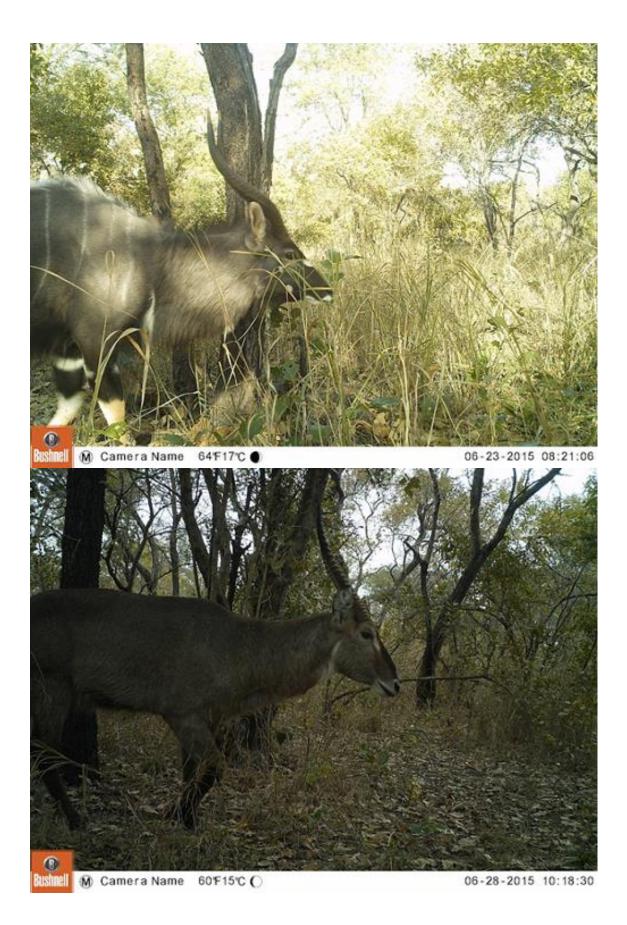**Project Update: September 2015**

I have returned to the United States from Mozambique and am currently analysing camera trap data collected this summer. I am collaborating with HHMI, which has launched a citizen science platform called "WildCam Gorongosa" to classify the wildlife in the photographs. I ended up with about 10,000 photos from the 18 cameras set at two communities.

Based on my observations while setting the traps, there seems to be an absence of a large human impact that extended out from the footprint of the actual settlements. There was some evidence of firewood collection, but only for a few hundred metres. The woodland becomes more dense and difficult to move through, and people seem to restrict their movement to a few established paths. It seems that snares are not being set close by many households in communities, but instead by groups of hunters who camp out for extended periods in the park. Despite this observation, the settlements are obviously having an impact on the ecosystem, and I can't conclude much yet without more detailed study and comparison with other areas of the park. However, it does appear that humans and wildlife may be able to coexist under a some conditions: settlement and agriculture does not expand much more; fishing and firewood collection are sustainable; slash-and-burn agriculture is limited and replaced by more environmentally-friendly techniques; and elephants and lions don't start causing conflict with crops and people as their populations grow. These are obviously big conditions, though!

Ⓜ Camera Name   64°F17°C ●   06-23-2015 08:21:06

Ⓜ Camera Name   60°F15°C ◯   06-28-2015 10:18:30

From camera traps at Muaredzi. Clockwise from top left: female nyala, male nyala, male waterbuck, and family of elephants.

Two park rangers count snares collected from a poacher found near the Muanza-Baixo community, where we set our camera traps.