

PARQUE NACIONAL DO LIMPOPO FACT SHEET



INTRODUCTION



After the Mozambique Peace Accord of 1992, on the recommendation of the Mozambican Council of Ministers, the Global Environment Facility, through the World Bank, funded feasibility analyses, which culminated in a series of recommendations contained in a 1996 report. The long-held vision of linking three National Parks, as well as key interstitial areas, became reality with the formal agreements of the Governments of Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe on 10th November 2000, to establish the Great Limpopo Trans Frontier Park (GLTP) and Conservation Area.

The GLTP is comprised of three parks, i.e. the Kruger National Park (KNP) in South Africa, the Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe and Parque Nacional do Limpopo (PNL) in Mozambique with PNL being proclaimed in November 2001. PNL was formerly used as a hunting zone (Coutada 16) and covers a vast area of 1,123,316 ha which is approximately half the size of KNP.

One of the first steps taken by the Mozambican Government to implement the formal agreement was to change the legal status of Coutada 16 to that of a National Park. A formal treaty establishing the Trans Frontier Park was signed by the Heads of State in Xai Xai in December 2002.

Although PNL was officially opened to the public in August 2005 when the Presidents of the three respective countries opened the Giriyondo Border Gate between KNP and PNL, the park is still being developed.

ACCESS

The Park locality, access routes and internal road network are detailed on the maps at the back of this document. The Park can be accessed through 4 Entrance gates as follows:

- **Giriyondo Border Gate:** This is a formal border gate situated between PNL and KNP (northeast of Letaba).
From 1 April to 30 September: Opens 08h00; closes 15h00
From 1 October to 31 March: Opens 08h00; closes 16h00
- **Pafuri Border Gate:** This is a formal border gate situated in the north of PNL and KNP. From Pafuri Border Gate it is possible to cross the Limpopo River with a 4x4 vehicle en route to Banhine National Park, Vilanculos, etc, during the dry season only. The road between Pafuri and Mapai falls within the Buffer Zone and Park entrance fees are only payable at Mapai Gate.
Gate hours throughout the year: 08h00 - 16h00
- **Massingir Park Entrance Gate:** Massingir gate is located within Mozambique in the south of the Park. There are chalets and campsites located at Massingir Gate (Albufeira Camp).
Gate hours throughout the year: 06h00 - 18h00
- **Mapai Park Entrance Gate:** Mapai gate is located within Mozambique in the east of the Park. From Mapai Park Entrance Gate it is possible to cross the Limpopo River with a 4x4 vehicle en route to Banhine National Park, Vilanculos etc, There is a camp site located at Mapai Gate (Nhamphule Camp).
Gate hours throughout the year: 06h00 - 18h00



Traveling within the Park: The main access road between Giriyondo and Massingir, including access to Campismo Albufeira is accessible by sedan. All other roads require a high ground clearance or 4x4 vehicle, with a 4x4 vehicle being essential during the wet season. As roads are not well developed and signposted, it is also advisable to make use of a GPS when traveling through the center of the Park.

All visitors are expected to comply with the Park Rules including Obeying the 40km/hr speed limit ; Not littering and being courteous Wildlife, Fellow Visitors and Communities within the Park.

The distance between Giriyondo and Massingir is 70km and will take the visitor approximately $1\frac{3}{4}$ hours. The road has speed bumps and elephants frequently use the road so travel with care. Where signposting is insufficient the visitor should stick to the more traveled graveled road. Sufficient time must be allowed to accommodate for Gate opening times and accommodation or camping should be booked at either Albufeira or Agua Pesqueira as there are no camping facilities at Giriyondo.



Traveling outside the Park

From South Africa: Access can be gained through Kruger National Park. Giriyondo gate is about 45km north of Letaba camp (1+ hour) and about 90km from Phalaborwa gate (2+ hours). Phalaborwa gate is approximately 5 1/2 - 6 hours driving time from Johannesburg.

Massingir Town: Located 6 km from Massingir Gate has a some basic shops (Airtime ; Drinks ; Bread rolls or Pau etc) ; Fuel and a Bank with ATM (Mt currency). Payments must be made in cash only. Certain stores may accept Rands.

