

4 PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 Overall Purposes

The onset in identifying the purposes of the Game Reserve of Gilé is inevitably the guiding legislation, the Forestry and Wildlife Act N° 10 of 1999, which provides the overall purpose for conservation and protection of biodiversity in Mozambique and underlines the main objective to be pursued. The same purpose and objective are adopted for the GRG.

The general purpose of the Forestry and Wildlife Act N° 10 of 1999 is:

“...to promote the sustainable use of forest and fauna resources and shall further promote initiatives that will ensure the protection and conservation of forest and fauna resources, with the view to improving the living conditions of the people”

Within the Article 4 the overall objectives are defined as:

“...the objective to be pursued are the protection, conservation, development and the rational and sustainable use of forest and fauna resources for the economic, social and ecological benefit of the present and future generations of Mozambicans”

Within the Article 10, Comma 1, the protection areas are defined:

“Protection areas are demarcated territorial areas, representing the national natural heritage, meant for the conservation of biodiversity and of a fragile ecosystem or of animal or plant species”

Within the Comma 2 of the same Article, three types of protected areas are individuated:

“The following are considered to be protection areas:

- a) National parks;*
- b) National reserves;*
- c) Areas of use and with cultural and historic importance.*

The GRG is defined as National Reserve and its conservation regime is defined within the Article 12, Comma 1:

“National reserves are areas of total protection meant for the protection of certain species of rare, endemic, endangered and evidently diminishing flora and fauna and fragile ecosystems such as wetlands, dunes, mangroves and corals, as well as the conservation of the flora and fauna found in those ecosystem”

In addition, as outcome during the PRPGRG implementation and the elaboration of the present Management Plan, the following specific purposes of the Game Reserve of Gilé are added:

- I. Conservation of biodiversity, preservation of fauna and flora and restoration of ecosystem processes
- II. Promotion of the sustainable exploitation of the bioresources
- III. Involvement of local residents in the development and management of the GRG
- IV. Promotion of environmental education and information diffusion
- V. Facilitation of research and monitoring of bioresources condition and use
- VI. Facilitation of appropriate eco-tourism development

4.2 Management Objectives

The following specific objectives aim to perform the purposes underlined above in Section 4.1. It is understood, without including it as a specific objective that the GRG will constantly attempt to own and maintain and effective management staff and infrastructures to provide the operational basis to achieve the identified objectives.

4.2.1 Conservation of Biodiversity, Preservation of Fauna and Flora and Restoration of Ecosystem Processes

Biodiversity conservation, preservation of fauna and flora and restoration of ecosystem process is the primary goal of the present existence of the GRG. Specific objectives are:

- I. Ensuring the conservation of all important and unique habitats
- II. Conservation of certain species of fauna and flora and preservation of locally threatened species of fauna and flora regulating and/or avoiding several men-induced impacts
- III. Restoring essential ecosystem processes avoiding disruptive human disturbances

4.2.2 Promotion of the Sustainable Exploitation of Bioresources

The improper use of natural resources is presently the main threat to the bioconservation in the GRG. Assuring a rational extraction of resources is indispensable for both a correct management of the GRG and to avoid a severe depletion of essential goods for local communities. Specific objectives are:

- I. Immediate cessation in using unsustainable extraction techniques
- II. Maintaining the diversity and availability of economically important species
- III. Broadening the income base for local communities and assure their access to alternative livelihood opportunities
- IV. Regulating to appropriate levels the extraction of wild resources

4.2.3 Involvement of Local Residents in the Development and Management of the GRG

Community participation is the third defined goal of the GRG. The GRG presents a unique situation by comparison with other protected areas in Mozambique: the complete lack of human settlements within its limits. However, the larger part of residents in the immediate neighbouring is largely dependent on an array of resources contained within the GRG. The support and collaboration of local populations is central to achieving conservation and rational resource-use goals. Specific objectives are:

- I. Involving local communities and other stakeholders in consultation and decision-making in a significant way and, where required, allocating their views, ideas and traditional knowledge and practices
- II. Ensuring that local residents have priority access to resources and other economic opportunities
- III. Ensuring local communities take on increasing responsibility for sustainable resource management, enforcement of regulations and protection of the GRG habitats

4.2.4 Promotion of Environmental Education and Information Diffusion

The active participation of local residents has been underlined as the third goal. The GRG experienced some 20 years of lack of management and institutional presence that resulted in the wrong perception of an area without owner, unprotected and use-free. It is indispensable that all dwellers have a clear understanding of the new status of the GRG and its purposes, as well as the role that they have necessarily to play. Specific objectives are:

- I. Community understanding of the present status of the GRG and its purposes
- II. Community understanding of the new presence of institutional managers of the GRG
- III. Community understanding of their role in the management of bioresources and possibility of exploitation in a sustainable way
- IV. Information is exchanged between the GRG and all user groups, including local communities, visitors and other commercial investors in a free and transparent manner

4.2.5 Facilitation of Research and Monitoring of Bioresources Condition and Use

The 2,100 km² of the GRG harbour a vastness of fauna and flora species interacting within a complicate environment. Presently, only few are well-know on the biological and ecological characteristics of the GRG. To improve management strategies and respond to changes with appropriate measures a more comprehensive scientific knowledge is required. Specific objectives are:

- I. Well-defining and monitoring conservation goals
- II. Complete ascertainment of the level of bioresources use
- III. Tracking changes in the actual level of bioresources use
- IV. Studying and monitoring population dynamic of several animal species
- V. Studying and monitoring in depth the features of vegetation types within the GRG and the impact of men-induced disturbances (i.e. wildfires)
- VI. Tracking changes in the prevailing socio-economic situation

4.2.6 Facilitation of Appropriate Eco-tourism Development

The GRG has significant tourism resources. It could provide opportunities for both national and foreign visitors to enjoy a premier natural ecosystem and to discover the complicate and fascinating relationships between local people and natural environment. Specific objectives are:

- I. Developing a sustainable and environmentally sound eco-tourism for both successfully management and conservation of biodiversity assuring the required development of local residents
- II. Local communities sharing in the eventual benefits that accrue from tourism or other investors in the target area
- III. Minimizing the eventual impact of tourism and other commercial activities on the integrity of the GRG environment