy and savings, business development, etc).



1,160 adults enrolled in literacy centers, with 70% of them women and one-third ex-combatants. Participants strengthened reading and writing skills while advancing conservation awareness, gender equity, and social cohesion. Twelve savings groups collectively saved 1,280,758 Meticaís, reinforcing financial skills and cooperation. A World Peace Day football match between former Renamo members and government representatives symbolized reconciliation, dialogue, and shared futures.



Rising Star: Arque Chirua

As Teachers' Club Manager, Arque Chirua motivates trainers and teachers alike. Dynamic, collaborative, and solution-oriented, he fosters a culture of continuous learning, teamwork, and ethical leadership—keeping the program responsive, effective, and grounded in community needs.



Community Relations

Gorongosa's Community Relations team deepened partnerships with local villages and districts this year—building leadership, protecting natural resources, and turning conservation into shared prosperity.

Community Natural Resource Management Plans are now in place across the region, supported by a coalition of international partners. Together, communities planted more than 355,000 indigenous trees across 312 hectares, achieving a 78% survival rate through monitored plots.

Strengthening Community Livelihoods

Thirteen community-led projects—including fish-farming, beekeeping, community tourism, cashew production, and poultry—supported more than 3,500 households, benefiting roughly 30,000 people.

The Mucombezi Ponte Community Camp was officially inaugurated by the Nhamatanda District Administrator. Opening to guests in 2026, the camp—along with new lodges in Mucombezi, Kodzue, and Chimanimani—is creating jobs, generating income, and reducing pressure on natural resources, demonstrating how conservation and opportunity grow together.

Eco-Clubs

The Conservation Education program reached more than 45,500 students across 85 primary schools this year—nearly half of them girls—while over 730 teachers learned to integrate environmental learning into their classrooms. Fifteen active youth clubs led hands-on conservation activities—building teamwork, leadership, and pride.

Students planted more than 2,400 nursery pots, tended school gardens, celebrated International Forest Day, and grew fruit and indigenous tree species on school grounds. Through mobile cinema and safari experiences, over 1,200 children learned about conservation, including practical skills such as recycling and reuse.





Human-Wildlife Coexistence

Gorongosa's Community Relations team worked alongside rangers to address human-wildlife conflict across 45 communities, from crop raiding to livestock predation.

Teams maintained 1,627 beehives, monitored 157 kilometers of fences, and built 11 kilometers of mobile electric fencing in Cheringoma district, protecting 378 hectares and 130 households. More than 250 community members helped guide fence management and prevention strategies, strengthening local ownership and trust.

Community Events

Gorongosa's Community Relations team fostered civic engagement across all six districts through safari experiences, traditional ceremonies, and local forums. Nearly 1,600 outreach activities reached more than 37,000 people, including targeted sessions on human-wildlife coexistence and environmental stewardship.

Flagship events—such as World Pangolin Day, International Women's Day, World Environment Day, and Forest Day—connected communities to wildlife, forests, and the vision of One Health.

Together, these efforts are strengthening livelihoods and building a lasting culture of stewardship across the region.



Mount Gorongosa Marathon

More than 2,000 runners and 1,000 supporters assembled for the first-ever Gorongosa Mountain Marathon in late October. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed tree planting, cooking demos, and a market buzzing with crafts and produce. The celebration united the Tambarara Regulado—the communities of Nhamanda, Nhauranga, Nhaenge, Dungama, and Nhaussembi. From soccer matches to music, dance, and theater under the sun—the event brought unity, joy, and local pride to the mountain, as well as more trust and cohesion between the community and the Gorongosa Restoration Project.



Pedro Mussengue—Administrator of Gorongosa District in the Sofala Province—ran in the Marathon, met with community members, and awarded medals.

Featured Program:

Community Conservation Areas

Community Conservation Areas support biodiversity while strengthening livelihoods through fully community-led resource management. By placing decision-making authority in local hands, these areas build local governance capacity and enable communities to manage wildlife and development in ways that benefit both people and nature.

Rising Star: Richard Joao Pedro Vidamao

Promoted to Senior Community Engagement Supervisor, Richard leads the Community-based Natural Resource Management and Governance program. In his first six months, he demonstrated strong leadership, project management, and team coordination—earning recognition for clear planning, effective implementation, and high-quality reporting.



Social Infrastructure & Urban Development



Working with local communities, park leadership, and partners, Gorongosa's Social Infrastructure and Urban Development (SIUD) team turns local priorities into durable, weather-proof structures. Building on the success of previous years, the team had many new projects in the pipeline at the end of the year: 5 under design, 29 in procurement, 28 under construction, and 14 moving into operation and local stewardship.

