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Analyzing and understanding the links between climate change, protected areas and communities in Togo

Par Bora Masumbuko (IUCN-PACO)

A study is currently underway, led by the PARCC project (see table here after), to better understand the links between climate change (CC), protected areas (PAs) and communities, thereby helping to develop climate coping strategies that would be integrated into national conservation policies. The preliminary results (abstracts) of this study are presented here for Togo. More info is available on the project's website (see contacts at the end of the article).

In Togo, there is little or no documentation on the links between the communities living around PAs, climate change and PAs, but there are projects, strategy papers and programs related to these questions, even if they do not make the connection between the three components. We can mention among others: the Second National Communication on Climate Change, the National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA, 2008), the poverty profile of Togo from 2006 to 2011, the RIPIESCA project and the National Program of Investment for the Environment and the Natural resources (PNIERN) which includes PNADE (national program of decentralized environment management actions).

In Togo, sudden changes in the normal rainfall and temperatures were detected and they coincide with some droughts occurred in West Africa. The Oti Plain for example, in the north of the country, has

experienced over the past fifty years, a high climate variability, especially as of the late '60s, marked by a succession of periods of rainfall surplus and deficit and a significant warming over the past two decades.



Meeting with local communities in Tomety-Kondji, Togo © Gabriel Segniabeto

Local populations observe and feel the phenomena related to climate change such as more intense insolation, higher temperatures, irregular and low rainfall, strong winds during the rainy season, falling crop yields, frequent floods, droughts, etc. Only 28.23% of the populations attribute these changes to changes in land use.

The impacts of climate change affect all sectors, including energy, water resources, agriculture and health. Regarding agriculture, livestock and fisheries, for example, some of the impacts of changes in temperature and rainfalls are:

- Intensification of erosion by runoff
- Warming, drying and increased evaporation of water from certain ponds and rivers that are sources of livestock watering
- Negative impact on the productivity of the land cover and animal pastures of depression areas. It induces the resurgence of diseases such as avian influenza, trypanosomiasis in cattle.
- Permanent saltwater intrusion into rivers, fish ponds and other water reservoirs; this will cause the migration of fishes to other freshwater bodies, the death of fry and a decline of the reproductive performance.



Agricultural activities in the Missahoe Forest, Togo © Gabriel Segniabeto

The socio-economic impacts result in lower crop yields and incomes, lower marketing of products and rising in prices, intensification of the rural exodus, increase of famine, change in eating habits, and exacerbation of poverty.

As part of this study, consultations were carried out in the communities to assess their understanding, perception of the issue and also to know the impacts of climate change on their activities. These consultations were conducted around the following PAs: Oti-Mandouri, Oti-Keran, Fazao Malfakassa, Abdoulaye, Assoukoko, North Togodo, South Togodo and Missahoe. All people living around the PAs noted the important roles played by ecosystems in their environment.

Riparians of Oti-Mandouri (north of the country) believe that CC has been occurring for a long time in their locality, the climate has changed abruptly from the 70-80's, with for example: inadequate and irregular rainfall, late or early cessation of rainfall: in Diguengue in the forest area, an early rainy season (as of February) was reported in 2013. These

rainfalls did not encourage agricultural practices for slash-and-burn, a common practice in this environment, was not possible.

No action is taken by most of the local populations of PAs to face the impacts of climate change. According to those interviewed, the idea of converting to income generating activities (IGA) was never mentioned, but that does not mean that in other parts of the country, not visited, IGAs are not a solution. These activities could be a solution to precarious living conditions that riparian populations may experience.

In the Savannah region, in the north, to adapt to the situation, millet and sorghum are now replaced by early varieties of sorghum and maize. As soils become unproductive, to face their precarious situation, some choose to penetrate the PAs to do farming or to search for other resources to meet their needs (eg honey or game). Others produce charcoal or gather wood to sell for a living, which greatly contributes to the destruction of natural habitats in protected areas.

NGOs in Togo help these riparian communities to cope with the effects of climate change:

- The NGO RAFIA develops sustainable use practices: Erosion control, IGA such as beekeeping
- The NGO Amis de la Terre promotes beekeeping in the National Park reassigned area of the Togodo South in order to improve the living conditions of local populations
- In some villages around the National Park of Oti-Keran, the NGO AGBOZEGUE helps communities in the planning and management of village lands
- Franz-Weber, concessionaire of the Fazao-Malfakassa National Park implements for the villages around the PA, two sustainable development projects: beekeeping and solar oven.

