

Project Update: February 2017

Since returning from Mozambique at the end of last year, I have been organising and sorting through over 100,000 camera trap images to classify all observed species and turn the photographs into analysable data. I have begun using the new software package “camtrapR” in R to summarise and visualise my camera trap data (see reference: Niedballa, J., Sollmann, R., Courtiol, A., & Wilting, A. (2016). camtrapR: an R package for efficient camera trap data management. *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*, 7(12), 1457–1462).

Meanwhile, the grid of 60 camera traps that I have set up in Gorongosa National Park continues to snap photos of animals throughout the wet season. This year has been a particularly rainy one, which is much needed after a couple of years of drought. While I’m excited for the relief that the rains are bringing the people and wildlife of the Gorongosa ecosystem, I’m slightly worried about how the camera traps have fared on the Gorongosa floodplain! I’m looking forward to retrieving my cameras when the roads dry up enough and the park becomes accessible once more.



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An elephant closely inspects a camera trap, before knocking it to the ground.