

Mountain Rainforests on Mount Gorongosa



The mountain rainforests on Mount Gorongosa were seriously damaged during the 16 year civil conflict in Mozambique.

As soldiers fought in the surrounding areas, farming families moved up the mountain for safety and cleared about one third of the trees for small plots of corn and potato. The trees on Mount Gorongosa are special as they are part of a large rainforest. The forest is full of amazing creatures, some of which exist nowhere else on Earth! But the trees are special for another, very important reason: they allow the soil beneath them to retain all the rain that falls in the wet season.

This water is then slowly released throughout the year, keeping the rivers and lakes in the valley flowing, and keeping the entire ecosystem of Gorongosa, healthy. Reforestation is really important because without those trees, life would be much harder for everybody and everything later in the dry season.

As part of the restoration of the Park, the Park rangers work closely with communities living near Mount Gorongosa, to nurture little tree seedlings. Local people sing as they walk up the mountain to plant the seedlings, and their songs tell the mountain and the rivers not to cry, that help is on the way.

DEFORESTATION:

Removal of trees for firewood or to clear the land for farming or houses or business use.

REFORESTATION:

Planting tree seedlings on land where trees have recently been cut down.



Photo courtesy of Gorongosa National Park