At government level, there are adaptation measures stated in some documents (including those mentioned above), but the strategies do not take into account the relation between the three parameters (climate change, communities and PA), nor concern the populations living around the PAs. It should however be noted that the second orientation of the national environmental policy plans to "*build resilience and adaptive capacity of populations to climate change.*"

In conclusion, even if policies, strategies and programs have not offered any concrete solutions, to date, to help communities around PAs to adapt to climate change and thus limit the impact of their activities on PAs, national policy makers are concerned about the issue of the vulnerability of communities living around PAs. To date, awareness-raising is the main activity of policy makers according to the results of the interviews, but efforts are underway to help these communities to reduce the effects of climate change and address issues related to the impacts of these community pressures on natural resources of PAs.

All technical and scientific reports are available on the project website: www.parcc-web.org



The PARCC project (Protected Areas Resilient to Climate Change) in West Africa is a full-size GEF project. UNEP-WCMC is the executing agency, and IUCN-Protected Areas Programme for West and Central Africa is the main regional partner and provides technical guidance for the implementation of activities of the project at the regional and national levels. The project started in 2010 and will run until 2015. It covers 5 countries in West Africa, namely: Chad, The Gambia, Mali, Sierra Leone, and Togo. An additional 3 countries will participate in preparatory activities relating to transboundary conservation (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana).

The project involves the design of scientific tools, the development of strategies to help make protected areas more resilient to climate change, and capacity building in the countries (all stakeholders, including decision makers) to use these tools. To achieve these objectives, the project heavily relies on the support from all its local, regional, and international partners.

At the national level, partner countries are involved through the Ministry in charge of managing protected areas and their designated National Liaison Officers (NLO) who coordinate all activities at the national level. Other partners include the IUCN Species Programme for Species vulnerability to climate change, the Hadley Centre for Climate change modelling, DICE (University of Kent) for Systematic conservation planning, BirdLife and Durham University for Species distribution models.

More on www.parcc-web.org

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Small Grants for National Civil Society Organizations – Call for proposals

In order to provide services to its members, the West African Regional Marine and Coastal Conservation Partnership created the Small Grants Program for national civil society organizations. Implemented by FIBA, this Small Grants Program will obtain two goals:

- On the one hand, concrete support for field-based conservation activities, implemented by national civil society organizations
- On the other hand, allowing national civil society organizations, to undertake capacity building activities.

★ Who is eligible ?

All national organizations can submit a proposal. However, priority will be given to PRCM member organizations. Non-members of the PRCM can find membership instructions online at (<http://prcmarine.org/new/?q=node/79>).

★ Eligible projects ?

A demonstration of a concrete impact on the field is expected. Field-based conservation activities that improve the conservation status of fauna or flora species in the West African coastline will be funded.

★ Non eligible projects ?

- Scientific research activities that are not linked with concrete conservation activities;
- Projects focused on agricultural activities, or development projects that have no real documented impact on biodiversity;
- Workshops and meetings.

★ Expected Budget

Projects would receive grants ranging from **7 000 to 12 000 EUROS**. This amount can contribute to a larger project (co-financing).

★ When and how to submit your proposal?

The proposal form must be asked to and sent by e-mail to meriaux@lafiba.org before **September 15, 2013**. Implementation of activities should begin by November 2013 for a maximum duration of 10 months.



Request for information: vertebrate fauna in West and Central Africa

IUCN has recently commissioned a **situation analysis desk study** that aims to: i) draw on existing published and unpublished information to summarize currently available information on the large terrestrial and freshwater vertebrate fauna of West and Central Africa; ii) document the main impacts and drivers of wildlife loss in the region; and iii) review existing conservation measures and effectiveness. The study will provide an evidence base for future conservation efforts in West and Central Africa, mindful of

commitments that Parties have made towards meeting, in particular, the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity, especially Targets 5 and 12.

