

# BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

Banhine National Park (BNP) covers 725.042,66 hectares and forms part of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area. BNP is an important tourism and ecological link between Limpopo and Zinave National Park in Mozambique and Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe.

The Park was historically rich in large animals, including elephants and other plain ungulates such as zebra, wildebeest and eland. However, from the early 1960's the capture of specimens such as Sable and Roan for international zoos, the commercial hunting and more recently subsistence hunting and poor management capacities have reduced wildlife numbers and distribution.

The Park was established in 1973 for conservation of fauna and flora of the semiarid savannah environments, especially for the protection of ostrich and giraffe. While the latter is no longer

found in the area the recent improved conservation and protection efforts will lead to natural and introductory increases in wildlife numbers.

The history of BNP reflects the migration of people over the centuries, with an early presence of Bushmen and later of Bantu speaking people and Arabic traders. During the Portuguese colonial period the area was known for its big game and hunting which tended to peak in the dry season when water was scarce and was often referred to as the "Serengeti of Mozambique" because of the large numbers of zebra, wildebeest and eland that occupied its wide-open grasslands.

## WILDLIFE

Today a good population of ostriches live in the Park while kudu, duiker, steenbok occur throughout the reserve along with reedbuck, oribi and impala. Elephant, buffalo and hippo seasonally move into the area and cheetah and lion are known to habit the area which is a sign of increasing wildlife

populations. Plans remain to reintroduce zebra, wildebeest, giraffe and other historical species to the landscape in coming years.

Although the birdlife of Mozambique in general is poorly known, 306 species have been recorded in BNP, including a number of rare and endangered species such as the wattled crane.

## TOURISM

At the Park head quarters is a Tourist camp consisting of

- 6 x 2 bed safari tents on platforms with en suite ablutions and solar lighting and plug point
- Camping area with communal ablutions
- Communal kitchen structure (guest must be self sufficient with regards to cooking facilities)
- Obtain special permission from the Park Management on entrance to the Park to camp within the Park.

GPS COORDINATES OF  
PARK HEAD-QUARTERS:  
22° 38' 40.56" S | 33° 14' 55.884" E

RATES	MOZAMBIQUE NATIONALS	SADC	INTERNATIONAL
65 and older	Free	400,00mt	600,00mt
13 to 64 years	400,00mt	600,00mt	900,00mt
0 to 12 years	Free	Free	Free
Vehicle with 1-6 seats	600,00mt	900,00mt	900,00mt
Trailer or caravan	600,00mt	900,00mt	900,00mt
Camping 6pax. (no facilities)	200,00mt	200,00mt	200,00mt
Camping 6pax. (basic facilities)	300,00mt	300,00mt	300,00mt
Tented Camp	700,00mt	700,00mt	700,00mt

## ADMISSIONS

THERE ARE NO COMMUNICATION FACILITIES  
IN THE PARK SO RESPONSE TIMES MAY VARY

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There are several other tracks in the park mainly in and around the wetland area of the park. There are plans to signpost the routes in the BNP, but in most instances the routes are not indicated. Maps and a GPS are therefore essential and information can be obtained from local people.

(see map on reverse side for route description)

- Hariane Post to Xiekhane to Banhine Camp: (200km - 3 hrs. drive time)
- Hariane Post to Xiekhane to Mungazi Post: (100km - 4 hrs. drive)
- Banhine Camp to Macumbe Post: (113km - 4 hrs. drive)

THERE ARE 3 MAIN ROUTES LEADING THE TRAVELLER THROUGH BNP.

and the Management Camp.

- Hariane Post, Mungazi Post, Macumbe Post

FOUR OFFICIAL ENTRANCES GATES:

- The Pafuri Route (KNP to Limpopo River)
- The Giryondo Route (KNP to LNP to Limpopo River)
- The Ressano Garcia Route (Komatipoort Borderpost to Maputo to BNP)
- The Bush-to-Beach Route (Zimbabwe to Mozambican Coast)
- The Maputo via Chokwe Route (+/- 500km)

THERE ARE FIVE MAIN ROUTES TO BNP:

of the roads due to sandy conditions. in the dry season 4x4 vehicles are needed for most easier and the roads inside BNP negotiable. Even Limpopo River crossing to the Park is generally period the heat during the day is less extreme, the months from April to September. During this The best time to visit is during the dry winter

## ACCESS



ANAC  
ADMINISTRAÇÃO NACIONAL  
DAS ÁREAS DE CONSERVAÇÃO



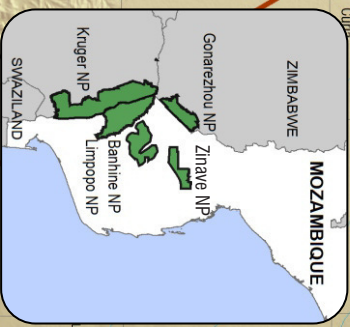
PEACE PARKS  
FOUNDATION



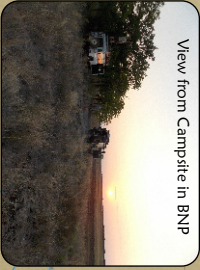
# Banhine

NATIONAL PARK

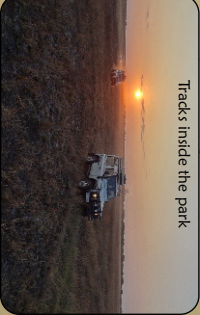




The Ostrich (*Struthio camelis*)



View from Campsite in BNP



Tracks inside the park

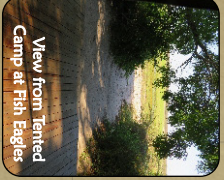
**Hariane Post to Xiekhane to Banhine camp:**  
The entrance gate is located at Hariane post where an entrance fee is payable. From here it is +/-100km on a sandy bush track to the main camp, which is Banhine Camp, located in the wetlands system of the park. This route will take the traveller south-east through Mopane bush and grassland to Xiekhane village over a distance of +/-50km from where the route will turn north-east for a further +/-50km to the camp. (+/-3hrs.)

