Gorongosa National Park

Researcher and Visitor Information



Department of Scientific Services

2026

Welcome to Gorongosa National Park

Whether it is your first time to **Gorongosa National Park (GNP)** or you are returning, please make yourself familiar with the information contained in this document about conducting research in GNP, living and working at **Chitengo** Camp and at the **E.O. Wilson Biodiversity Laboratory**.


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This document contains answers and relevant information for the most *Frequently Asked Questions* (FAQ) about Gorongosa National Park.

If you have any other questions about Research and Science at Gorongosa, please send an email to:

Eng. Dadzie Tarua (dadziet@gorongosa.net)

Prof. Susana Carvalho (susana.carvalho@gorongosa.net)

Be sure to read through and understand this document carefully as you are expected to abide by these guidelines while conducting your research in Gorongosa National Park.

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Research Permits

If you haven't already applied for a Research Permit to conduct your studies in Gorongosa National Park or your previous one has expired, the first step is to submit a short proposal though this form: HERE. You will be required to provide the Title of the Project, Name(s) of the Researcher(s), Institutional Affiliation, Objectives, Methodology, Time Frame, Expected Outcomes, and Statement of Financial Responsibility for costs incurred. One completed, your research project will be reviewed by the Director of Scientific Services, Prof. Susana Carvalho: susana.carvalho@gorongosa.net

Gorongosa National Park and the EO Wilson Biodiversity Laboratory facilitate and welcome all kinds of research, as long as it does not overlap or collide with any other ongoing research projects or activities that can be found HERE. Once you have submitted your short proposal, we will analyze it and discuss it with you.

Research permits incur a fee (check the amount HERE) and are valid for one year, with the option to renew



Logistic and support

Once your research permit has been authorized, you will receive an email with a copy of the permit and a logistics form. After you complete this form, the remaining processes will be triggered automatically. Dadzie Tarua will contact you if any information is missing. All relevant details, including accommodation, ranger support, laboratory use, and the letter of accommodation, will then be sent to you for your reference.

If anything does not appear correct, please contact Eng. Dadzie Tarua at your earliest convenience at dadziet@gorongosa.net

Four days prior to your arrival at the park, you will be informed of any relevant updates to ensure your comfort and preparedness.


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Getting to and from Gorongosa National Park

Gorongosa is located in central Mozambique in the Province of Sofala.

Most international visitors usually fly directly to Beira from overseas or from Maputo, the capital city to Beira.

As of 2026, there are 3 airlines flying to Beira:

AirLink, Ethiopian Airlines and LAM (National Mozambican Airline).

The nearest cities are Beira and Chimoio.

Transfers from Beira (car or plane) and Chimoio (car) to Gorongosa's main camp (Chitengo) can be organized through us.

Please contact **Dadzie Tarua (dadziet@gorongosa.net)** to book your transfers to and from Chitengo.

The flights to Chitengo are operated by **Safari Air**.

The flights between Beira and Chitengo will be operating as follows:

Monday, Wednesday and Fridays
Beira to GNP (8:30 & 13:45)
GNP to Beira (9:00 & 15:00)

Road Transfers will be available upon request on the other days of the week.

Getting to and from Gorongosa National Park



Type of Transfer	Route	Rate
Road Transfer	Beira or Chimoio ↔ Chitengo	$100 per person
Flight Transfer	Beira ↔ Chitengo	$180 per person
Rental Car or Luggage Transfer	—	$100 per person

** Dedicated charter flights have to be arranged directly with Safari Air*

IMPORTANT: As many of our transfers are done by small planes, for the sake of yours and your fellow passengers' safety, the allowable luggage weight is strictly limited to **20 kg in soft bag or luggage**.

We can arrange transportation for you from the airport in Beira to Gorongosa. Please communicate your travel itinerary upon making your flight reservation, and should your flight be delayed, please make an effort to email **Dadzie Tarua** as soon as possible, so that he can help you book your transfers depending on either availability of vehicles or aircraft on that day.