Massingir to Chokwe: After 105km a T junction is reached where one turns left to Mapai and Chicualacuala and right to Chokwe. After a further 25km one reaches Chokwe which is a little under 2 hours drive from Massingir. The road is surfaced but has a lot of potholes. Road drainage and resurfacing work in being undertaken during 2011 so traveling times may be extended until this is completed.

Chokwe onwards: At Chokwe you can turn left at the Centre of town (at the Petrol station) to travel via Chibuto to the EN1 (north of Xai Xai) and onwards to Inhambane, Vilanculos etc. Alternatively you can travel straight through Chokwe and onto Macia which is 190km (3 hrs) from Massingir Gate. The distance from Macia to Bilene is 34km (1/2 hour) and to Maputo is 170km (2 ½ hours). Macia, Chokwe and Chibuto have ATM, fuel and basic supply shops.

Safety Tips: All the roads are surfaced but pass through community areas and some have potholes and livestock (eg cattle) so travel with care. There are active Traffic Officials and the speed limit must be obeyed. EN1 speed limit is 100km/hr which is reduced to 60km/hr in developed areas. Elsewhere a maximum speed of 80km/hr is suggested outside of developed areas. Make sure that your vehicle is equipped with reflective triangles and at least one yellow reflective jacket. If are towing, you have to display a blue and yellow triangle on the front of your vehicle as well as on the back of the trailer/caravan. Carry sufficient cash to pay a traffic fine should you inadvertently be caught speeding and request a receipt. Fines range upwards of 1,000Mt for "Small" transgressions. Ensure you reach your destination well before sunset, which in Mozambique is between 17h00 in winter and 18h30 in summer. People are generally very helpful but in the outlying areas do not speak any English. Should you for any reason need any assistance preferably, where possible, stop at a filling station or shop.

(Note: Times indicated are driving times and exclude stopping time)

Vehicle Third Party Insurance: Compulsory Third party vehicle insurance is obtainable through PNL at Giriyondo and Massingir gate or can be purchased prior to traveling in the case of personal preference or use of Pafuri border gate. The cost for a sedan vehicle is R150 for 30 days.

BORDER PROCEDURES

South African and Mozambican citizens do not need visas when visiting either country. All other passport holders require visas unless stipulated to the contrary in your country. Mozambican Visas can be obtained at border at a cost of approximately \$108 or €77.

Car papers indicating the registration number, engine number and chassis number are required. Should the vehicle not be registered in your name, a letter from the owner is required giving you permission to take the vehicle across the border. If you are still paying off the vehicle, a letter is required from both your insurance company as well as the financial institution allowing you to take the vehicle across the border. Rental vehicles can cross the border; however, the necessary documents must be on hand, including written permission from the rental company. If you are towing a boat or trailer, registration papers are also required for these.

A South African driver's license is valid in all the SADC states. Mozambican driver's licenses are also valid in South Africa. Other passport holders do require an international driver's license.



Giriyondo border gate is a tourist border gate and is not open for commercial traffic.



The Giriyondo Border procedure is as follows when entering from South Africa:

- **SA Immigrations office:** Passport to be stamped out of South Africa. Should Foreigners be planning to return to South Africa then they should ensure that their South African visa is acceptable (eg wont expire). As a guideline passports should have at least 6 months validity remaining and have at least 2 open pages.
- **KNP office:** Provide your KNP Entry ticket and Sign the KNP exit register.
- **SA Police office:** Complete your vehicle Temporary Exportation paperwork available from the SA Immigrations office. Drive your vehicle to the Police inspection office and produce your vehicle/trailer documents and have your vehicle inspected and Temporary Exportation documentation signed and stamped. If you are traveling with (new looking) expensive equipment (eg computers) that you will return back into South Africa with it may be prudent to complete a DA65 - Temporary Exportation documentation for this equipment as well.



Proceed to Mozambique

- **Moz Immigrations office** (Blue uniform): Complete the Customs document and hand in together with your passport. Obtain your visa for upto 30 days from Customs (no charge for South Africans but a cost of approximately \$108 or €77 applies for other foreigners) and your Entry stamp in your Passport.
- **Moz Customs Office** (Blue uniform): Produce your vehicle papers and stamped South African Vehicle Temporary Exportation document. Complete the form provided and pay approximately 26Mt or R10. Obtain your signed and stamped Mozambique Temporary Importation papers. The Customs official may wish to inspect your vehicle to check vehicle documentation and to ensure no no importation into Mozambique outside of regulations.
- **Moz Border Police** (Dark Green uniform): If requested they will request to verify your passport and entry stamp.
- **PNL Office** (Brown or Light green uniform): Pay your Park entry fees at the PNL office and purchase your vehicle 3rd Party Insurance.

