Project Update: May 2017

After 6 months away from the field, I am eager to return to Mozambique and check on my camera traps, which I have been using to monitor large mammal distribution across Gorongosa National Park. It has been an extremely rainy year, and flooding has limited the ability of scientists to access many parts of the park. I am hoping that the roads will be dry enough for me to pass, and that the cameras won't be underwater!

In the meantime, I just finished classifying over 250,000 camera trap images from June-November 2016, with the help of five undergraduate assistants at the University of California – Berkeley. Now that we know which animals are found at each camera location, we can dig into preliminary analyses. We have determined the "who/what," "where," and "when." Now we get to build models to tease apart the "why."

For each species, I created distribution maps based on independent observations in the June-November camera trap data. The maps provide a useful way to visualize the relative abundance of each species in different areas of the park. Below are examples for two antelope species (nyala and impala).