**Hariane post to Xiekhane to Mungazi Post**  
From Hariane gate the route goes along a sandy track through Mopane bush and mixed thorn bush over a distance of some 50 km to the village of Xiekhane, which is in the middle of the park. From there the route turns south for +/-50km to Mungazi Post on the southern border of the park. (+/-4hrs)

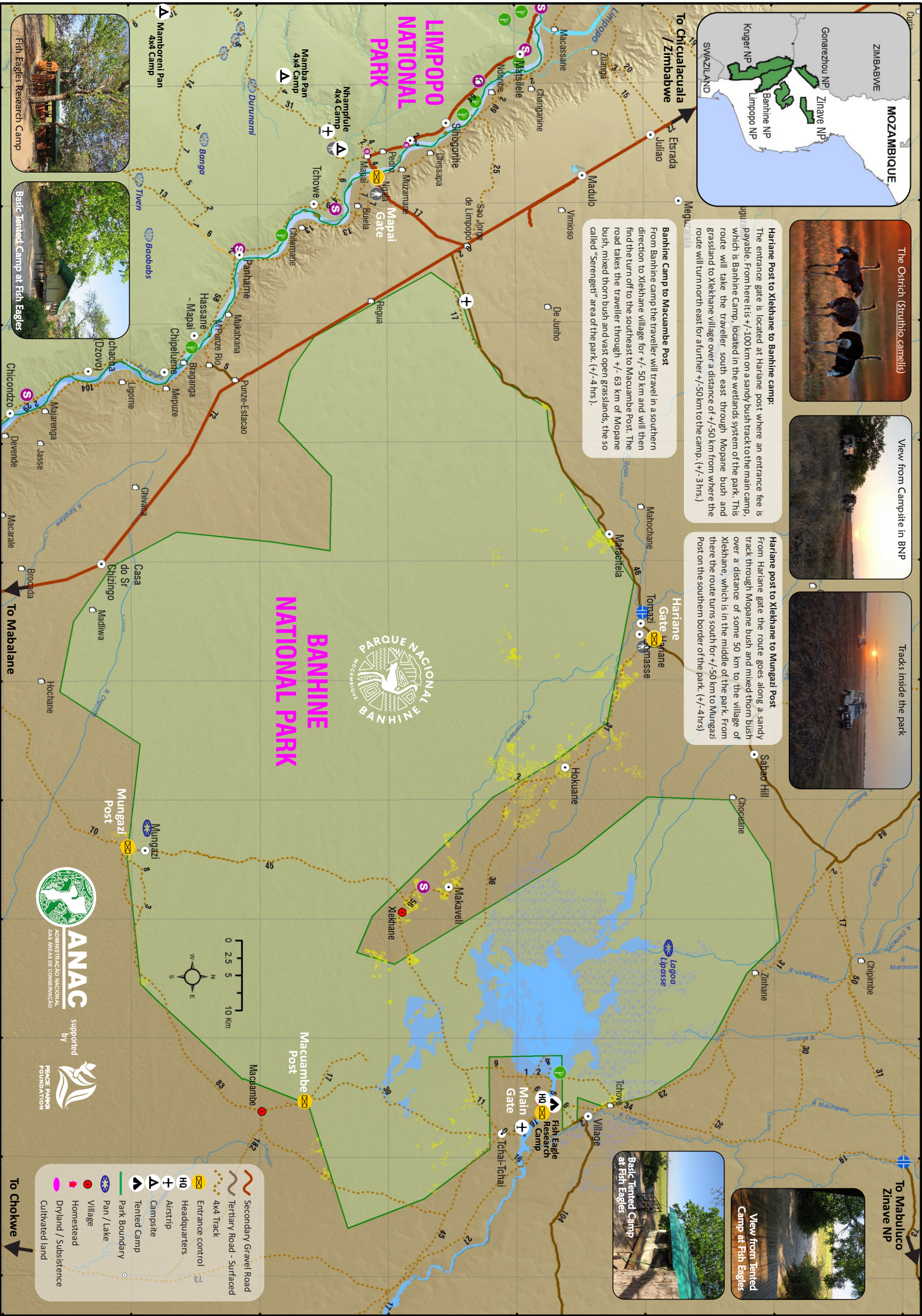
**Banhine Camp to Macuambe Post**  
From Banhine camp the traveller will travel in a southern direction to Xiekhane village for +/- 50 km and will then find the turn-off to the southeast to Macuambe Post. The road takes the traveller through +/- 63 km of Mopane bush, mixed thorn bush and vast open grasslands, the so called "Serengeti" area of the park. (+/-4 hrs.)



View from Tented Camp at Fish Eagles



To Mabaluco Zinave NP



To Chokwe



- Secondary Gravel Road
- Tertiary Road - Surfaced
- 4x4 Track
- Entrance control
- HQ
- Headquarters
- Airstrip
- Tented Camp
- Campsite
- Pan / Lake
- Village
- Homestead
- Dryland / Subsistence
- Cultivated land