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Briton missing

From Joseph Hanlon
in Maputo
and Gareth Parry

A BRITISH ecologist reported to have been kidnapped by anti-government guerrillas in Mozambique was still missing yesterday.

Mr John Burlison, aged 28, from Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland, is director of the Wildlife School at Gorongosa National Park. The Mozambique Defence Ministry said at the weekend that he and a number of workers and students were abducted on December 17 by the anti-Marxist Mozambique National Resistance Movement.

The guerrillas destroyed the main camp at Gorongosa. The Defence Ministry said that the group took food and money and wrecked the park's chalet complex, including a primary school and a post office.

A ministry spokesman said yesterday that Mr Burlison was kidnapped with a mathematics teacher, named as Moses Carril. The kidnapers were members of the Resistencia Nacional Mocambicana (RNM), an organisation which, the government says, is backed by South Africa.

The Gorongosa incident was followed three days later by the murder of two Portuguese technicians at Guru, north-west of Chitengo, which the government says might have been the work of the RNM.