When returning the procedure is followed in reverse with exit stamps being obtained in passports and vehicle/trailer/equipment documentation being handed in.

Always be respectful, polite and courteous and you will receive the same treatment in return.

Tourists' Allowances:

- Tobacco products: 200 cigarettes OR 100 cigarillos OR 50 cigars OR 250 grams of smoking tobacco *
- Alcoholic drinks: 1 litre of spirits AND 2.25 litres of wine *
- Perfumes: 50 ml perfumes OR 250 ml of toilet water
- Pharmaceutical Products: Quantity considered reasonable for consumption
- Other foods: Up to a value of US \$50 (or equivalent) per person per 30 days. **

* These allowances do not apply to persons under the age of 18 years

** If inspected and you exceed the US\$ 50.00 limit an official tax rate of 46% is used to tax any foodstuff. You should prove the value of the goods bought by showing the receipts (till slip). If you do not have any receipts the custom officials will estimate the value of the goods and you will be taxed accordingly. (Make sure the tax is levied on the amount before VAT - no use paying tax on tax).

Prohibited or restricted items: includes narcotic drugs, firearms, weapons, pornographic material and counterfeit goods.



OVERNIGHT FACILITIES



Machampane Wilderness Trails Camp: this is a privately operated luxury tented accommodation facility about 30 km from Giriyondo border gate. All meals are included as well as guided game walks.

The Camp operators, Transfrontier Trails, also offer Guided Wilderness Walking Trails and Guided Self Drive 4x4 Trails through PNL.

Contact Marichen on marichen@tfpd.co.za or (+27) 021 701 7860 for more information and reservations.



The below camps are operated by the Park itself and all bookings can be made through Lodovico Salinha at +(258) 082 654 7968 e-mail: salinhal@yahoo.com.

Campismo Agua Pesqueira (Fish Eagle Camp): This camp is preferred by visitors looking for a quite relaxing atmosphere and is situated about 55 km from Giriyondo border gate and about 25 km from Massingir. It consists of 3 "nodes". 1st node: the *overlander site* which caters for bigger groups who wish to camp together. This node has ablution (showers and toilets) and kitchen facilities (counter and running water and a small one plate stove) as well as a number of skottelbraais. The 2nd node consists of individual very privately placed camping sites, each with its own skottelbraai. This node also has kitchen and ablution facilities as above. The 3rd node consists of 4 wooden chalets, each of which sleeps 2 people and includes linen, towels, crockery and cutlery, pots and pans and a small one plate gas stove as well as mosquito nets. Each chalet has a bathroom en suite as well as kitchenette and a deck overlooking the dam.



The camp is situated high on the escarpment and all camping sites and chalets have magnificent views of the dam which is located 250 m away. The only electricity provided is for chalet, ablution and kitchen lighting.



Campismo Albufeira: This camp is preferred by transit travelers and is situated at Massingir Gate which is about 70 km from Giriyondo border gate. The camp is close to the dam wall and consists of camping sites with communal kitchen and ablution facilities as well as chalets as described under Campismo Agua Pesqueira above. Each camp site has its own skottelbraai. At this camp there is one 4 bed chalet, while the rest are all 2 beds. The chalets all have electricity and each has a skottelbraai outside. The Park Tourism manager can assist in obtaining permits for boating and fishing activities on Massingir Dam.



Campismo Sandalo: very basic camp about 3 hrs drive from Agua Pesqueira. It has a water supply with showers and toilets.

Campismo Nhampfule: this is on our boundary in the north at Mapai Gate. It is also a very basic camp with water supply, showers and toilets.

See further information on the Parks **4x4 Camp and Road network** under the "Activities" section.

