

As paisagens

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E

ntre nuvens de pó avermelhado, a viatura chegava ao limite da velocidade permitida no Kruger Park. Qualquer coisa nos fazia apressar: o cruzar, pela primeira vez, da nova fronteira com Moçambique. O posto de Giriyondo foi uma surpresa. Para além da nossa viatura não havia mais ninguém. A sensação de “estar” passou a ser uma sensação de “ter”. Nós estávamos tomando posse daquele novo posto de fronteira, convertido a uma dimensão familiar, quase caseira, com funcionários ensonados mas simpáticos e felizes por terem companhia.

Passámos a fronteira sob os auspícios de uma aposta: do outro lado, do nosso lado, seria melhor, seria mais bonito? Veríamos mais animais, depararíamos com paisagens mais belas? No meu caso, eu estava visitando um sonho para o qual, de forma humilde, eu tinha contribuído: a construção de um parque transfronteiriço unindo os parques nacionais de Moçambique, África do Sul e Zimbábue. No caso de Moçambique, o novo Parque nascia onde tinha funcionado uma coutada de caça. Seria, pois, natural que se vissem menos animais, habituados a uma relação tensa com as viaturas e os homens. E seria possível, também, que a vegetação se ressentisse de maior pressão.



de dentro de nós

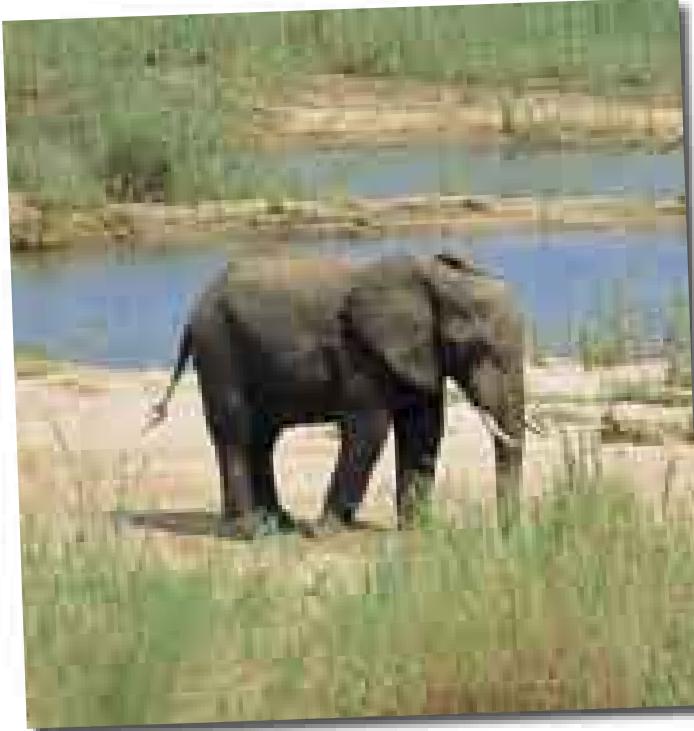
Não foi assim. Vimos animais, passámos por matas densas de “cimbirre” e foi com um sentimento de orgulho quase infantil que atravessámos a baixa do Rio Machampane, já nas proximidades do acampamento. Em redor de uma pequena lagoa, cercada de penedias, assenta o “lodge”. Não podiam ter escolhido melhor localização. O espelho de água faz esquecer o calor e um sentimento de oásis acolhe a meia dúzia de tendas que se distribuem de forma discreta, distantes o suficiente para cada uma estar imbebida na vegetação.

Todas as manhãs acordei com o vigoroso rugido de leões que caçavam a centenas de metros do acampamento. Os matinais passeios longos valeram sempre a pena e a paisagem sulcada entre riolitos compensa, mesmo quando sucedem poucos encontros com os bichos.