These results are built through collaboration. Communities contribute knowledge and labor, government agencies ensure alignment and standards, and partners such as UN-Habitat and the U.S. Government provide technical and financial support. Anchored within Mozambican national systems, these partnerships deliver robust infrastructure that strengthens education, health, economic opportunity, and resilience—while integrating sustainable techniques.

New Schools Construction

Schools are the main focus of Gorongosa's social infrastructure work. This year, more than 15,000 children across six districts moved into 28 safe, durable schools designed to withstand cyclones and floods.

Built to Ministry standards and adapted to local conditions, each school includes classrooms, teacher housing, sanitation, and reliable water access—and doubles as an emergency shelter during extreme weather.

Communities participated in building these schools themselves. More than 250 local residents contributed to construction, including 98 women trained and employed in skilled roles. Community-led maintenance systems now ensure these schools remain safe, functional, and locally managed for the long term.





New Community Conservancy Center

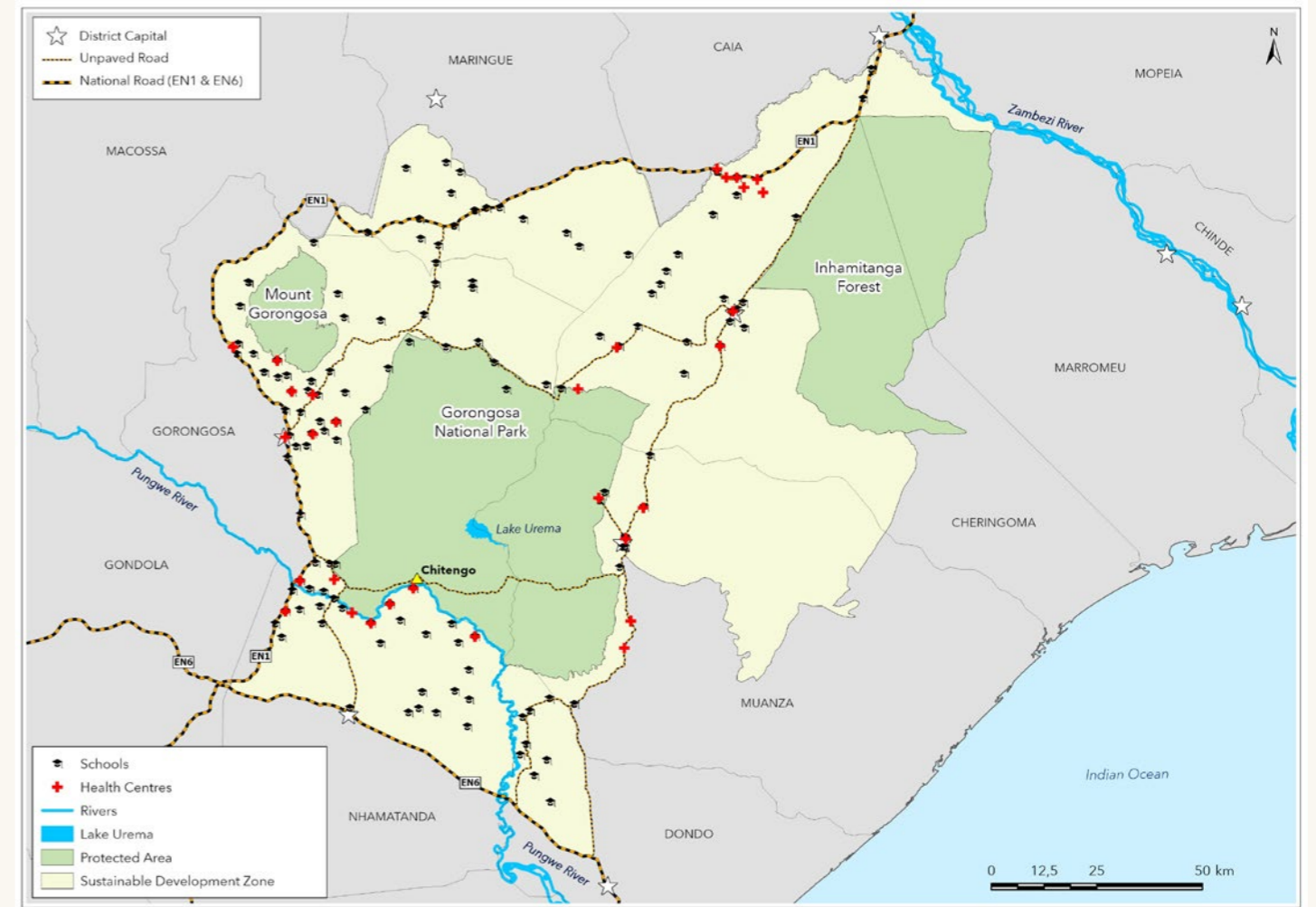
Completed through a Global Environment Facility-United Nations Development Partnership, the Cheringoma Community Conservancy Center serves as a permanent hub for community-led conservation.