As of 2026, a one-way dedicated road transfer between Beira or Chimoio and Chitengo costs $100 per vehicle and a one-way flight will cost $180. Please see the table above.

Always send your transfer requests to **Dadzie Tarua** so he can assist with organizing the best and most cost-effective solution for your transport. Please let us know in advance if you will need special assistance with extra luggage as this can be transferred by road. However, you will also be charged for the transfer of your luggage by road. Coordination on your way out of the Park is very important, especially if you brought large amounts of luggage since there might not be enough time to make alternate arrangements.


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Travelling around Gorongosa National Park

Most researchers find it necessary to rent a vehicle in order to conduct their fieldwork in Gorongosa National Park.

Renting a 4x4 vehicle in Beira can be quite expensive and since rates may change, it will always be necessary to ask for a quote from the different companies. As of 2024, researchers have been renting their vehicles with **Green Car** in Beira but there are several rental companies operating at Beira airport such as **SkyRent**, **InterRent** and **WinCarRental**.

If you need assistance to book a car from one of these companies, please contact **Lacson Wendumba** (lacsonw@gorongosa.net) and **Tiriva Baira** (tirivab@gorongosa.net).

If you need a driver to bring your rental to Chitengo (and back to Beira when you leave the Park), please let us know in advance. We can arrange for one of our drivers to meet you at the airport once you have picked up your vehicle from the rental company. This has a cost of $100 /trip

Fuel can be purchased in Chitengo by providing your vehicle registration and signing the forms each time you fill up. The price for fuel in Chitengo can be found **HERE**.
Millenium Bank in Vila Gorongosa (the nearest town 60 km away– 2h drive from Chitengo) has ATMs where international debit cards work, and US Dollars, Rand, and Euros can be exchanged in Beira and Chimoio.

