

► The West African Protected Areas Newsletter



“La lettre des aires protégées en Afrique de l’Ouest”

N°47
November 2011



In progress: Papaco trainings in protected areas management



1. University Diploma on strengthening capacities in PA management

The second edition of the University Diploma on strengthening capacities in PA management (DU-RC-GAP), organized by Papaco in collaboration with Senghor University (Egypt) started on 10 October 2011 in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso). It will last until the 2 December 2011.

This training is intended for protected areas managers (and their partners, scientists, private NGOs ...). As planning, monitoring and evaluation tools, consultation methods and legal or technical norms are generally not well known by most protected areas managers, this training will endow them with specific tools and technical capacities to improve the way they manage the parks and make their actions sustainable.

The current training brings together young stakeholders (protected areas managers, environmental NGO executives, etc.) from **Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Mauritania, Guinea and Togo.**

The training is divided into five-day modules which combine theoretical courses with a field visit to put the acquired tools into practice.

The training modules are the following ones:

- Module 1 : conservation policy and protected areas management issues
- Module 2 : Evaluating and planning protected areas management
- Module 3 : Participatory management and land planning
- Module 4 : Tropical systems ecology and conservation biology notions
- Module 5 : Ecological monitoring, fauna survey techniques and GIS notions
- Module 6 : Field visit and data processing
- Module 7 : Environmental law and sustainable development in Africa
- Module 8 : Environmental economics

The trainees will receive a University Diploma from Senghor University (Alexandria) which co-organizes the training.

A new 8-week edition of this training is planned from 6 February to 30 March 2012. Registrations are opened at www.usenghor-francophonie.org

2. Protected areas management International Master

The objective of the Senghor University of Alexandria is to train executives for African development in the following main four fields: health, culture, administration/management and environment. In addition to the « Environmental Management » option, the Development Master also proposes for this academic year a “Protected Areas Management” option. In fact, given the importance of protected areas and all related issues in Africa, the Senghor University intends to develop its training offer

through a speciality dedicated to these areas' management, in partnership with IUCN-Papaco.

The Master started on 18 September 2011, date of the beginning of the academic year. This year, the Environmental Development Master counts 45 students, 17 of whom are registered for the « Protected Areas Management » option. They come from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Democratic Republic of Congo and Senegal.

The first year (Master 1) will consist in a "non-specialized" training (environmental and development issues, environmental economics, environmental law, international relationships, general ecology, English, computing, project management, management tools, environmental evaluations...) that end up with a 10-week internship. The second year of the Master (M2) is for specialisation in protected areas (conservation policies and strategies/ PA management, forestry, decentralization, environmental education, PAs management tools, effectiveness, enhancement...) and will be ended up with the presentation of the memoire. Below is the Master's provisional programme.

Semester 1	Understanding and development issues 1
	Francophonie and globalization
	Development theories and practices
	Cross-disciplinary development approach
	Introduction to project development and management
	Computing & Internet certificate
	English
	Conceptualization of the professional project
	Environmental economics
	Introduction to economics science (micro and macro)
	Economics and nature resources and environment management policies
	Environmental law and international relationships
	Environmental law
	Environment protection and international relationships
Applied ecology and industrial ecology	
Applied ecology elements	
Industrial ecology	
Semester 2	Understanding and development issues
	Rule of law, democracy and development
	Enterprise knowledge
	Financing Development
	Practical environmental management tools
	Environment-applied geomatics
	Statistical environment management methods
	Environmental evaluation
	Evaluation of environmental impacts (of projects and programmes)
	Enterprises environmental management
Internship (10 weeks) and major oral exam	
Semester 3	Protected Areas and agro-forestry
	Protected areas
	Sustainable agriculture and agro-forestry
	Protected areas management strategies and policies
	Protected areas conservation and management policies in Africa
	Protected areas management effectiveness in Africa
	Protected areas management plan and monitoring and evaluation
	Protected areas management tools.
	Ecological monitoring and survey techniques
	Sustainable financing of PA management
Enhancement of PA eco-tourism	
Memoire writing and seminars	