Set on 10 hectares and designed to blend into the landscape, the center provides a space for training, coordination, and community gathering—supporting local leadership, skills-building, and long-term stewardship by placing conservation where it belongs: in community hands.

Urban Planning

The SIUD team worked with the district government and UN-Habitat to deliver *Inhaminga Vision 2035*, a blueprint for one of Mozambique’s fastest-growing secondary towns.

Officially launched by the District Administrator, the plan sets clear priorities for sustainable urban growth, infrastructure, and environmental resilience—serving as a shared roadmap to coordinate stakeholders and align future investment.



Featured Program: Health Center Construction

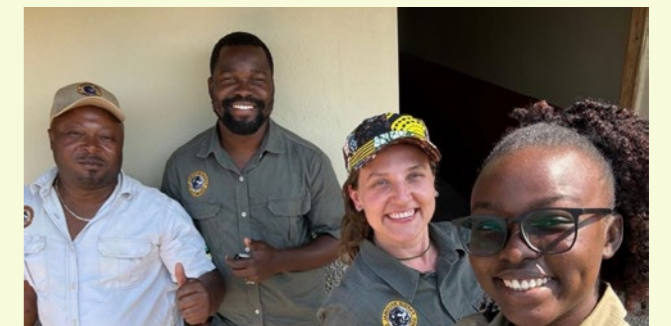
Our health infrastructure work significantly expanded with the completion of five primary health centers, strengthening healthcare for over 40,000 people.

Supported by the U.S. Government, these facilities improve maternal health services, water and sanitation, and working conditions for frontline staff. Designed to remain operational during extreme weather, the centers support safer births, better outcomes for mothers and newborns, improved working conditions for healthcare professionals, and continued care during health emergencies.

Rising Stars: The SIUD Team

Aderito Manjate, José Chimbote, Thais Glowacki, Jessica Hamela

While much of their work is visible in classrooms filled with students, clinics serving families, and towns planning for a stronger future, a large portion of their contributions is the invisible infrastructure behind the scenes. Behind each project is this collaborative delivery team. Together, they managed the visible and invisible work of infrastructure: from planning and design through procurement, construction, and handover—coordinating communities, stakeholders, and government at every stage.



Small in size but deep in expertise, the team delivers complex infrastructure at scale—on time, with care, and with communities at the center—while supporting portfolio projects across Education, Health, Conservation, Science, and Community Relations.

Conservation

Our Conservation team protects one of Africa's most biodiverse national parks. They combine field expertise, science, and community partnerships with rapid response to keep ecosystems and wildlife thriving—and safeguard the people who share this land. From savannas and rivers to forests and wildlife, their work shows that people and nature can thrive together. It is our vision of One Health in action.

Ranger Training

Nearly 100 rangers—including four police officers from Chitengo (Gorongosa National Park HQ)—received advanced training in human rights, biodiversity law, crime scene investigation, and tactical response. Alongside evidence gathering and case preparation, rangers prioritize public dignity and the safety of both communities and their own teams.



One Health: Domestic Animal Vaccinations

A large-scale rabies vaccination campaign immunized approximately 1,000 local domestic animals. Part of Gorongosa's One Health approach, this work reduces disease risk, protects livelihoods, and helps prevent illnesses from spreading between domestic animals, wildlife, and people. The health of people, animals, and the ecosystem is all connected.