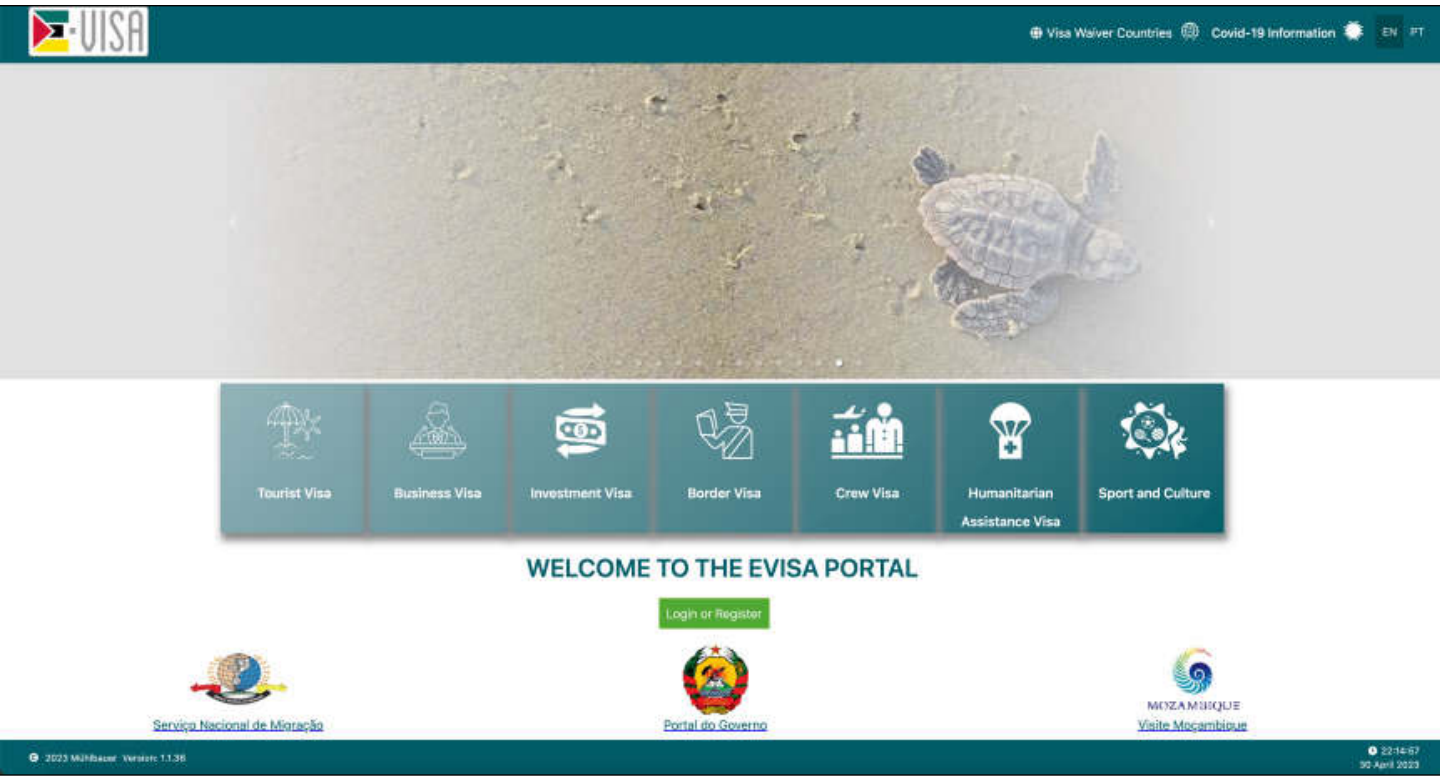


ATM Machines in the airport are the easiest way to draw Mozambican currency (meticais).

Vila Gorongosa is also the nearest place to buy basic groceries, vegetables or fruits.
If you need a shopping trip, please ask around to organize an outing with the next vehicle leaving Chitengo.

Beira (4 h away) and Chimoio (3 h away) are the nearest cities where one can purchase more specialized groceries. We can organize a monthly free trip for several people, but we will have to charge for dedicated shopping trips (see road transfers above).

Visas and Customs



An online immigration (https://evisa.gov.mz/) website was introduced in 2023 to facilitate the submission of all the documents required for the visa application process in Mozambique.
Please visit the website and follow the instructions to apply for your visa.

IMPORTANT: *Citizens from certain countries don't need to submit an online application for a visa to enter Mozambique (please check the next page for details).*

You should have a valid passport with at least 6 months, proof of your accommodation and proof of your itinerary to show at immigration.

Visitors should select the right type of visa and ask for a proof of accommodation letter from Gorongosa National Park at least one month prior to the time you will apply for your visa.

You may also be able to extend certain types of visas within country at the Beira immigration office but there might be a significant cost each time you request an extension and those can also be denied. Please confirm this with Vitor dos Santos of Human Resources (vitors@gorongosa.net) so he can advise you on how to proceed. Long-term visas in Mozambique have been a challenge for researchers to obtain. **It is your responsibility to look closely at what type of visa and length of stay you are granted and plan your trip accordingly.** You can accrue hefty fees for overstaying your visa for each day you remain in the country after your visa has expired.

Customs

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

Visas and Customs



In 2023, the Mozambican Government has approved a waiver on entry visas **for tourism and business** purposes for **29 countries** (Canada, UK, USA, Portugal, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Belgium, Germany, Italy, China, UAE, Singapore, Japan, Ghana, Senegal, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Finland, Spain, France, South Korea, Israel, Russia, Ukraine, Ireland, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Netherlands)

If you are a citizen of any of these countries, ***you will not need to apply for a visa*** *(online or at the Mozambican Embassy or Consulate) prior to your trip to .*
You will be able to get a 30-day Permission to enter the country for tourism, upon arrival at the border .

If you wish to stay for more than 30 days, you will need to apply for a longer visa through the online portal . You will still be asked to provide the Proof of Accommodation, Proof of Itinerary (your flights) and obviously a valid passport (with at least 6 months) at the border .

EO Wilson Lab Accommodation

Science **A-Cabins**



IMPORTANT : Two types of cabins are available at the EO Wilson Lab : **A-Cabins** and **B-Cabins**
Accommodation at the Science Cabins is usually booked once you have completed your logistical form .