Estar em pleno mato é um modo de nos visitarmos a nós mesmos, de nos internarmos na calmaria do princípio do mundo. O acampamento de Machampane é, ainda, uma das únicas possibilidades de alojamento no Parque Nacional do Limpopo. Existem planos para diversificar e aproveitar as margens da albufeira. Até lá, a estada em Machampane é um modo de recolhimento profundamente recompensador. ■



The Landscapes From Within Ourselves



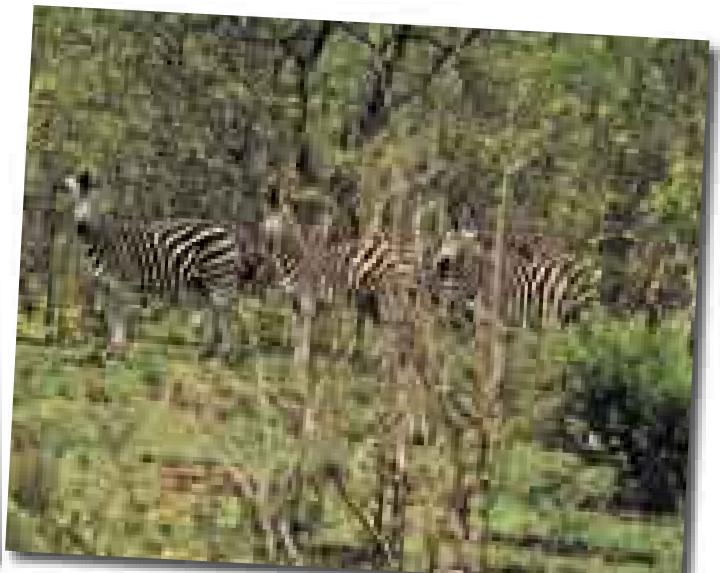
Amid clouds of red dust, our vehicle was approaching the permitted speed limit at the Kruger Park. Something was driving us to hurry: for the first time we were crossing the new frontier with Mozambique. The Giriyondo border post was a surprise. There was nobody there apart from our vehicle. The feeling of "being" changed to one of "owning". We were taking possession of that new frontier post, converted to family scale, almost homely with its sleepy but friendly staff, glad of the company.

We passed the frontier under the auspices of a bet: on the other side, on our side, would it be better, would it be more beautiful? Would we see more animals, come across more stunning landscapes? In my case, I was visiting a dream towards which I had contributed in a modest way: the building of a trans-border park by linking the national parks of Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe. In the case of Mozambique, the new park arose from a former hunting preserve. It would be natural, therefore, to see fewer animals, since they were used to a tense relationship with vehicles and men. It was also possible that the vegetation would show greater signs of stress.

This was not the case however. We saw animals, we passed through thick forests of "cimbirre" and it was with a feeling of almost childish pride that we crossed the shallows of the Machampane River as we drew near to the camp. The lodge nestles around a small lake, surrounded by rocky outcrops. They could have chosen no better location. The sheet of water makes one forget the heat and there is a feeling of oasis enveloping the half dozen tents discretely dotted around, each sufficiently far apart from the rest to be enveloped in the vegetation.

Every morning I awoke to the vigorous roaring of the lions hunting a few hundred metres from the camp. The long morning walks were always worthwhile and the landscape furrowed between streams rewarded us with a few encounters with the animals.

Being in the middle of the jungle is a way of visiting ourselves, entering into the calmness of the beginning of the world. The Machampane camp is still one of the few possibilities for staying in the Limpopo National Park. There are plans to diversify and take advantage of the banks of the dam. Until then, a stay at Machampane is a deeply rewarding option. ■





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Electroencephalogram (EEG) is a non-invasive technique used to record the electrical activity of the brain. It involves placing electrodes on the scalp to detect the electrical signals generated by the neurons in the brain. These signals are then processed and analyzed to provide information about the brain's activity. EEG is commonly used in clinical settings to diagnose conditions such as epilepsy, stroke, and brain damage. It can also be used to study normal brain function and to investigate cognitive processes.

However, the government's decision to merge the two agencies into one has been widely welcomed by the public and the private sector as well as the media. This is the central problem, however, that must be solved: how can the new government be made to function effectively?

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