The study serves also as a partial response to a Resolution adopted by IUCN's members at the 2012 World Conservation Congress. It will involve extensive consultation with stake-holders in-region, including IUCN State and Government Agency Members. As the first step in the consultation process, to provide a factually sound basis to this study we are inviting all interested parties to submit any relevant information or data for consideration for inclusion, especially on:

- 1) Published or unpublished census figures or long-term trends of globally threatened or Near Threatened vertebrates in the region, from protected areas or otherwise;
- 2) Any national / sub-national laws or legislation in place that regulate biodiversity, land-use planning, and / or environmental impact assessments, and any gaps in national / sub-national policy/law
- 3) Existing or planned external policies / guidelines / investments that currently / could positively or negatively affect wildlife populations (e.g., development or private banks)
- 4) Evidence of socio-economic consequences of wildlife declines at a national or sub-national level

IUCN would be grateful to receive any such information, supported, where appropriate, by details on methodology and citations of published studies and sources. Please provide your inputs by 22 September 2013 in order to allow sufficient time for data to be incorporated into the first draft. IUCN assures that any such information provided and used or cited will be credited and acknowledged accordingly. Please submit any information to the study co-leaders at the following email: bwca@iucn.org. The resulting study will be made freely available in electronic format in both English and French. To be published in early 2014, it is anticipated that the desk study report will be an authoritative review of the status of terrestrial and freshwater vertebrate fauna in West and Central Africa.

A Fire Monitoring System for the African Protected Areas

By *Ilaria Palumbo (JRC)*

Context

Vegetation fires are widespread in Africa and are a key component of many ecosystems. They can be a cause of threat and damage for ecosystems not adapted to them, but for many African habitats fires are just as important as rain. Because of their ecological role, prescribed burnings are often applied in protected areas to maintain or improve the ecosystem structure and the habitat diversity that are essential to biodiversity. Some common applications of prescribed burnings aim at regenerating palatable grass for herbivores, controlling bush encroachment and invasive species. Fire is also used to limit the build-up of vegetation biomass that can cause very destructive fires which are difficult to control.

All these fire management practices require timely information on the fire occurrence and a deep knowledge of fire ecology. The Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (<http://bioval.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>) has developed a fire monitoring system in support to conservation programs and the management of protected areas. This system is one of the JRC components of the Digital Observatory for Protected Areas (DOPA, <http://dopa.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>), developed with other partners (GBIF, UNEP-WCMC, IUCN). It also contributes to the information system of the joint JRC-IUCN BIOPAMA project (http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/gpap_home/gpap_capacity2/gpap_biopama/). This work is partly supported by and developed in collaboration with the Directorate General for Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid (DG DEVCO). The DG DEVCO promotes initiatives for development and aid programmes across the world, with particular attention to countries from the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions (ACP).

How are the vegetation fires detected and analyzed?

The system was originally designed for African protected areas, but it has been extended to a global level for all the protected areas listed in the World Database on Protected Areas (IUCN-WCMC). The system has an interactive interface that allows the user to explore more than ten years of data about fire activity. The information is derived from satellite observations, but we present it in the form of



indicators and maps, in order to directly use it for managing the protected areas. The fire indicators were designed to support decision-making activities, as well as the prevention, plan and control of fire. We derived the indicators from the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) fire products. These products are distributed by NASA-FIRMS and the University of Maryland and cover more than a decade going from late 2000 to present. The MODIS fire products consist of two types of datasets: the active fire and burned area. The active fire product provides information on the fire occurrence (timing and location of fire) and is available 48 hours after the satellite overpass, while burnt area data require longer processing time and are available 2-3 months after the satellite observation. Besides the fire products we used the GLOBCOVER vegetation map to quantify the amount of burned area in each vegetation class, the map is also derived from satellite data (ENVISAT MERIS data).

How does the Fire Monitoring System work?

The system is accessible through the ACP Environmental Observatory at: <http://acpobservatory.jrc.ec.europa.eu/content/fire-monitoring>. The user can launch the interactive tool

from the web page (click "Start") and then select a protected area of interest and access the indicators of the fire activity; the tool is available in English, French and Spanish. The fire activity is assessed through two key parameters: the fire occurrence and the area burned by land cover type. These parameters are computed for each park and the 25-km buffer around it. For each selected protected area, the system shows, by default, the start/end of the latest complete fire season, as well as the average fire season, based on the time-series 2003-2012. A time bar allows visualizing any seasons between year 2000 and present (figure 1 here after).