Semester 4	Decentralized and participatory management of the environment 9
	Decentralization and environmental management
	Resources, ecosystems and societies
	Land planning and urbanization
	Environmental education and social marketing 6
	Social Environmental marketing
	Environmental education
	Cross-disciplinary unit with options
Memoire writing and presentation	

More information at: www.usenghor-francophonie.org

The third phase of the Small-scale grants Programme (FFEM - PPI) is now launched

The small-scale initiatives programme is financed by the French Global Environment Facility and aims at increasing the contribution of Central and West Africa and Madagascar's civil society to the protection of environment globally through small-scale projects implemented by local actors.



During the first two phases of the programme (2005-2010), 105 projects have been and are still being supported. An evaluation made in the beginning of 2011 confirmed the programme's importance in the implementation of concrete actions for the conservation of biodiversity locally, and this justified the decision to start a third phase in 2011.

About forty new projects will be financed for the next two years. For the third phase, eligible themes remain the conservation of biodiversity and fight against climate change.

Important new things for this third phase are:

- **Simplification of the grant application file and the procedure:** to reduce the time dedicated to formulating the project, a first **project analysis will be made on the basis of a summary sheet of about 3 pages (downloadable from FFEM site at www.ffem.fr)**.

The summary sheets will be received continuously: so, they can be sent at any time of the year at ppi@iucn.fr.

On the basis of these forms, the IUCN French Committee will invite the project owners they consider to be the best to write a complete grant application file that will be submitted to the selecting committee for analysis. Three committees will meet in Paris in January 2012, October 2012 and April 2013.

- **Geographical targeting:** For the third phase, priority will be given to five countries: Burkina Faso, Ghana and Togo for West Africa, Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo for Central Africa.

Besides, 16 projects will be supported in the other 21 eligible countries (which complete list is specified in the contest rules).

- **Strengthening capacities:** this part of the programme will be implemented by IUCN-Papaco.

Support will be provided to the preselected projects located in the 5 priority countries to formulate complete grant applications. A customized support will also be brought to project owners for their project management, implementation and monitoring through regular meetings with the two IUCN-Papaco project managers recruited for this project, or with specialized consultants.

In addition to this direct support, training, experience sharing and capitalization workshops will be regularly organized in the two sub-regions.

The summary sheets to be transmitted to the IUCN French Committee, the complete contest rules and information related to the different calls for projects are available on FFEM site (www.ffem.fr).

Fostering Community Participation in REDD+ in Ghana through Community Resource Management Approaches

By Ms. Saadia Bobtoya
IUCN Ghana REDD Project Officer

With the advent of the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) Initiative, forest rich countries such as Ghana, who have signed on to the initiative have been challenged with the task of putting in place the needed institutional and policy frameworks towards the provision of an enabling environment for REDD+ implementation. A critical area of concern, especially for civil society, has been ensuring the adequate engagement and participation of forest fringe communities in decision making, and the recognition/consideration of their rights and interests in the design and implementation of Ghana's National REDD+ Strategy.

REDD-plus in Ghana

Governance of Ghana's forest sector is structured with *The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR)* as the government ministry and policy making body, whilst the *Forestry Commission (FC)* of Ghana is the government regulatory agency under this ministry, in charge of forestry issues. REDD-plus issues are directly handled by a National REDD Steering Committee established within the FC. Ghana's REDD readiness process is relatively advanced. The government is currently conducting studies and consultations as part of preparation towards the development of a national REDD-plus strategy. Ghana has reached the piloting phase of the REDD Readiness process and is earmarked for support from the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility.