Veterinary Services

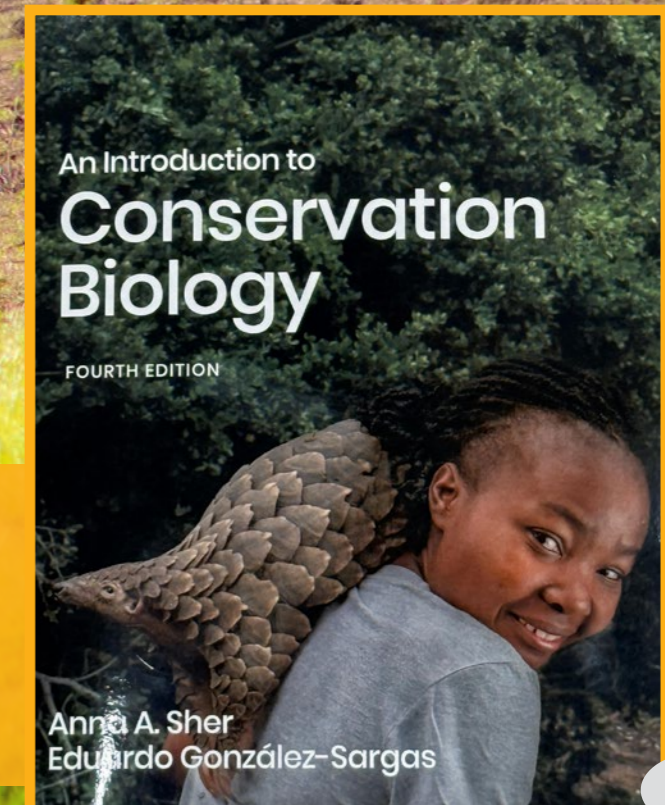
The team monitored and cared for growing populations of carnivores (lions, leopards, hyenas, painted wolves), as well as various herbivore species, carrying out targeted interventions (such as fitting GPS collars) to understand and track Gorongosa's wildlife.

The Gorongosa Pangolin Rehabilitation Center received 12 pangolins this year and welcomed more than 1,000 visitors, helping build public awareness around wildlife trafficking and recovery. Since 2018, the team has assisted 161 pangolins—most rescued from traffickers or delivered by community members.

Through veterinary care, monitoring, and public engagement—including World Pangolin Day activities—the 11-member veterinary team plays a critical role in keeping Gorongosa's wildlife healthy and its ecosystems resilient.



Park veterinarian Mercia Angela (and rescued pangolin) appeared on the cover of a new textbook published by Oxford University Press. *An Introduction to Conservation Biology* is the “gold standard text for undergraduate courses... offering current perspectives on urgent topics such as sustainable development, global change, and species conservation.”



Supporting Science Research

The Conservation team monitored vegetation, water, fire patterns, and wildlife, supporting research on primates, carnivores, and restoration trends. Ongoing training in ecological monitoring, GPS mapping, wildlife handling, and data analysis strengthened field capacity, while students and young professionals gained hands-on experience through field internships.



Upgraded Systems and Equipment

The Conservation team upgraded communications and field infrastructure, improving safety, mobility, and effectiveness for rangers and support staff. Investments included improved camps, water and solar systems, updated equipment and uniforms, and new vehicles and motorcycles—ensuring teams can operate reliably in remote conditions.



Illegal Wildlife Trade Joint-Operations

Eight intelligence-led operations across Sofala, Manica, Zambézia, and Tete prevented numerous illegal wildlife crimes. These joint actions with police led to seizures of illegal wildlife products and equipment, and the disruption of serious illegal mining activities.



Featured Program: Human-Wildlife Coexistence

Our Human-Wildlife Coexistence team works with residents and local leaders to promote safe encounters between people and wildlife. Forty-two community scouts helped monitor threats, track conflict, and deter illegal activity.

Seasonal animal movements and poor harvests increased pressure—particularly involving elephants and buffalo—but coordinated action with local authorities helped reduce conflict and promote coexistence. These efforts protected both communities and wildlife while ensuring broader trust and support for the Park's conservation work.



Rising Star: Gonçalves Semo Guia

As Deputy Chief of the Chiwawa region—home to the only communities located inside the Park—Gonçalves Semo Guia plays a critical role in preventing illegal hunting and habitat loss. He worked with local authorities to stop illegal activities and led more than 33 patrols this year.

He also facilitated community sessions encouraging the voluntary surrender of illegal hunting tools, strengthening cooperation and protection efforts across the region.



Science



Gorongosa's scientists worked across mountain slopes, savannas, caves, and classrooms, combining local leadership with global collaboration to understand and protect one of Africa's most complex and precious landscapes.