GPS CO-ORDINATES

Giriyondo Border Post	31° 41' 30.73" E	23° 38' 58.96" S
Pafuri Border Post	31° 19' 59.63" E	22° 26' 54.02" S
Mapai Gate	31° 58' 40.26" E	22° 52' 16.03" S
Massingir Gate	32° 09' 35.10" E	23° 55' 05.59" S
Agua Pesqueira Camp	32° 00' 26.21" E	23° 51' 29.59" S
Albufeira Camp	32° 08' 42.44" E	23° 52' 24.28" S
Machampane Camp	31° 46' 46.31" E	23° 46' 13.24" S
Nhampfule Camp	31° 55' 17.36" E	22° 53' 35.93" S
Sandalo Camp	31° 41' 57.73" E	23° 20' 51.18" S



ACTIVITIES

In addition to being an ideal half way stop off point for Bush to Beach excursions between South Africa and the popular Mozambique coastline, the Park offers wide variety of experiences including fantastic scenery and sunsets, Game and Bird viewing, cultural and 4x4 self drive off-road experiences and a variety of luxury guided walking, canoeing and off-road trails.



If you enjoy the quiet stillness of nature, then PNL is for you!

Game Viewing, Birding and Wilderness Experience:

Whilst the Parks wildlife numbers are on the increase they are in their infancy and sightings can be limited - although the Park does offer a large variety of game (e.g. elephant, sable, roan, lion, giraffe, zebra, impala, etc), birdlife and approximately 49 species of fish in Massingir Dam.



Since the formation of the park and the dropping of strategically selected sections of the border fence with KNP, wildlife has been steadily moving back into PNL. In addition over 4000 animals have been relocated to the South West of the Park with a final translocation to Massingir Gate area being scheduled for 2011. As a result currently the best Game viewing areas are the Machampane and Gaza Safaris sections of the Park - although visitors may get lucky with sightings at the various Sandveld pans in the center of the Park.

The Parks first full aerial census was undertaken in 2010 which showed healthy growth in Sable antelope and over 1,000 elephant and buffalo in the Park. To reduce human-wildlife conflict risks, further dropping of the fenceline shared with KNP will only be undertaken after the resettlement process

The park has various types of vegetation areas and consists of vast tracks of wilderness areas, with sections unvisited by humans in decades. There are large areas of scrub mopane as well as areas of tall mopane trees. It also has a very large area of attractive sandveld constituting about 44% of the park's surface.

The summers are very hot with temperatures soaring to over 40° C. The winters are mild. The rainy season usually starts in January until about March.

The Parks primary attraction is however the wilderness experience with spectacular scenery and excellent birding sightings so bring your binoculars.

4x4 Self Drive Experience:

The Park offers a Self Drive 4x4 Experience enabling the visitor to traverse the Park between Pafuri (north), Mapai (East), Giriyondo (West) and Massingir (South). Visitors will experience a wide variety of scenery and will have the option of camping at Albufeira, Agua Pesqueira, Sandalo and Nhampfula camp sites. Camping outside of these locations is not permitted. A trip to the beautiful Shingwedzi Cliffs area is highly advised!



Recognising the potential, the Park is also developing an expanded **4x4 Camp and Road network** and will open the following camps around mid 2011 - Giriyondo ; Mbona Kaya (only reserved bookings) ; Shingwedzi Cliffs ; Hardekool ; Hassane ; Tiwen Pan and Nuambia. Each of these camps will only be accessible by the 4x4 road network and will have a Enviroloo ; Fire Circle and Shower Area. These dry camps will offer visitors the wilderness experience and are to be used on a "what you take in you take out" basis.

Cultural Experience:

There are still communities living in 7 villages within the park. These communities own cattle and goats and plant seasonal crops. Whilst the animals tend to shy away from these habitats, this offers a unique cultural opportunity to visitor's to observe the communities' livelihoods as they pass through the villages and their machambas (fields).



A resettlement programme has been initiated wherein communities within the park are given the opportunity to be resettled (to World Bank standards) to locations which will provide sustainable improvement to their livelihoods. It is expected that once the communities have been moved, the plains game will move into the areas currently occupied by the communities.



Guided Trails Experience:

The following activities are all offered through Transfrontier Trails do Limpopo and are comparable, if not better, than similar products offered in KNP. For availability email: info@tffd.co.za / tel: (+27) 021 701 7860 / www.dolimpopo.com - or pop into Machampane Camp to find out more.



