

Estamos Juntos



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MAY 2010



To commemorate World Press Freedom, the Public Affairs Section organizes the following events:

- May 19**
DVC – Freedom of Information
- May 24**
Assessment of the Mozambican Press lecture
- May 26**
Investigative Journalism lecture
- May 27**
Journalism at its Best (Edward W. Murrow)



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Women of Courage Award

On May 3, 2010, Ambassador Rowe awarded the Secretary of State's International Women of Courage award for 2010 to Mozambique's national winner, Dr. Alice

Mabota, for tirelessly championing women's economic, legal and civil rights. Dr. Mabota is the president of the League of Human Rights, which has provided pro bono legal assistance to thousands of illiterate widows, helping them to secure their lawful property. She tours the country extensively, effectively using all kinds of media to teach women about their rights, to own land,

to be free from domestic violence, to control their sexuality, to live free from HIV/AIDS,

and others. She courageously speaks out for the rights of prisoners, against police violence and mistreatment, in support of any individuals who experience discrimination.



Alice Mabota receives the Secretary of State's International Women of Courage Award as the winner for Mozambique

In 2007, then Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice established the annual International Women of Courage Award to recognize women around the globe who have shown exceptional courage and leadership. It is the only Department of State award that pays tribute to emerging women leaders worldwide, and offers a unique opportunity to recognize those who work in the field of international women's issues.

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Message from the Ambassador



Leslie V. Rowe

In the United States April for many organizations is the month that we celebrate volunteerism. For any society to thrive, much work has to be done by individuals who are willing to dedicate their time, energy, and resources to a cause they are committed to. In both the U.S. and Mozambique, volunteers play a key role in helping solve a host of social issues and contributing to important causes. Last year in the United States an estimated 63.4 million people, or 26.8 percent of the population, volunteered for some type of organization, providing an estimated 3,168,050,000 hours of service in their communities. In fact, one of the very first calls to action

issued by President Barack Obama after his inauguration was for Americans to dedicate themselves to a day of service, in which he said, "America's greatness was not crafted in skyscrapers alone...But on the ground by those who could see what needed to be done." The same could be said for any country - true greatness will only be achieved if we have eyes to see needs and hands willing to work to meet them. While I have no official numbers for Mozambique, I have seen with my own eyes multitudes of examples of Mozambicans reaching out to help each other, and believe this is a value we hold in common. So as we enter a new month I salute all those who are willing to sacrifice of their own time and means to help their neighbors, and hope that the calls that go out from all sides for us to do a little more will continue to be answered.

Leslie Rowe

An Act of Courage

The 6th regional conference of Raparigas em Desenvolvimento, Educação e Saúde (REDES), held this month in Xai-Xai, was special for Delfina Chaúque, a 20 years student

women and children, study skills, gender-based violence, and HIV/AIDS prevention. They also exhibited and sold craft items made as a part of income-generation projects,

sang original songs with HIV/AIDS prevention themes, which will be recorded in a CD for no-cost distribution, and cleaned the beach in the vicinity of the conference site to sensitize the local people to the need

of learning about a wide range of issues which she would then share with her fellow students and community members.

"It is very important to me to attend this kind of event because I can learn about many issues, including HIV/AIDS and also how to treat other people", stressed Adelina. Close to 51 people, including local girls, Peace Corp volunteers, teachers and a facilitator, attended the JOMA conference in Nampula. Similar conferences were held simultaneously in Quelimane and Maputo, where participants learned about and discussed issues including self-esteem, communications skills, leadership and gender, HIV/AIDS, and healthy lives.

The United States Embassy in Maputo, under the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) provided close to USD\$ 200,000 to support the JOMA and REDES conference, which were organized by the Peace Corp volunteers in partnership with the ministries of Health, Education, and the National HIV/AIDS Council (CNSC). An estimate of 257 people attended the two conferences.



from Escola Secundária de Mucoque, in Vilankulos district. It was at this event that she finally decided to do her first HIV/AIDS test, after avoiding it for the last three years. In a country where close to 1.6 million people are HIV-positive, this was a real reason for her to be happy and proud of her decision.