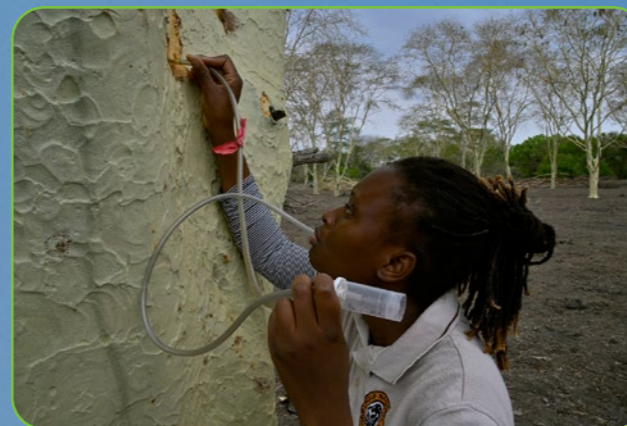
Building scientific leadership in Mozambique remains central to this work. Alumni now teach, mentor, and lead within Gorongosa and research institutions worldwide, while five science staff earned international scholarships for advanced graduate study—strengthening the next generation of local scientific leadership.

Ecological Monitoring and New Discoveries

The E.O. Wilson Biodiversity Laboratory strengthened research, field surveys, and data management, supported by partners including the Prager Family and Bat Conservation International. Biodiversity surveys on Mount Gorongosa uncovered previously undocumented bird and invertebrate species, highlighting both the Park's richness and its vulnerability to rapid environmental change.

The WildCam Gorongosa network captured more than 400,000 images, revealing population trends, predator-prey dynamics, and species presence in previously unsurveyed areas. In parallel, acoustic monitoring in the Inhaminga caves tracked bat populations, informing conservation decisions that balance ecosystem protection with local livelihoods.

New weather stations and upgraded data pipelines strengthened Gorongosa's weather and fire monitoring. The Science Department also produced 23 maps for the Inhaminga Vision 2035 in collaboration with UN-Habitat—embedding science directly into regional planning and decision-making beyond the Park's boundaries.



Paleo-Primateology Project

Gorongosa remains one of Africa's most important landscapes for understanding primate behavior, ancient environments, and human evolution. The Paleo-Primate Research Team expanded knowledge of the Cheringoma region through new fossil sites, caves, and extended primatology fieldwork, revealing how primates adapt to changing landscapes.

Supported by international grants and fellowships, the team produced peer-reviewed research, graduate theses, and global presentations—earning international recognition, including awards from the International Primatological Society and the Gordon P. Getty Foundation.



Applied Research

With support from partners including Rainforest Trust, Gorongosa's science teams strengthened wildlife protection and recovery. Elephant collaring expanded to support monitoring of movement ecology and promote human–elephant coexistence, while leopard reintroductions and vulture monitoring advanced predator and scavenger species recovery.

Camera traps and biologgers provided new insight into rarely seen species, bushbuck behavior, and population trends. Fire ecology research continued to guide long-term savanna management, with student- and alumni-led work earning international recognition. Notably, the first peer-reviewed paper from the Gorongosa Savanna Ecology Experiment won Biotropica's Julie S. Denslow Prize, reinforcing Gorongosa's leadership in savanna science and training the next generation of researchers.



Science Training and Education

Interns contributed more than 800 hours of field training and shared their experiences with students across nine schools. Graduate scholarships, international workshops, and advanced courses—many led by Gorongosa alumni—continued to expand Mozambique's next generation of conservation scientists.

Hands-on labs introduced hundreds of secondary-school students to biodiversity and ecology, while the Role Models Initiative connected participants in our Girls' Clubs program with inspirational women working in conservation.



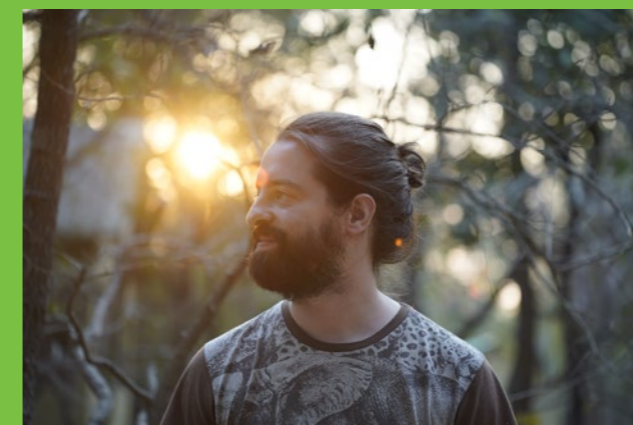
Featured Program: Bio-Education

The impact of Gorongosa's higher education programs extends well beyond the Park. Master's alumni now teach, mentor, and lead conservation projects across Mozambique, while internships help students complete degrees and gain hands-on field experience.

By February 2026, 48 students will have earned Master's degrees in Conservation Biology. Supported by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the program continues to build Mozambique's long-term scientific leadership.