All updated prices for the cabins can be found **HERE**
To check your income country category HERE
All students receive a 20% discount on any type of accommodation



EO Wilson Lab Accommodation

Science **A-Cabins**





All updated prices for the cabins and services you may require from science can be found **HERE**
To check your income country category HERE
All students receive a 20% discount on any type of accommodation



Science A-Cabins are comprised of **one single or couple occupancy room with an en-suite bathroom**. There are three A-Cabins in Chitengo

If staying in a science cabin, it will be cleaned once a day during the workweek. Each accommodation unit has a wash basket. Dirty laundry can be washed, ironed and returned to your accommodation unit in a day or two so you can pack sparingly.
Please check that you have received all your laundry before you leave.

EO Wilson Lab Accommodation

Science **B-Cabins**





All updated prices for the cabins and services you may require from science can be found **HERE**
To check your income country category HERE



Science B-Cabins are comprised of **two single occupancy rooms with a shared bathroom**. There are five B-Cabins in Chitengo.

A small corridor in the middle of the cabin connects the two independent rooms and provides access to the bathroom.

If staying in a science cabin, it will be cleaned once a day during the workweek. Each accommodation unit has a wash basket. Dirty laundry can be washed, ironed and returned to your accommodation unit in two or three days so you can pack sparingly.

Please check that you have received all your laundry before you leave.



EO Wilson Lab Accommodation

Living in Chitengo

There are unsecured wireless networks available at the camp. **Movitel** is usually the most reliable cell phone operator in the field, whereas **Tmcel** is preferred in Chitengo camp. SIM cards are cheap in Beira or Vila Gorongosa (However, to activate the SIM, you will need to provide your passport details and have a photo of yourself taken locally by an authorised agent). You will also need to buy credit for calls or data.



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

To access the Gorongosa Wi-Fi, you will receive the login credentials from Dadzie Tarua three to four days before your arrival at the Park.



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


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EO Wilson Lab Accommodation

Living in Chitengo

Normally, you can purchase meals at the Chikalango Restaurant operated by Montebelo where meals can range between 12 to 30 USD depending on what you order. If accommodation at the E.O. Wilson Lab is fully booked, you may need to request alternative lodging at Montebelo via **Dadzie Tarua to benefit from the 50% discount**. Please check the updated rates HERE.

Visiting researchers have also a **20%** discount on meals. **In order to benefit from the discount on food you need to register at the hotel reception as a visiting scientist, and you will be given a code that you need to use at the restaurant. You must pay for any food or drinks before you depart Gorongosa.**



There is a staff canteen in Chitengo that serves three basic meals for staff and external researchers/visitors. It is located right in front of the EO Wilson Lab.

If you are vegetarian, there is usually an alternative to fish or meat. Please inform us ahead of time so we can let the kitchen know how many vegetarian meals they must prepare. Researchers and external visitors are charged **12 USD per person, per day for the 3 basic daily meals at the staff canteen**.





EO Wilson Lab Accommodation

Living in Chitengo – Science Kitchen

There is a basic common kitchen at the science center where you may cook. Please remember, the kitchen is shared by many and should be maintained and cleaned by everyone using the facility. Please also take note that baboons and vervet monkeys frequent the area, so it is important to lock food in the kitchen and maintain cleanliness in all areas including your living space. **It is very important that everyone please wash their dishes directly after use as many people are sharing common spaces. Please also label and date your food and throw food away that has gone bad.**





It is very important not to feed baboons, vervet monkeys, or any other wildlife. **Always keep any doors and windows closed and locked at all times.**

The nearest place to buy groceries is in Vila Gorongosa, which is 60 kilometers from Chitengo. If you need a shopping trip, please inform **Dadzie Tarua** to arrange it based on the availability of the vehicles leaving the station. Beira (4 h away) and Chimoio (3 h away) are the nearest cities where one can purchase more specialized groceries.