"I can't explain what happened exactly. What I know is that I took the courage and did the HIV test", said a smiling Delfina, who has been attending REDES conferences for the last two years. "It was as I was reaching the sky", she added. Other 15 girls also did the HIV/AIDS test, conducted by Population Services International (PSI) activists.

Delfina had one more reason to be happy and proud: as the winner of the REDES logo design contest, she designed the logo displayed on the back of the t-shirt for the 2010 REDES regional conference.

More than 60 people, including students, teachers, Peace Corps volunteers, and community members attended the REDES conference in Xai-Xai on April 19-23, 2010. During the five-day meeting, participants discussed issues such as the rights of



to protect the environment. Three groups had fun competing in a contest to see which one collected more garbage. At the same time as the Xai-Xai conference, a parallel event was also held in Chimoio.

Equally special was Adelina Momade Bachir's participation in the Jovens para a Mudança e Acção (JOMA) regional conference in Nampula, on April 19-21, 2010. It was the first time the 16 year-old young woman from Ilha de Mozambique had attended a conference, and she was thrilled by the pros-



From the top:
 - Adelina, in the middle, during a session ;
 - REDES girls singing an original song at the conference;
 - The garbage collection contest winning group celebrating;
 - A REDES girl removes garbage from Xai-Xai beach

Volunteers Working for a Cleaner Environment



Members of the U.S. mission work with other volunteers to remove trash from the park

April was volunteerism month at the Martin Luther King, Jr. library, and the events of the month centered on volunteer movements, including scouting, volunteer, and other civil society organizations that contribute to U.S. and Mozambican society. On April 24, the U.S. Embassy partnered with the Scouts of Mozambique to organize a volunteer project involving over a hundred Mozambican and American participants, primarily youth, to clean up the local Continuadores park. Many bags of garbage were removed from the park, and the park was beautified and groomed as part of a joint commemora-

tion of Earth Day, including brief remarks from the Cultural Affairs Officer on the importance of cooperation in conservation.

Additionally, the Embassy partnered with TVM to conduct a live television program for Earth Day, involving Mozambican and American youth, to discuss environmental issues, and paint murals with themes surrounding preservation, recycling, conservation, and conscientious use of resources.



Mozambican Boy Scouts and volunteers joined with American volunteers for the park cleanup project

US Deputy Assistant Secretary Visits Mozambique

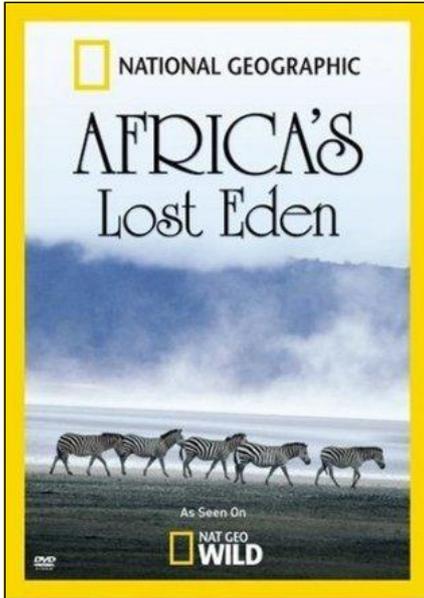
Dr. Daniel Baer, Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Office of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the U.S.A. visited Mozambique from May 3-5, as part of a regional trip that took him to 3 southern African countries: South Africa, Mozambique, and Angola. During his visit to Mozambique, Dr. Baer met with the Minister of Justice, Benvinda Levi, the Attorney General of Mozambique, journalists, politicians, members of civil society, and gave a speech about human rights at Eduardo Mondlane University. Dr. Baer was sworn in as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Office of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor on November 23, 2009. Dr. Baer's portfolio includes the Office of Africa and Europe Affairs and the Office of International Labor and Corporate Social Responsibility.