Additional funding is also expected from the Forest Investment Program for which Ghana has been selected as a pilot country. Following the evolution of the REDD-plus agenda both internationally and particularly locally, it is apparent that the successful implementation of REDD-plus in Ghana, as in many other developing countries, relies heavily on how much this is in-sync with the promotion of good forest governance practices at all levels. Whether it is policy and legislative reform to ensure better enforcement of forest laws, clarity around the rights over trees and carbon including gender equity, more equitable and effective benefit sharing, or improving the participation of local level stakeholders in decision making on the use and management of forest resources, these are all seen as critical in determining the future of REDD-plus in the country.

The IUCN approach and contribution to the REDD-plus agenda in Ghana has hugely focused on the promotion of pro-poor mechanisms that enhance good forest governance and sustainable livelihoods such as multi-stakeholder dialogues and participatory processes, gender responsiveness, effective communication and information sharing through sensitization workshops and local radio programmes, equitable benefit sharing and identification of linkages between REDD+ and livelihoods.

Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs)

One concept which has gained heightened interest in Ghana, as a useful tool for fostering community participation and ownership of forest conservation and management efforts, particularly under REDD+ is the Community Resource Management Areas (CREMA) Concept. It is envisaged that CREMAs and other provisions designed to support dedicated community forests could be key mechanisms for engendering local control and participation in REDD+ initiatives especially in the off-reserve areas since they are an **effective means of local self-mobilization and have** delivered tangible results from activities that would qualify for REDD-plus, such as tree-planting, forest restoration and on-farm, tree-based diversification.

A CREMA is a geographically defined area which is made up of two or more communities that have come together and have agreed to manage their resources in a sustainable manner by establishing a legal and constitutional framework that guides the process towards integration of natural resource management with already existing local production systems such as crop and livestock production, agroforestry, amongst others. This way, communities become active managers rather than passive participants in their environment. They are given the authority and responsibility of protecting and managing their resources and the benefits obtained thereof such as control of access to the area by non-members, non-timber forest products, sustainable crop yields and enhanced livelihoods, ecological co-benefits, ecotourism, etc. One unique feature of the CREMA concept is that unlike other efforts by government to involve communities in natural resource management and conservation, it involves a

significant devolution of power and management authority to the communities involved. This is governed by a set of guiding principles that are detailed in a policy for “Collaborative Community Based Wildlife Management and the Establishment of Community Resource Management Areas” prepared by the Wildlife Division in September 2000. Institutionally, the CREMA is a community based organization that is built on existing community decision making structures, with an executive body and a constitution that guides the activities of the CREMA. A District Assembly bye-law legitimizes this constitution.

There are currently thirty (30) CREMAs in Ghana, mostly initiated by government in collaboration with the concerned communities. Of these, 18 have been fully inaugurated, 9 are in the process of inauguration, whilst the approval process is yet to be initiated for the remaining 3. Prominent amongst these CREMAs however, is the Pebase/Sureso/Akyekyere CREMA in the Wassa Amenfi West District of the Western Region, which stands out because of its status as the only community driven/initiated CREMA. The Pebase/Sureso/Akyekyere CREMA bye-law was formally approved by the District Assembly in December 2009, with a formal launch and inauguration of its Executive Committee in March 2011; thus, giving the legal mandate and authority of management of the resource to the communities.

Situated in the project site of both the just ended Livelihoods and Landscapes Strategy (LLS) project and the on-going Pro-Poor REDD (PPR) project of IUCN, the Pebase/Sureso/Akyekyere CREMA has been a key local institution of interest to IUCN. The organization has been engaging the CREMA and its surrounding communities in sustainable forest management and livelihood development activities such as education and awareness creation, trainings, farmer field schools, and other capacity building activities. In addition to this, the PPR project has established a Community REDD Multi Stakeholder Platform (CRMSP), made up of some members of the CREMA executive to provide the needed structure for spear heading dialogue, capacity building and decision making on REDD issues/ forest government issues at the community level.