Rising Star: João Coelho

Recognized for his wide-ranging contributions to the Paleo-Primate Project, João exemplifies professionalism, collaboration, and a deep commitment to Gorongosa's mission.



Rising Star: Diolinda Mundoza

Honored for her scientific rigor and resilience in the field, Diolinda was selected for a competitive international traineeship in the United States in 2026—reflecting both her talent and leadership potential.



Remembering Dr. Marc Stalmans

On August 30, 2025, Gorongosa lost a giant—a deeply loved and respected member of its community—and I lost a friend and mentor. Dr. Marc Stalmans, a botanist and landscape ecologist by training, joined the Gorongosa Restoration Project (GRP) in 2006 and became Director of Science in 2012. When I first met Marc, he was planning to expand and modernize Gorongosa’s nascent Science Department, and he invited me to join him in that effort. During the thirteen years we worked together, not a single day passed without my being impressed by Marc’s encyclopedic knowledge, passion for conservation, and seemingly inexhaustible energy.

Marc possessed a rare combination of deep theoretical knowledge and decades of hands-on experience of working in protected areas across the continent. This allowed him to consistently choose the most effective and pragmatic path for the park’s management. His expertise in landscape and restoration ecology played a central role in transforming Gorongosa National Park into one of Africa’s greatest conservation success stories. Under his guidance, the restoration of Gorongosa’s ecosystems was placed on a steady and positive trajectory, eventually leading wildlife populations not only to recover but to surpass their pre-conflict numbers. Animal reintroductions, monitoring ecosystem carrying capacity, tracking changes in wildlife abundance and biomass, and developing an appropriate fire regime for Gorongosa’s landscapes were all initiatives he led with rigor and care. His mastery of GIS and spatial data analysis proved indispensable both for day-to-day management and for long-term planning. Equally important, his skills helped measure and accelerate the impact of human development initiatives led by GRP—agriculture, health, and education—in the communities surrounding the park.

Yet at heart, Marc was always a biologist. He was endlessly fascinated by all living things, their interactions, behavior, and ecosystem function. He could name nearly every tree and grass in the park, and few things gave him greater joy than being out in the field exploring Gorongosa’s landscapes. This passion for biodiversity culminated in the creation of the E.O. Wilson Biodiversity Laboratory within Gorongosa’s Science Department, a unique facility that Marc helped design and build. Thanks to his involvement and direction, Gorongosa is now one of the few national parks in the world with a comprehensive biodiversity inventory and detailed map of its species – now exceeding 8,000 documented forms of life.

Marc was a generous and thoughtful colleague to all, always ready to offer advice and guidance. Central to his vision was the development of local Mozambican expertise and leadership in conservation, a vital prerequisite for the park’s long-term success. To this end, he devoted immense time and energy helping develop Gorongosa’s educational programs, teaching Mozambican students and mentoring their research. He was equally welcoming to visiting scientists and students, fostering collaborations with more than 70 scientific institutions around the world. Thanks in large part to his leadership, Gorongosa has become a major center for restoration ecology and conservation education in Africa.

Although we deeply miss him, Marc’s legacy endures in the landscapes he helped restore and in the people he inspired. His work will continue through all who had the privilege of knowing him and through the generations that follow. To honor his achievements, Gorongosa established the Marc Stalmans Fellowship for Science—an investment in the next generation of Mozambican scientists. The fellowship reflects his belief in rigorous, evidence-based conservation and in science that serves both nature and the people who live alongside it. Through education, mentorship, and opportunity, his commitment lives on.

— Piotr Naskrecki





In Memory of Dr. Marc Stalmans

Written by the students of the 4th Master's in Conservation Biology course

In Gorongosa's morning light, he walked
And by evening, he pedaled on,
Always ready to teach,
Never one to underestimate
Anyone with something to share.

In his quest to protect the environment, he left inspiration
Mapping and counting life with dedication,
In every leaf, in every creature, a new revelation.

"The forest speaks, if we know how to listen."
In his serene voice, and contemplative gaze.

Immersed in nature like a faithful guide,
With wide and steady steps,
Encouraging us to stand firm,
Coloring our dreams with hope as his brush.

Now, the forest whispers his name,
In the wind, in the rain, in the song that remains.

Though absent, his legacy is seed,
In data, in dreams, and in life indeed.

We honor his path, his mission,
For science and hope, with deepest gratitude.



Operations & Finance



Our Growing Team, Dedicated to Impact

The Human Resources sector was upgraded to Department status and is led by a new Director of Human Resources, Wanda Verissimo, a leading industry professional with over 20 years' experience.