As a part of all his meetings, Dr. Baer emphasized the U.S. commitment to human rights in all countries, while at the same time exploring ways in which the U.S. can support Mozambican initiatives to strengthen the respect for human rights in this country. In his meetings with journalists, civil society, and students, Dr. Baer communicated the importance of all citizens being personally committed to respecting human rights, and the need to hold civic and government leaders accountable for institutionalizing those rights in all parts of society. Dr. Baer also participated in the Secretary of State's International Women of Courage award ceremony, which was given to Alice Mabota, president of the Human Rights League.



Daniel Baer speaks with students at UEM about human rights

Africa's Lost Eden



Since December last year when it was first shown in Mozambique, the National Geographic-produced movie about the Gorongosa National Park has received several awards, including the Diamond Award in the Berlin Tourism Film Festival, the Riga Tourism Festival Grand Prix, Best Conservation and Environmental Issue at the Montana International Wildlife Festival, and more recently at the Florianopolis (Brazil) Film Festival. In partnership with Greg Carr the Mozambican Government has begun a critical 20-year restoration project in Gorongosa National Park to revive the ecosystem and improve the lives of community members living around the Park. The ecosystem of Gorongosa, once one of the shining stars of Africa wildlife parks, was depleted and key species disappeared from the Park during Mozambique's years of conflict (1962-1992).

USAID support to the Gorongosa Restoration Project (GRP) began in 2006 with funding for the construction of a protected holding area for the safe reintroduction of wildlife to the park. These fenced 60 square kilometers, known as the 'Sanctuary', are essential to the Park's rehabilitation strategy, and 180 Blue Wildebeest and more than 100 Cape Buffalo have moved in to date. In 2008, USAID invested \$4 Million to address threats to biodiversity inside the park and on Gorongosa Mountain. This award is complemented by other agreements between USAID and GRP on Malaria, HIV/AIDS, Agriculture/

Agribusiness and Forestry. Under this new program, biodiversity activities include: increased scientific monitoring and protection of the ecosystem, improved waste management for park operations, and a complex water monitoring network for the park's central water source, Lake Urema.

The current program helps salvage the last remaining mountain rainforest in Mozambique, found just outside the park on Mount Gorongosa. It includes aggressive

2010 will see the opening of a Community Education Center (CEC) on the outer limits of the park. The CEC will be the base of the park's environmental and conservation education programs, and the campus itself encompasses state-of-the-art 'green' architectural principles, replete with solar power and an elaborate rainwater capturing system. During the first year of this award, USAID also facilitated the assistance of two wildfire specialists from the US Forest Service to help revise and implement an improved fire management plan at Gorongosa. Additionally, two US Peace Corps Volunteers work on health and education initiatives throughout Gorongosa District. The park appears to have a very bright future.



Elephants in Gorongosa
Photo: Robert Spaan

reforestation through locally-managed tree nurseries and also strengthens agribusinesses in park buffer zones, assisting farmers to increase their revenues. In 2009, USAID, through the President's Malaria Initiative, began working with GRP to distribute treated bed-nets to prevent malaria. More recently, the GRP has joined with USAID to expand HIV/AIDS services to communities in the park buffer zones. With financial resources from both USAID and GRP, this three-year activity will provide assistance on agriculture, health education and health service delivery in remote areas.



Lake Urema Photo: B.Rodrigues

Women of Courage Award

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It has had strong support every year from women leaders in the U.S., including this year from First Lady Michelle Obama, as well as, of course, our current Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton. Women from all over the world have been honored, and their accomplishments recognized.

Fighting for women's issues is a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy. Secretary Hillary Clinton fifteen years ago famously declared that "human rights are women's rights, and women's rights are human rights."

Comments/Questions? Would you like to receive this publication by e-mail?

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