Despite the significant potential of the CREMA concept to deliver on sustainable community resource management and REDD+ implementation in Ghana, the current weak regulatory mechanisms and rights regimes have been found to be significant stumbling blocks to the successful adoption of this concept, especially since land tenure systems have huge implications for equity and effectiveness of benefit sharing. Under the current legal framework, land rights and rights to naturally occurring trees are held by the state in trust for the nation, and income is distributed according to a Constitutional formula in which revenues (net of Forestry Commission and Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands charges) are shared between District Assemblies, and Traditional Authorities.



A section of the Pebase/Sureso/Akyekyere CREMA Executives in meeting at the Wassa Amenfi West District of the Western Region of Ghana © Bobtoya S. (2011)

This does not adequately incentivise other key stakeholders at the grassroots such as landowners and land users, especially the farming population who would rather destroy economic timber trees on their land than risk collateral damage to their beverage and food crops from timber operations. Fortunately, some significant headway has been made in clarifying the ownership rights of planted trees following an agreement by government to register the ownership rights of planted trees to individuals and private land owners. This is however yet to be backed by legislation in order to fully secure ownership rights of people who plant trees. Issues of gender considerations have also been raised following the existence of some customary practices which prevent women and other vulnerable groups from having access and control over natural resources. Other challenges identified include scarcity and difficulty in securing land, lack of access to tree seedlings and other logistics, poor financial and technical capacity, poor access to, use and availability of information, amongst others.

Lessons learned over the years indicate that for REDD+ and community forest management to be sustainable, key institutional, policy and legal reforms need to be initiated to address some of the identified gaps and deficiencies, such as securing land tenure and tree rights especially in **off-reserve areas and more equitable benefit sharing mechanisms that recognize the contributions of landowners and farmers.** The establishment of multi-stakeholder participation and engagement mechanisms and processes is also key for engendering community support and involvement in decision making. Additionally, access to, use and availability of, information should also be improved to meet local capacity-building needs **whilst ensuring coordination** with broader land-use plans and the development plans of other sectors.

The Wildlife Conservation Society training courses at Lopé (Gabon)

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is a technical partner of the governments of Central African countries. It develops knowledge, practice and tools for managing ecosystems in this region. It also contributes to strengthening capacities through the transmission of this knowledge and tools.

Thus, Doctor Alphonse Mackanga Lissandzou Educational Complex (CEDAMM) has been constructed by WCS and inaugurated in 2006. It is located in the Lopé national park, Gabon, and near forest concessions. The trainings conducted there therefore fully address the problems met in the field. The mission of the centre is to provide better knowledge of ecosystems and of tools which are able to make them sustainable through capacity building. It is in this centre that the ongoing professional trainings are conducted; it also constitutes a basis for Lopé National Park environmental educational activities.

The training is intended for a large and diversified audience of the public sector (staff of ministries, organizations, PAs...), the private sector (conservation professionals, forest companies...) and the civil society (local communities and associations, national and international NGOs). They are also open to all countries of the sub-region.



Docteur Alphonse Makanga Missandzou educational complex, WCS Lopé. © S. Dirou

Trainings are grouped in the following themes:

- Law enforcement monitoring tools
- Ecological monitoring and conservation
- Field techniques
- Natural resources management and local development
- Protected areas management and conservation projects
- Environmental impacts management

Information for registering to one of these trainings and the registration form are available on WCS-Gabon website: <http://wsc-gabon.org>

Upcoming IUCN World Conservation Congress:



The next IUCN world conservation congress will be held from 6 to 15 September 2012 at Jeju, Republic of Korea. The Congress theme is **Nature+**, which refers to nature resilience.

Programmatic and operational objectives have been established for the Congress. For instance, programmatic objectives will be:

- **“ To leverage the strategic influencing potential of the Congress in the areas of biodiversity conservation, climate change, livelihoods, food security and green economy;**
- **To debate and create consensus on selected issues between the conservation community and intended audience of its intended influence (for ex. private sector, development practitioners, international political economy, non-environmental national ministries, etc.);**
- **To showcase the new concepts and evidence on the topic of resilience as it relates to a range of conservation practice in support of human wellbeing;**
- **To showcase successes and conservation results leveraged by the Union since the Barcelona Congress”.**

Like all the other congresses, this Congress will be composed of a forum and exhibition and member's assembly.