EO Wilson Lab Accommodation

Billing, Check-In and Check-Out

CONSERVATION FEES

Tourists or researchers, are required to pay the daily Conservation Fee of 20 USD for international visitors. However, this fee is **capped to a maximum of 15 days for a calendar year like a season pass**. Therefore, the maximum for any calendar year is:

Mozambican National	SADC Residents	International
1.500 MZN	150 USD	300 USD

Please speak to Dadzie Tarua at least 2 days prior to departure so you can confirm the charges for which you'll be invoiced from the Gorongosa Restoration Project.
The bill should be settled via electronic transfer, following the instructions on the final invoice.
All expenses will be confirmed with you before the invoice is issued.

Restaurant bills from Montebelo need to be paid at their reception, using debit, credit card or cash, before you depart. If you benefited from the 50% Discount on accommodation you don't need to pay at the hotel reception. You will be invoiced by GRP. If camping or staying in a science cabins, please sign in and out with Dadzie Tarua upon leaving or returning to Chitengo. If you are staying at Montebelo, please inform reception of your departure.

ALL room keys for the Science Cabins should be left with either Dadzie Tarua or left in the lock to be collected by our cleaning staff.

A **50 USD** replacement fee will be charged for lost keys.



Research at Gorongosa National Park

We want to facilitate your research to the greatest extent possible, so please communicate your needs to us well in advance.

All researchers are required to go into the field accompanied by a ranger, if they will be exiting their vehicles. **Rangers should be reserved at least three days ahead of time, but it is better to reserve them ahead of time if you know your needs prior to arrival**; Rangers are booked on a weekly basis using the form **HERE**. Please coordinate with Dadzie Tarua: dadziet@gorongosa.net and please submit your weekly schedule by Friday for the following week. Ranger fees are now 5 USD whether half-day, full-day or a few hours and will be assessed for last minute cancellations as well.

IMPORTANT: When fill out this form HERE to book your weekly ranger, please also include the type of activity you will be doing in the field and the location for the safety reason (*e.g. walking picada 1 and 3, driving around zebra pan, collecting samples in the Lion House, etc*), as well as your estimated time of departure and arrival from and back to Chitengo.

If you plan on going to the field very early and/or stay there for the entire day, you should always make sure to organize meals for yourself ahead of time (ideally on a weekly basis). Please send an email to Fernando Fondo (fernandof@gorongosa.net) copying Dadzie Tarua so that packed lunches can be prepared accordingly.