The Gorongosa National Park team had 1,894 employees in 2025 (1,206 full-time and 668 part-time. 99% are Mozambican.) Salaries and benefits were reviewed against market standards to ensure fair, competitive pay, supporting the recruitment of key roles while strengthening transparency, efficiency, and opportunities for growth.

Health, safety, and environmental stewardship shape our daily work. This year, workplace accidents declined and lost work hours were reduced. Training and employee development remained a priority, with hundreds of staff completing courses in safety, occupational health, defensive driving, harassment

prevention, child and youth protection, accident reporting, and environmental awareness—building the skills that protect our people and the Park.

During World Environment Week, teams across all sites took part in workshops, clean-ups, tree planting, documentary screenings, and the launch of our “Less Plastic, More Life” campaign.

Program Office

Our Program Office team works as a bridge between the people we serve, our hard-working teams, and the generous public and private partners who make it all possible. Each funder is unique in terms of their strategic priorities, operating frameworks, and reporting requirements. It is technical, complex, but rewarding work. Across all our areas of intervention, from conservation to health and education, the impact of these partnerships is transformational at both individual and system levels.



Featured Program: Digital Transformation

We successfully implemented Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance and Operations—on time and on budget—integrating finance and supply chain functions across the organization.

This upgrade strengthened internal controls, audit trails, and compliance, while improving the accuracy and timeliness of financial data. Enhanced transparency across expenditures, commitments, inventory, and payables has sharpened cash flow management, cost control, and donor reporting. Transparent procurement processes are also delivering greater accountability and value for money.

This milestone reflects the leadership and deep engagement of the Finance and Procurement teams, whose hands-on work is essential to Gorongosa's success. As the project enters its third decade, the focus is on operational maturity—building the systems, discipline, and financial visibility needed to support a complex, multi-sector organization for the long term.

Rising Star: Edson Carneiro

The Program Office recognizes Edson Carneiro for his leadership in coordinating some of GRP's most complex, multi-stakeholder initiatives. As Impact Manager supporting the SLDP (Sustainable Livelihoods Development Program), Gorongosa Business Club, and agriculture programs, Edson has strengthened alignment across departments, districts, and external partners—ensuring coordinated implementation of cross-cutting program functions. As SLDP expanded across six districts, he helped solidify GRP's operational presence while guiding key knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation processes, including the annual work plan and budget, mid-term review, assessments, and thematic implementation frameworks.

When SLDP (Sustainable Livelihoods Development in the GNP Sustainable Development Zone communities) launched during an El Niño year that disrupted first-year delivery, Edson led recovery and catch-up efforts to restore momentum and maintain partner confidence. As the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands increased its engagement in the Beira Corridor, he also played a central role in articulating GRP's work with related initiatives, strengthening collaboration and collective impact. His steady management of complexity and focus on results have made him a cornerstone of the Program Office's effectiveness.

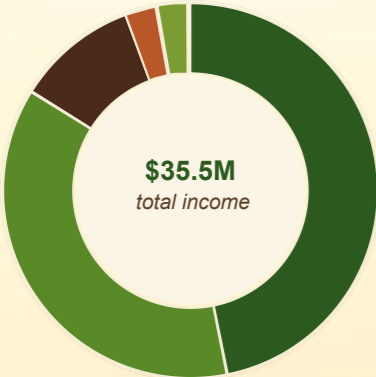


2025 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

\$35,495,415
TOTAL INCOME

\$35,478,921
TOTAL EXPENSES

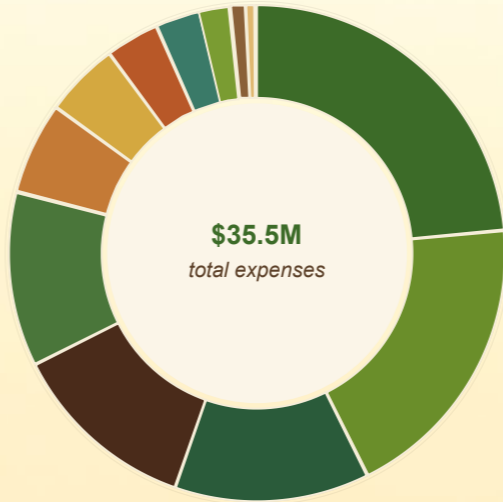
WHERE OUR FUNDING COMES FROM



Income Sources (Rounded)