Regional forums have been organized (or still have to be organized) in the aim of preparing the Members, the Commissions and the Secretariat for the next congress. Thus, these forums includes consultations on IUCN 2013-2016 programme, the changes proposed regarding IUCN governance and training sessions on all the Congress aspects (motions, processes, accreditation, votes, etc.) to ensure that the Members are well prepared to exercise their rights.

The regional forum for West and Central Africa was held last July in Brazzaville.

A call for contributions has been launched to propose an activity for the Congress up to 31 October 2011.

More information at:

<http://www.iucnworldconservationcongress.org/fr/>

GL-10 and GL-15 guidelines now available in French

The World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) guidelines GL-10 “Planning protected areas management guidelines” and GL 15 “Gap identification and analysis in biodiversity key areas: targets for comprehensive protected areas systems” are now available in French.



implication etc.

The first document gives the general methodology for the development of a protected area management plan. It includes elements on: basic definitions and concepts including those related to protected areas and management categories, the requirements for a successful planning, management planning processes, stakeholders'



The second document describes and explains the necessity to identify and prioritize biodiversity key areas gaps in order to firstly evaluate how protected areas conserve biodiversity, and secondly to identify what has to be done in priority to extend and develop existing protected areas.

Does “wild” still have a meaning nowadays?

By Thomas Rabeil

Nowadays, wilderness areas no longer exist. As professionals of wildlife conservation, it may be time to reconsider the meaning of the word “wild”, especially for large terrestrial fauna. This preoccupation is definitely universal; human beings have set foot almost everywhere on earth, imposing their 'human touch' and wildlife cannot escape from this reality. Large terrestrial mammal distribution is conditioned by the direct actions of mankind, such as protected area establishment or conservation program implementation; or by the absence of large human population centers in remote areas, such as rainforests, deserts and the polar regions. However, we continue to think there are some areas with absence of human settlements or very low human population densities, like protected areas, which are appropriate for wildlife development without direct assistance from human beings. The recent change of status of the Arabian Oryx (*Oryx leucoryx*) within the IUCN Red List, from critically endangered of extinction to vulnerable, leads one to wonder if the criteria used to define 'wild' and 'wilderness' have not changed drastically. Without going into detail on the different categories of the IUCN Red List (<http://www.iucnredlist.org>) and their characteristics, the change of category in this direction constitute a first for

antelopes, whose population trends globally have permanently declined these last few decades. This change is mainly explained by the decrease in threats against the species and the constant increase of the global Arabian Oryx population in captivity or semi-wild conditions in spite of population crashes due to drought in places like Mahazat as Sayd (Saudi Arabia) and the White Oryx sanctuary (Oman) because of poaching and illegal captures. The population increase of the species is directly associated to the success of reintroduction programs in the Arabian Peninsula implemented during the 1980's.

Considering the huge loss of biodiversity these last decades almost everywhere on earth, we understand perfectly this kind of success must be highlighted and supported. Nevertheless, it seems rational to wonder if Arabian Oryx produced by such reintroduction programs really do live in wild conditions. If we consider these animals are located in large fenced areas, supplied with food and water and veterinary support to enhance genetic diversity and increase reproduction success, the term 'wild population' can be perceived as inappropriate. In these conditions, large antelopes cannot show the real behavior of wild populations, including access to space for seasonal movements, migration, dispersion or growth even in the biggest fenced reserves. Moreover, these programs have not always been successful, like the Oryx sanctuary in Oman, which was removed in 2007 from the UNESCO World Heritage list due to a loss of 90% of its protected area to allow for oil prospection (<http://whc.unesco.org/fr/actualites/362>).