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



Research at Gorongosa National Park

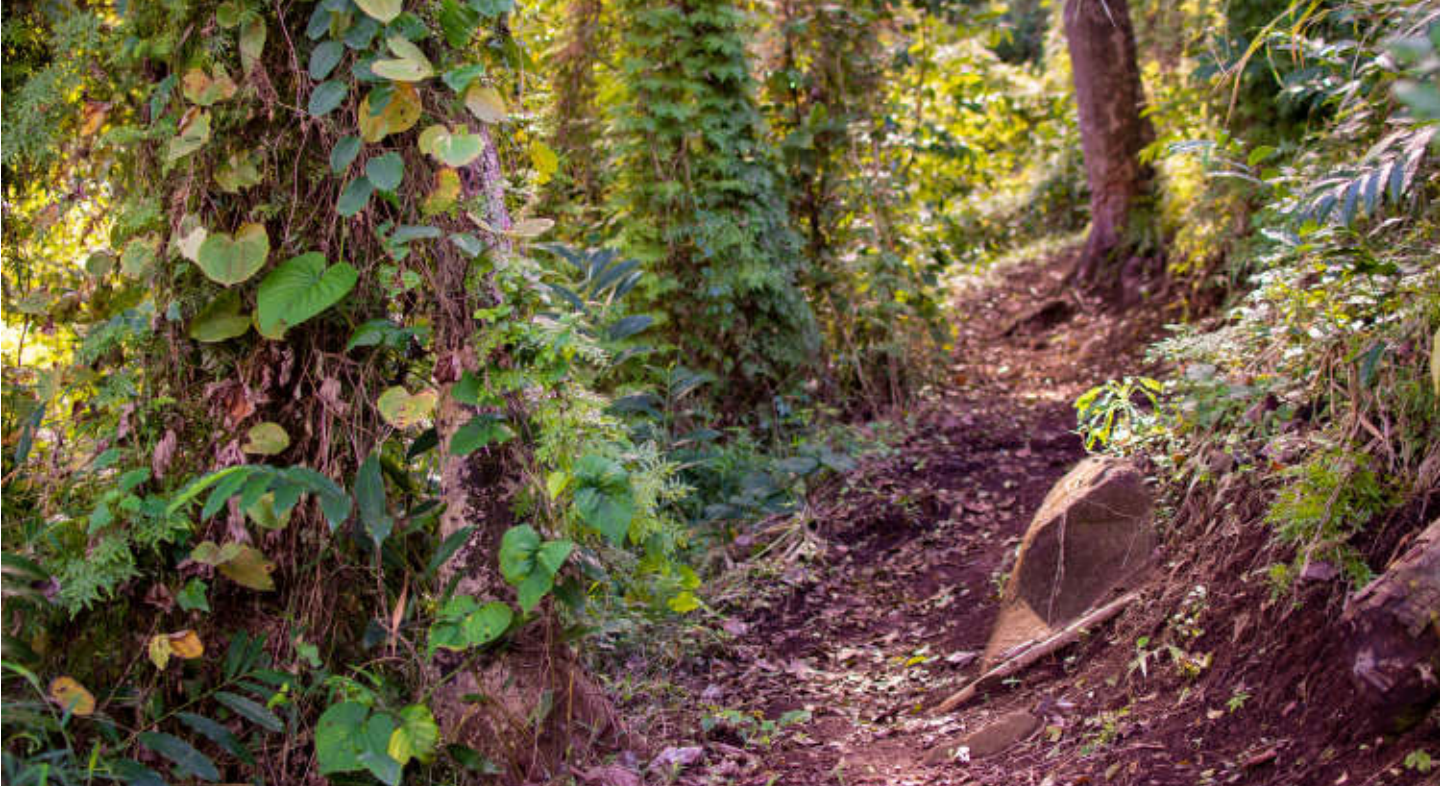
EO WILSON LAB BIODIVERSITY DATABASE

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

We also have a limited supply of laboratory consumables such as ethanol, silica gel, *ziplock* bags, etc. so be sure to bring what you need or plan to have them shipped here ahead of time. If we are able to provide you with any of these consumables, we will need to bill you for their costs. Please specify in the forms the support, lab supplies and equipment you need from the lab or inform **Ismenia Sitoe** (Molecular Lab Technician Ismenias@gorongosa.net) and **Dadzie Tarua**.

EXPORTING SAMPLES FROM GORONGOSA NATIONAL PARK

Researchers often want to collect and export samples from Gorongosa National Park as part of their research projects. If you plan to collect and export samples from the Park you will need to have a valid Research Permit issued by the Science Department and all the necessary documents from Gorongosa National Park, supporting the removal of the samples. Please complete this **sample export form so** that our team can assist you with the export. Please bear in mind that exporting samples from Mozambique involves a fair amount of bureaucracy and the shipping costs may be significant. Your samples will be transported to Maputo where the necessary permits from different institutions will be issued. This process may take a few weeks, and you should monitor it closely.



Research at Gorongosa National Park

EXPORT OF SAMPLES FROM GORONGOSA NATIONAL PARK

Steps to follow for export

VEGETATION SAMPLES

Researcher Responsibility

- Correct labelling and detailed list {specimens' description, packing, nr of units and total weight}
- Import permit from institution /country importing /receiving the samples

Lab Responsibility

- Scientific credential from Prof. Carvalho
- Letter from Park Warden addressed to Ministerio da Agricultura e Pescas / Segurança Alimentar
- Fill-in sample export form {attached} from MAP {*Reforço a Sanidade Vegetal*}
- Submit at the Maputo Harbour along with the export process
- Make deposit into MAP {*Reforço a Sanidade Vegetal*} account based on Phytosanitary Table.
- Bank details: TBA
- Certificate collection within 3 to 4 days

Final step

- Once all of this is checked, we can move to shipment with DHL, note that costs with DHL can be handled internationally for those who have DHL contract agreement, otherwise, funds must be available for reimbursement within 24h.