Graphical synthesis of fire activity, as the cumulative fire counts and burned area, are provided for the selected fire season and against the average values. Monthly maps of the active fires, burned areas and fire density are also available and can be downloaded in different standard formats for geospatial data – as raster (geotiff) or vector (shapefile).

For basic users, the content can be explored in excel tables: they report the location of the fires (latitude, longitude), the date, time and intensity of burning; whereas more advanced users can open the maps using a Geographic Information System (GIS).

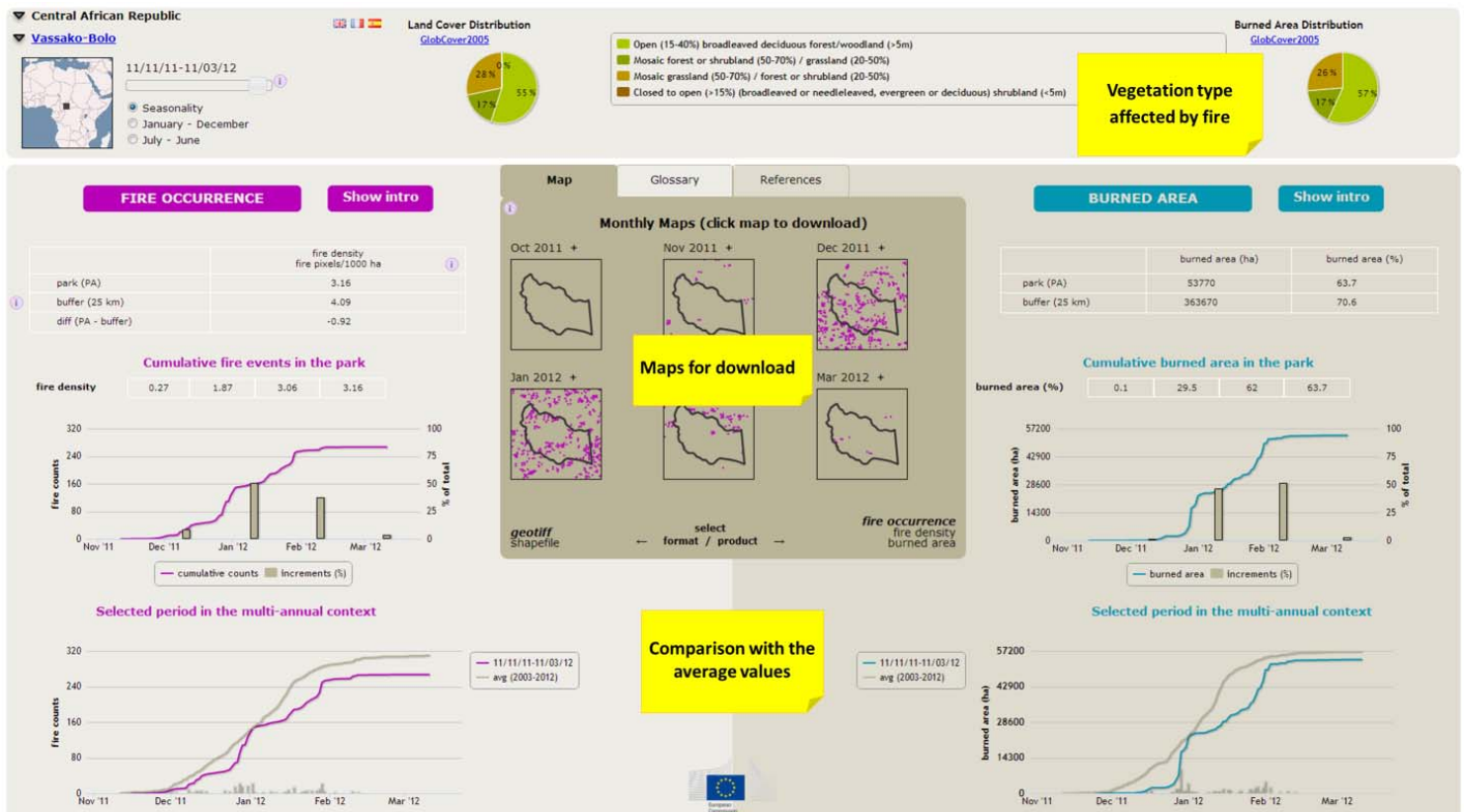


Figure 1. The fire indicators displayed in the Fire Monitoring System.