Rio Elefantes Canoeing Trail: Spend three days paddling the Rio Elefantes, camping wild in rustic bush camps on its tree-lined banks. A cast for tiger fish, a pod of hippo or the sighting of a rare bird will enthrall you on your 70km journey to its confluence with the Limpopo. Trails are portered and catered, and led by an experienced guide. All equipment is provided and you paddle 20 to 25 kms per day.

Elefantes Gorge Backpacking and Fishing Trail: Camp wild for five days and four nights as you traverse the plateau above the Rio Elefantes gorge, descending to the shores of Massingir dam to fish for Tiger amongst others - the epitome of freedom in an amazing wilderness area. Trails are led by an experienced guide but you are required to be totally self-sufficient. The terrain is rugged and requires a reasonable level of fitness for the 15 to 20 kms hiked each day.

Shingwedzi 4x4 Eco-Trail: Explore the vast wonderland of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park. Our five night and six day guided, self-drive, Shingwedzi 4x4 Eco-Trail offers challenging river crossings and the opportunity to navigate seldom traveled tracks. The glorious adventure of camping-out in this remote wilderness, at the edge of pans and river courses whilst listening to the night sounds of the African bush, will imbue you with the spirit of pioneers gone by.

Palarangala Wilderness Trail: Spend four days and three nights in a remote rustic camp with dome tents and bush ablutions. Daily guided game walks follow the river or explore the Lebombo plateau close to the Kruger border. Located in an area that has been restocked with game in partnership with Kruger, you have every prospect of encountering a wide array of wildlife. Trails are led by an experienced guide and are fully catered.



Lebombo Hiking Trail: An unforgettable wildlife experience when you spend four days and three nights hiking through this pristine wilderness area, a perfect setting for game and bird viewing. Trails are portered and catered, and led by an experienced guide. You carry a day-pack, hike 12 to 15 kms per day and overnight in unfenced rustic bush-camps.



RATES

All fees can be paid in either Mozambican meticals or South African Rands with the Rand amount being dependent on the exchange rate. Only cash is accepted. The KNP WildCard is not usable in PNL.



TABLE OF TARIFFS (ENTRANCE, CAMPING AND OTHERS) TABELAS DE TAXAS E TARIFAS (ENTRADAS, CAMPISMO E OUTRAS)

FOREIGNERS			
No.	Description	Value Mt	Value Rand
1	Older than 60 years	200 Mt	R 50.00
2	Adults from 21-59 years	200 Mt	R 50.00
3	Youths 13-20 years	50 Mt	R 15.00
4	Children 0-12 years	0 Mt	R 0.00
5	Vehicles	200 Mt	R 50.00
6	Trailer	50 Mt	R 15.00
7	Boat of 6 places or less	100 Mt	R 25.00
8	Boat of 7 places or more	150 Mt	R 40.00
13	Camping pppn (Age 3+)	210 Mt	R 50.00
14	Caravan – entrance	50 Mt	R 15.00
15	Caravan – occupation places per night (with power/water services)	150 Mt	R 40.00

NATIONALS		
It.	Descrição	Valor Mt
1	Idoso com mais de 60 anos	0 Mt
2	Adulto dos 21 – 59 anos	100 Mt
3	Jovens dos 13-20 anos	25 Mt
4	Menores dos 0-12 anos	0 Mt
5	Viaturas	200 Mt
6	Atrelado	50 Mt
7	Barco de 6 lugares ou mais	100 Mt
8	Barco de 7+ lugares	150 Mt
13	Campista por pessoa por dia (3+)	210 Mt
14	Caravana entrada	50 Mt
15	Caravana ocupação de espaço por dia	150 Mt

CHALETs		Value Mt	Value Rand
1	Campismo Albufeira – 4 bed	1 500 Mt pn	R 370 pn
2	Campismo Albufeira – 2 bed	1 200 Mt pn	R 300 pn
3	Campismo Aguiá Pesqueira – 2bed	1 500 Mt pn	R 370 pn

(Note: Cost may be subject to Rate of Exchange variations and Annual price escalations)