Co-operation Partners	47%	\$16.7M
Foundations & Philanthropy	37%	\$13.1M
Aviation	11%	\$3.7M
Tourist Income	3%	\$1.0M
Agriculture & Forestry	3%	\$968,692

WHERE OUR FUNDING GOES



Expenses by Program (Rounded)

Human Development	24%	\$8.4M	Finance & Planning	5%	\$1.7M
Sustainable Development	19%	\$6.8M	Tourism	4%	\$1.2M
Conservation	13%	\$4.5M	Science	3%	\$1.0M
Program Support Services	12%	\$4.4M	Agriculture & Forestry	2%	\$747,172
Aviation	11%	\$4.0M	Park Administration	1%	\$320,649
Community Infrastructure	6%	\$2.1M	Communications	1%	\$245,707



A Special Thank You!

Development Partners & Donors

We extend our deepest gratitude to our dedicated donors, whose unwavering support and commitment makes our conservation and sustainable development efforts possible. Their vision, resources, and collaboration are essential to our mission of protecting biodiversity and supporting local communities in and around Gorongosa National Park.



Government of Ireland
International Development Programme

Canada  Norway



Kingdom of the Netherlands



UNDP 60 YEARS *Cartier for Nature*

CARR FOUNDATION

OAK FOUNDATION

AQUALIA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION



Justin & Kimberly Curzi



Co-Operation Partners



University of Pittsburgh
Health Sciences

MONTEBELO GORONGOSA LODGE & SAFARI



EARTH RANGER

ZOOBOISE
Conservation • Education • Recreation

BIGGBY COFFEE

and supported by many others—THANK YOU!

Gorongosa in the News



BBC's Travel Show visited Gorongosa and released two 30-min specials about their adventures both in the park and local communities. Host Emiline Nsingi Nkosi, pictured above, visited our pangolin rehabilitation program, went on safari, hiked up to the coffee project on Mount Gorongosa, and spent time with the members of the Mussinha Girls' Clubs. Initially airing on BBC television networks in the UK and worldwide on BBC News, the show was accessible to a global audience of over 400 million people. The two episodes are now freely available on the BBC Travel Show's YouTube channel (@BBCTravelShow).

NHK, Japan's national broadcaster, spent a month in the park filming our thriving Painted Wolf population for a special that aired in December, reaching 10 million people during its premiere. NHK plans to release an additional film in 2026 about their experiences.

Gorongosa was also featured in many national and international print/digital news brands, notably major articles in the Financial Times, Mongabay, and Getaway magazine.

Gorongosa reached a special milestone on Facebook: 100,000 followers. Thank you to everyone who follows us and likes/shares our stories.

National Geographic Channel released their new TV special, *Return of the Predators*, about Gorongosa's ongoing carnivore reintroduction program.

RETURN OF THE PREDATORS
WILD



Looking Forward to 2026



2026 promises to be a very busy and impactful year. Here's a taste of what to expect:

Tourism: We aim to increase revenue in our premium camps by 50%, identify the site for our next lodge development and deepen and broaden our partnerships with key international travel agents.

Aviation: We will build a scalable national aviation platform that strengthens tourism connectivity, supports business and conservation operations, expands cargo and logistics capacity, and develops integrated aeromedical services. Our goal is to become a long-term aviation infrastructure partner for Mozambique—combining safety, operational excellence, fleet growth, and local capacity development to improve access across the country.

Agriculture, Forestry, & Carbon: We will expand farmer training, strengthen value chains, and grow market access for Gorongosa products. Our coffee growers aim to add 300 hectares of newly planted areas in 2026.

Health: The Gorongosa Project, the Mozambique Ministry of Health (MISAU), and the University of Pittsburgh will work together to secure funding for a Regional Hospital and Research Center in

Gorongosa—laying the foundation for advanced care, training, and research that will serve the region for generations.

Education: We will expand our preschools from 13 to 22, reaching more than 2,000 children.

Social Infrastructure and Urban Development: We will establish a model infrastructure office to share best practices and continue supporting every Gorongosa program with durable, well-designed infrastructure.

Conservation: We will deepen engagement on Mount Gorongosa through expanded social services, additional coffee and reforestation programs, as well as improved forest monitoring. We will strengthen data-driven protection by implementing the SERCA platform, combining SMART and EarthRanger technologies to improve patrol strategy, wildlife monitoring, and decision-making.

Science: We will launch a CORE Cluster of Excellence in biodiversity training with African and European partners, expand monitoring of water, soil, and geological resources, and scale up reforestation research on Mount Gorongosa.



Contacts

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