Applications and Benefits for Park Management

In fire dependent or influenced ecosystems, the Fire Monitoring System provides park managers with up to date information on the burning patterns in and around their area of interest. They can, on the basis of these patterns, detect any anomaly in the implementation of the fire management plans. Anomalies can be indicators of illegal activities, such as poaching or grazing inside the parks, or simply show if fire management plans are addressing their objectives effectively. This tool gives the managers the possibility to improve their prescribed burning plans and to react more effectively to illegal activities. In fire-sensitive ecosystems, such as the tropical moist forests, the tool provides park managers a rapid and systematic way to detect human induced threats and supports the patrolling activities in and around the protected areas. Besides the advantages of having a near-real time information system, the historical time series can help scientists and park managers to improve their understanding of fire ecology and assess the spatio-temporal trends or changes. Anomalies in fire regime (e.g. change in fire frequency and seasonality) can be either an indicator of land cover change or habitat loss, or more generally an indicator of land use change. The possibility to access this information is therefore important to take the appropriate decisions for effective conservation.



Early fire set in Niokolo-Koba national park to prevent later bush fires

Finally the fire monitoring tool provides decision makers, at local, national and regional levels, with updated information which can be used to identify priority areas, strengthen conservation programs and improve fund allocation.

Through this web-based system we hope to reach many users in the conservation field. We are also working on further developments to include an interactive map viewer to visualize fire occurrence and burned area in a GIS-style interface, for any period of time from late 2000 to present. Finally statistics on fire activity will not be restricted to protected areas but extended to administrative units at national and regional levels.

More info

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Fire Monitoring System:
<http://acpobservatory.jrc.ec.europa.eu/content/fire-monitoring>

Rhino poaching crisis: a statement from South Africa

Minister Edna Molewa briefs the media on Cabinet approval of the rhino trade proposal for consideration at CITES CoP17 in 2016

03 July 2013 on www.environment.gov.z (extracts)

“South Africa is a Party and founding member of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, a trade convention that aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

The aim of the convention aligns with, and reinforces the principle of sustainable utilisation, which is enshrined in the Constitution and the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act as an integral part of biodiversity conservation.

Due to sustainable utilisation and adaptive management practices, South Africa has developed and maintained a proud conservation record, and communities have contributed to the conservation of species while benefiting financially from the restoration and protection of species. Ironically, the very success of our national conservation effort which has resulted in over 73% of the worlds’ Rhino population being conserved in our country has, in turn, resulted in South Africa being targeted by international criminal Rhino poaching syndicates...

...The on-going illegal killing of rhino has highlighted the need to take action in terms of addressing demand for rhino horn. In March this year, we were part of the 2 000 delegates from 178 countries at the 16th Conference of Parties of the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Thailand. Prior to our departure to the CITES COP 16 we launched an international discussion on the future of

South Africa's rhino population, particularly the issue of legal trade in rhino horn, or not...

...The establishment of a well-regulated international trade could assist in this regard, if implemented in conjunction with all the other interventions to curb rhino poaching.

To this end, Cabinet approved the development and submission of a proposal to the 17th conference of parties to CITES, scheduled to take place in 2016 in South Africa, to introduce regulated international trade in rhino horn. This decision is informed by recognition of the contribution of biodiversity to our country's sustainable development imperatives. Furthermore during the 16th COP to CITES, discussions relating to a possible trade, as an integral part of South Africa's long term conservation strategy for rhinos, were initiated.

We will have to work in partnership with stakeholders and experts to ensure a feasible model for trade is proposed at the next CoP in South Africa, with due consideration of all the views expressed by interested and affected stakeholders in rhino conservation. Our appeal is that this should not be viewed in isolation from all our endeavours to save our rhinos.

South Africa cannot continue to be held hostage by the syndicates slaughtering our rhinos. We do have the ability to make this scarce resource available without impacting on the species, through the implementation of a regulated trade system. In addition, this will assist us in further promoting the conservation of the species and growing the population in South Africa and other range States..."