CONTACTS

For more information visit our website www.limpopopn.gov.mz or contact below

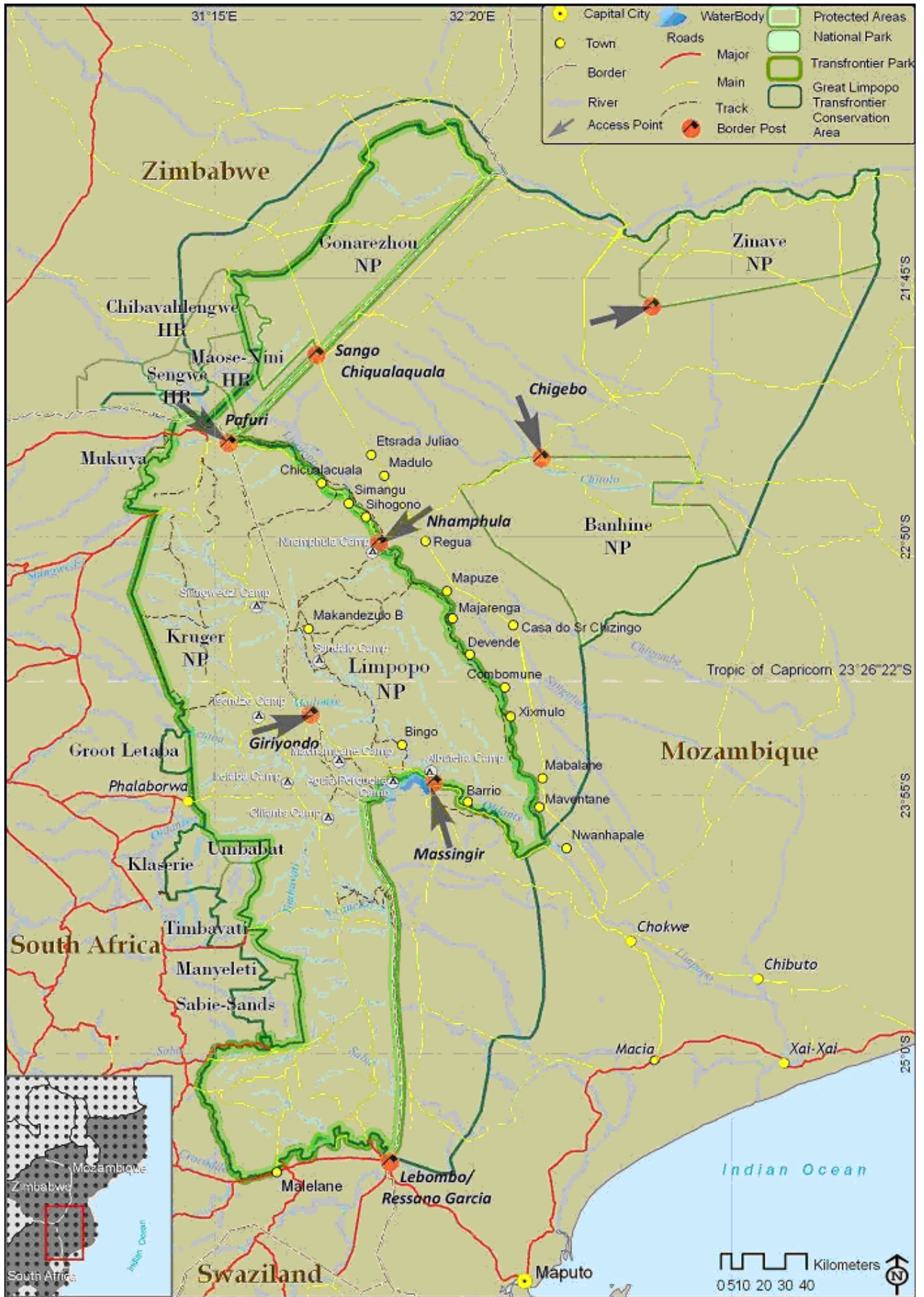
Tourism and Reservations

Lodovico Salinha
Mobile: +(258) 082 65 47968
e-mail: salinhal@yahoo.com

Conservation and Park Management Enquiries









Contact: Park Warden - Mr Baldeu Chande
Mobile: (+258) 827 03 9830
E-mail: baldeu55@gmail.com





Limpopo National Park / Parque Nacional do Limpopo

Legend

-  Villages
-  Camps
-  Management Road
-  Roads
-  Inp_ShingwedzeRiver
-  Inp_OliphantsRiver
-  Rivers
-  InpRioLimpopo