Research at Gorongosa National Park

EXPORT OF SAMPLES FROM GORONGOSA NATIONAL PARK

Steps to follow for export

ANIMAL–DERIVED SAMPLES / FAECES / TISSUES / BONES / ENAMEL

Researcher Responsibility

- Correct labelling and detailed list {specimens' description, packing, nr of units and total weight}
- Import permit from institution/country importing/receiving the samples
- Check if CITES permit is required in destination country and if yes, request to Prof. Carvalho

Lab Responsibility

- Scientific credential from Prof. Carvalho
- Letter from Park Warden addressed to Direcção Provincial de Agricultura e Pescas – Dpto. de Pecuaria
- This can be submitted by email or in person at Ministry of Agriculture, Praça dos Herois, in Maputo
- Follow up daily
- Pay cash to pick up permits at Ministry of Agriculture, *Praça dos Herois*, in Maputo

Final step

- Once all of this is checked, then the we can move to shipment with DHL, note that costs with DHL can be handled internationally for those who have DHL contract agreement, otherwise, funds must be available for reimbursement within 24h.



Research at Gorongosa National Park

EXPORT OF SAMPLES FROM GORONGOSA NATIONAL PARK

Steps to follow for export

SOIL /SEDIMENT /ROCK /FOSSILS SAMPLES

Researcher Responsibility

- Correct labelling and detailed list {specimens' description, packing, nr of units and total weight}
- Import permit from institution /country importing /receiving the samples
- Check if CITES permit is required in destination country

Lab Responsibility

- Scientific credential from Prof. Carvalho
- Letter from Park Warden addressed to Instituto Nacional de Minas {INAMI}
- Submit to Dpt situated in downtown Maputo
- Wait for LAB's contact to take samples for analyses
- Obtain costs from LAB
- Make deposit into INAMI's account
- Collect receipts from INAMI {downtown}
- Wait for permits {this alone can take up to 2 weeks}
- Collect permits 11º floor – Dir. Nacional de Minas at new building {close to JAT downtown}
- Sometimes INAMI involves Customs, which can add another 2 weeks for clearance

Final step

- Once all of this is checked, we can move to shipment with DHL, note that costs with DHL can be handled internationally for those who have DHL contract agreement, otherwise, funds must be available for reimbursement within 24h.


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Health and Safety

Contacts and Information

You are required to purchase international medical /evacuation insurance for the duration of your stay in Gorongosa .

In the event of minor illness or injury, Gorongosa has a very basic onsite health clinic (outpatient only) staffed by a nurse and doctor. There is also an ambulance on site for transport to Beira or Chimoio in the case of an emergency.

For very serious situations, you will likely have to travel to Pretoria (South Africa) for care. We can organize medivac services from Beira through Safari Air, the company who also operates the regular flights to the Park. Please contact **David Svendsen** from Safari Air (+27 81 709 2716). Please call Dadzie Tarua (Whatsapp: +258 875901507) or Susana Carvalho (Whatsapp: +44 7497780671) if medical assistance is required.

When in the field, you should have a Movitel or Vodacom cell phone and be always accompanied by a ranger with a radio. A limited number of radios can be checked out with Dadzie Tarua or Jacinto Mathe.


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External Researchers Essential Links

Resource

Research Permit Request – Research Project Submission

Ranger Request Form

Ranger Request Tracking

Science Lab Use Form

Canteen Meals (Selected Days)

Science Accommodation Prices

Oven Use in the Lab

Sample Export Request Form

Ongoing Research Projects

Science Publications linked to the Park

Income Country List

GNP Research Guidelines (Portuguese)

Prices for all services in the Park