Vultures – the silent victims of Africa's wildlife poaching

IUCN Press release – August 2013

The recent death of up to 600 vultures after feeding on a poisoned elephant carcass near Namibia's Bwabwata National Park in July confirms that the indiscriminate use of poison is one of the major causes of the ongoing decline in vulture populations across most of Africa.

This is particularly evident in West Africa where an average decline of 42% in vulture numbers has been recorded over the past 30 years, with the Rueppell's Vulture (*Gyps rueppellii*) declining by up to 85%.

It is now common practice for poachers killing elephants and other large mammals to lace carcasses with poison to kill vultures. Vultures congregating at these carcasses in large numbers are often used by law enforcement officials in many parts of Africa as an indication of poaching activity and as a way to pursue the offenders.

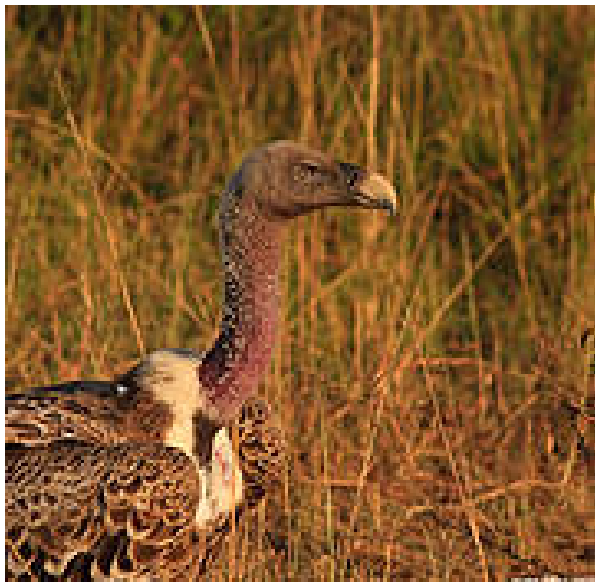


White-backed Vulture (Gyps africanus) - Photo: Andre Botha

"By poisoning carcasses, poachers hope to eradicate vultures from an area where they operate and thereby escape detection," says **Leo Niskanen Technical Coordinator, IUCN Conservation Areas and Species Diversity Programme**. "The fact that incidents such as these can be linked to the rampant poaching of elephants in Africa is a serious concern. Similar incidents have been recorded in Tanzania, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Zambia in recent years".

Most of the birds killed in the recent incident are African White-backed Vultures (*Gyps africanus*),

currently listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Two dead tagged birds recovered from the incident were found 1000km away which shows the possible range of impact on vulture populations. The fact that vultures are currently mid-way through their breeding cycle further increases the impact, as many nestlings are not likely to survive without both parents feeding them.



Rüppell's Vulture (*Gyps rueppellii*) - Photo: Andre Botha

The use of poison also negatively affects a number of other large raptors such as the Tawny Eagle (*Aquila rapax*) and the Bateleur (*Terathopius ecaudatus*), as well as lions, hyenas and jackals.

Africa's vulture populations cannot sustain such losses and the current decline may have serious ecological and human health consequences in the longer term, say IUCN experts. The precipitous decline in three vulture species on the Indian sub-continent over the last 20 years has caused several problems, as there are fewer vultures to remove carcasses of dead animals. A proliferation of feral dogs and a substantial increase in diseases such as rabies have been documented and can be linked directly to this decline.

Many countries in Africa do not have appropriate legislation and other measures in place to control or prevent the indiscriminate use of poisons. Penalties in cases where those responsible are apprehended are often minimal and do not act as a deterrent to the perpetrators.

"We believe that crimes of this nature should have the same priority and be subject to similar penalties as those ascribed to incidents of poaching of the mega-fauna such as elephant and rhino," says **André Botha, Co-chair of the IUCN Species**

Survival Commission Vulture Specialist Group. "We urge countries in the southern Africa region to review their policies and implement appropriate measures that will help avoid similar incidents in the future."

