



NAPA

News from African Protected Areas

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Geoffroy MAUVAIS
PAPACO coordinator

Facebook



This is the beginning of the year and like every year since the NAPA exists (9 years already, quite a long road covered), I thought I had to start 2016 on an optimistic note.

Weirdly enough, a good way to be optimistic when it comes to protected areas in Africa is simply to talk about something else.

Our MOOC on PA management (massive open online course, see previous NAPA if you missed the episode) recently provided me with an excellent topic for today. Not the MOOC itself, which we will discuss briefly in the next NAPA by the way, but one of the tools that we used: Facebook.

With over 3700 registered students on the MOOC, a very active forum on the course platform, a lot of questions, ideas, initiatives... we quickly understood the need to open a little more lively discussion than simple exchanges of forum messages. Participants wanted to talk to each other almost like in real life, to share more questions or experiences and to be honest, we too were eager to know them better.

In short, we decided to start a discussion through an open group on Facebook. Facebook, you know, this thing that everyone is familiar with and that I was discovering with delight. There is nothing like the need to delve into such a universe in order to force you to learn about it!

Well, let's be frank, the dive was brief and did not necessitate any prolonged breath-holding. On our second "chat" with our MOOC friends, my account was blocked by Facebook on the basis, I quote, that I asked to copy java scripts and that our only purpose was to promote gifts. Worse, it seems that I encouraged connected people to click under "false pretenses", which were not exposed to me by the way. The conclusion of the message was clear: the account would not be reactivated under any circumstances.

Facebook had decidedly misjudged my profile: thinking that I know what a "java script" is really does me a great honor, given that I don't even know how to turn on a smartphone. Imagining I can promote free gifts to hundreds of people, well, this is almost surreal. As for deceitful intentions that led me to encourage so many people to click (on what, no one knows), well, I am still searching but I guess my intentions were so well hidden that they are even unknown to myself!

Obviously, this is laughable. That's what I did: I laughed. Too bad for the participants to the MOOC... but obviously, deleting my account was not a big deal.

And then I thought. In a world where one does not exist if one is not connected, where whole sections of humanity are forgotten because they do not access the Internet (and how many victims of this syndrome do actually live in Africa?), I told myself that certainly, we were living a dangerous moment. Who are these people who have created communication highways, who invite everyone to use them and then suddenly decide who should stay on them or not? What is the meaning of this (if

any)? What is the strategy behind it (because, after all and without being paranoid, there's a reason why one is accepted or rejected on Facebook, right?). Where are we going to end if we accept these choices beyond our own responsibility? What future are we building? With whom? Against whom?

Ok, I know that the cancellation of my Facebook account has not changed the face of the blogosphere. "Young people" immediately told me to do "like everyone else": "create up an account with a false identity!" Oh, because once hidden, we have the right to send "java script" and distribute gifts under false pretenses?

This is definitely a very strange world that we are building. So my wish is very simple for this year: I wish you a good, traditional, made of human relationships, friendly and happy year 2016. Between people who exist, whom you can see, touch, talk with and listen to. And a special request: may 2016 get us rid of java scripts!

A great new year!

Papaco is also on:



Twitter = @Papaco_IUCN
(https://twitter.com/Papaco_IUCN)

And on:



Facebook = facebook /IUCNpapaco
(<https://www.facebook.com/IUCNpapaco>)



12th edition of our University Diploma on PA management and governance

18 April to 10 June 2016 in Ouagadougou
In partnership with IUCN-PACO

A new session of our 8 week training course on PA management and governance will take place in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) from the 18th April to the 10th June 2016. The course is open to PA managers and their partners (private sector, NGOs, research etc.). The course is held in French and is composed of theory and practice on the ground (2 weeks). The program covers environmental

policies, planning, management effectiveness, governance, ecological survey, GIS, ecology, local consultation and negotiation, economy etc.

The cost of the training and students' participation is fully supported by the **MAVA foundation**.

To apply: <http://continue.senghor.refer.org>

Deadline for inscription: 20th February 2016

Contacts

Catherine GURGUENIAN, Secrétaire Exécutive, Département Environnement, Université Senghor Alexandrie, Egypte

@ : environnement@usenghor-francophonie.org

Bora MASUMBUKO, UICN-PACO, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. @ : bora.masumbuko@iucn.org

Arsène SANON : UICN-PACO, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. @ : arsene.sanon@iucn.org



Conservation Issues and African Civil Society: a few stories from the field

This collection, prefaced by Nicolas Hulot, and funded by PAPACO, brings together 19 interviews from conservation NGO leaders conducted between 2013 and 2015. It gives voice to people in 9 countries in Central and West Africa, engaged in the field for the implementation of concrete initiatives for the protection of biodiversity and the fight against climate change. These stakeholders are partners of IUCN-PACO (Protected Areas and Biodiversity Programme) and participate to the Small Initiatives Program (PPI) and the project "Management of conservation territories in West Africa" (CA-OA), both funded by the French Fund for Global Environment (FFEM). Contacts: thomas.bacha@iucn.org, arsene.sanon@iucn.org and clementine.laratte@iucn.org

You can download the booklet : http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/tcao_ppi_local_partners_interviews_2015_11_22.pdf

Also downloadable on www.papaco.org



1 - Martin YELIBORA, project coordinator of CREMAS, NCRC - Ghana

Martin you are the CREMAS development coordinator for the “NGO Nature Conservation Research Centre” - NCRC (Ghana) and lead all technical strategies necessary to establish and run the CREMA. Can you describe the NCRC orientations and activities related to CREMAS development and strengthening?