In this light, should we not also wonder why the Scimitar-Horned Oryx (*Oryx dammah* extinct in the wild) and the Addax (*Addax nasomaculatus* critically endangered) have not changed status on the IUCN Red List! There are also large numbers of these species living in captivity in European or American zoos and in private reserves of the Arabian Peninsula or the United States of America and reintroduction programs implemented in Tunisia (Djebil, Senghar, Sidi Toui and Bou-Hedma) or in Morocco (Souss-Massa) have been quite successful.

Consequently, there are some disparities not clearly justified scientifically speaking within antelopes IUCN Red List status which deserve to be discussed transparently. The IUCN Red List is an excellent tool for wildlife conservation, informing a large audience, including decision makers and donors, about the need to act to avoid the extinction of many species. Thanks to the IUCN Red List, awareness and funds have been raised and conservation/reintroduction programs have been implemented for large antelopes, like the Arabian Oryx, the Scimitar-Horned Oryx, the Addax and the Saiga Antelope. It is true that the discipline of conservation biology has known more failures than successes and it is important to promote and encourage such reintroduction programs.

However, it is not a reason to denature the meaning of 'wild', which remains one of the pillars of conservation biology. We hope these issues will be underlined during

the next symposium dealing with antelope conservation: “Antelope Conservation in the 21st Century: from diagnosis to action” which will be held at the Zoological Society of London in mid-November.

Call of interest

1) PAPACO is looking for **an expert to implement a feasibility study on an e-learning program** for West African protected areas managers. You can download the TOR on www.papaco.org
 Technical and financial proposals for this consultancy should be sent in French at the following address: souleymane.konate@iucn.org
Deadline: January 31, 2012.

2) PAPACO is looking for **an expert to deliver training on issues related to and impacts of mining companies** located around protected areas. You can download the training content description on www.papaco.org
 Technical and financial proposals for this work should be sent in French at the following address: beatrice.chataigner@iucn.org
Deadline: December 15, 2011.

OUTPUTS and TASKS

The consultant will work with the Programme Officer and the DRWG to prepare a versioned update of African elephant continental/regional/national totals and updated range maps. To achieve this output, the consultant will be required to:

1. upload all pending surveys into the new AAED. This requires reading survey reports, extracting and inputting estimates, measures of precision and other metadata, digitizing the survey zone boundaries and identifying the survey replaced by the new estimate, as well as the reasons for change;
2. work with the Programme Officer (AfESG) to prepare for a meeting of the AfESG's Data Review Working Group (DRWG) in February or March 2012. This requires developing an agenda and working with the Programme Officer to ensure a productive meeting in which the DRWG will review all the data uploaded in (1) above;
3. at the DRWG meeting, assist with updating data in response to review decisions; and
4. support data providers who are uploading data into the AAED.

More info can be asked to the AfESG directly.

BIDS

Please send the following to afesg@iucn.org by **21 November 2011**:

- cover letter;
- curriculum vitae;
- references; and
- detailed quote for the work (including travel to Kenya for the DRWG meeting if based outside Kenya).

Short Term Database Management Consultancy IUCN/SSC African Elephant Specialist Group (AfESG)

Terms of Reference - November 2011

The objective of this position is to update and support the African elephant component of the African and Asian Elephant Database (AAED).

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The AfESG's mission is to promote the long-term conservation of Africa's elephants throughout their range, in part by compiling and synthesizing information on the conservation and status of the African elephant across its range. The AfESG uses the AAED as the primary tool to achieve this objective. The AfESG has been collecting new data on the African elephant in the form of survey reports and personal communications since 2007, the publication date of the last African Elephant Status Report. There are now over 60 reports awaiting entry into the AAED.

The AAED consists primarily of a PostGIS relational database, with a web-based data acquisition and visualization front end (<http://elephantdatabase.org>). Ruby on Rails and Google Fusion Tables are used in the web components. All production AAED components are cloud-hosted, but copies of Rails and PostGIS can be run locally for development and experimentation. A workstation with a local development copy of the system is maintained at the IUCN/SSC AfESG office.

► APAO Newsletter ◀

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