For more information:

André Botha
Co-Chair: IUCN SSC Vulture Specialist Group
E-mail: andreb@ewt.org.za

Contract Opportunity for Youth Outreach in Support of the IUCN 2014 World Parks Congress

Parks Canada is looking for an energetic individual to help support youth outreach activities leading up to the November 2014 IUCN World Parks Congress, with a focus on connecting youth with nature. This is an international contract, open to individuals from around the world. If you are interested in an exciting initiative and have experience in youth leadership and engagement, **please consider submitting a contract bid by October 08, 2013.**

The purpose of this contract will be to nurture partnerships with youth organizations around the world, to facilitate youth participation at the World Parks Congress, and to help as part of a team in the development and delivery of a series of youth sessions and initiatives at the Congress. If you think you are the right candidate for this exciting opportunity, please submit a contract bid by October 08, 2013.

The Request for Proposals for this contract can be found at: <https://buyandsell.gc.ca/procurement-data/tender-notice/PW-13-00464878>



Job Offer: Country Director, Madagascar

Based in: Antananarivo, Madagascar
Job type: Permanent hire

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), an international conservation NGO with headquarters at the Bronx Zoo, New York, USA, currently seeks a new leader for our Madagascar Program as Country Director. This long-term position, based in Antananarivo, Madagascar, provides an extraordinary opportunity to contribute to global biodiversity conservation, lead a talented team, and pioneer new approaches to sustainable natural resource management.

WCS has been working in Madagascar for 20 years and currently employs 120 Malagasy staff in field sites and at the capital city HQ in Antananarivo. The largest program

is the MaMaBay Landscape-Seascape in and around Masoala NP, Makira NP, and Antongil Bay. In Makira WCS leads the largest and most developed REDD+ program in Africa. WCS also works in Mikea in the southwest and in marine sites around the country.

The Madagascar Country Director is WCS's legal representative in Madagascar and is responsible for all WCS activities in the country. The previous holder of the position also served as WCS's Western Indian Ocean Coordinator, and once the new Madagascar Country Director is appointed WCS will consider whether the selected candidate might take on all or some of these responsibilities as well.

Position Objectives

1. Direct overall strategic and program planning and budgeting processes for the Madagascar Country Program in order to grow and develop the program and contribute materially to conserving Madagascar's biodiversity;
2. Ensure the effective functioning of financial and administrative matters and adequate internal control between the WCS central office, WCS Madagascar country office and field offices;
3. Engage with multilateral and bilateral agencies, as well as private individuals and organizations, to secure support (financial, organizational and logistical) in order to implement WCS's Madagascar's priority activities.

Required and preferred qualifications for candidates

- Required: Master's degree or higher in a discipline related to natural resources management, environment or rural development studies, protected area management, or wildlife or conservation biology
- Preferred: Expertise and experience in both terrestrial and marine conservation.
- Required: Minimum of ten years of progressively increasing responsibility for protected areas or natural resources management, sustainable development, and/or other environmental assistance or related work in developing countries; proven ability to build capacity and direct initiatives in community-driven natural resource

management, oversee field research, conservation biology, conservation advocacy, and project management

- Required: Proven knowledge and experience with government agencies and management of large agency grants
- Preferred: Proven fundraising record from government/agency sources, foundations, and private individuals
- Required: Substantial experience in partner government relations, and knowledge of international conservation policy issues (including environmental treaties); proven ability to develop and maintain a network of high-level contacts with government officials, multi-lateral and bilateral technical and financial partners; demonstrated tact and negotiation skills
- Preferred: Significant work experience in Madagascar, knowledge of Madagascar environmental and political issues, and strong reputation in the Madagascar environment community
- Required: Demonstrated experience effectively managing staff
- Required: Superb English communications skills both written and oral
- Required: French fluency (speaking, oral comprehension, written comprehension) including the ability to participate effectively in meetings; ability to draft written French
- Preferred: Knowledge of Malagasy language

Please apply on-line at www.wcs.org, scroll to 'careers' at the bottom of the page and follow the prompts to apply on-line (you must register online in order to be considered). IN ADDITION TO APPLYING ONLINE: Please send a cover letter, resumé and at three references (with contact information including phone numbers) by email to the Hiring Manager, Graeme Patterson (gpatterson@wcs.org) copied to Nina Holbrook (nholbrook@wcs.org) using the following in the 'Subject Line' of the email <yoursurname_Madagascar_Director>. The deadline for applications is **October 3rd, 2013**.

NAPA – CONTACTS

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