NCRC endorses a simple core philosophy that conservation is best pursued in settings where there are economic and cultural incentives to its implementation. In line with this philosophy, NCRC seeks to use positive cultural practices and income generation potential to achieve conservation and economic development objectives.

The underlying philosophy of CREMA and our conservation initiatives is that when natural resources are given value and communities are given the authority to manage them, then local people inhabitants of surrounding areas will have the incentive to sustainably manage and conserve natural resources. We also note that natural resource utilization is a legitimate form of land use; hence the objective should be to reconcile resource exploitation with urgent need for conservation.

In my efforts to implement CREMA framework hence, I have first and foremost identified the motivating incentives that will draw communities into conservation and secondly figured out how the CREMA operation can be aligned with the societal power structure and social dynamics. Hence socioeconomic opportunities are identified and the communities are rallied around sustainable using and managing of these opportunities.

CREMA organization relies on individual farmers, resource users and landowners who are the members. Through the Community Resource Management Committees (CRMCs) individual farmers and land users determine the policies and activities of the CREMA and hold the Community Executive Committee (CEC) accountable through their own structure at the community level. The CECs are responsible for formulating and amending the constitution to ensure the effective operation of the CREMA.

A third party which in this case is NCRC is akin to a referee in this matrix. NCRC collaborates as a technical support arm to the CREMA. We facilitate the building of governance and livelihood structures for CREMAS. We work through the CREMA representatives to create opportunities and consensus. This continuous involvement is a key issue to ensure sustainability of CREMAS.

The Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary (WCHS) is one of the pioneers community-based management protected areas in Ghana. Can you tell us the context and main reasons that led to its creation?

The Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary (WCHS) CREMA established in 1998 by the Paramount chief of the Wechiau Traditional Area, Na Bayon Doguah II, with the sub chiefs elders and opinion leaders, with a functional management board, comprising an executive board and two representatives from each of the seventeen (17) communities making up the sanctuary management. Prior to the decision to collectively conserve the area, there had emerged potential threats to the hippo and natural resources from poaching, bushfires and land encroachment by farmlands.

The main goal for the establishment of the sanctuary was to afford the local community members the opportunity to participate in the conservation of their natural resources and also improve their standard of living through the equitable sharing of benefits accruing from the sanctuary as a result of a collective conservation effort. This approach also avoided the “outside” control of community resources and put resources management in the hands of local communities. The WCHS was convinced that if the local communities come together with the support of technical know-how, then they can protect their landscape and resources while ensuring that the full benefits come to the local communities. The administrative costs of managing forest and landscape is relatively low since most workers are

largely volunteers and get satisfaction from managing their own resources for livelihoods and future generations.

WCHS is a practical example of the local community based approach to conservation. It has for the past twelve years become a model for community conservation in Ghana. The WCHS has served as a community based ecotourism destination and has been managed along an adaptive model to achieve sustained results.



After 15 years of existence of the WCHS, what are the main benefits in term of conservation and livelihoods?

The greatest success achieved by the CREMAs is improved governance and conservation awareness and increased collective community action and unity. These have resulted in reduced incidence of fire in particular. This phenomenon has also contributed to a number of benefits including ecologically sensitive areas being well protected to the extent that native wild animals are increasing and hippo numbers in particular have been seen to increase from a peak 13 in December 2007 to peak 33 in February 2014.

Other successes are livelihood benefits such as ecotourism and social infrastructure development. The CREMA established and is operating an efficient community organic sheanut cooperative of 1.600 women with total communal income of \$50.000 annually. There is a successful pilot project of communal organic farm enterprise of 30 members on 4 acre tenure secured land with estimated GH¢100 monthly income for each member.

Other successes are the livelihood benefits that some of the CREMA constituents are entitled include the beekeeping enterprises introduced in

late 2014. This enterprise has enormous potential to benefit over 1,500 households when in full operation.

Among the various actors involved in the CREMA process, what is the specific role of traditional chiefs in the management and decision making process of CREMAs in Ghana?

In terms of approach, the CREMA framework mobilises local people into an organizational structure that is based on the existing local decision making system. This organization is then blended with democratic virtues in other to ensure inclusion. The CREMA recognises and respects local governance systems, cultures and resources tenure relationships such as land tenure and decision making on land-use; functions and duties of chiefs in respect of traditional roles like - allocation of land to “strangers “or peripheral stakeholders; settlement of land disputes by traditional authority (chiefs and elders); pouring of libation and the pacification of the land when sacrilege has been committed; taking appropriate sanctions against trespassers and for anti-social behaviour...

Traditional chiefs are the custodians of the land. They therefore are powerful stakeholders and without their support the CREMA will not operate smoothly. Traditional authority serves as advisors and patrons to the CREMA. They assist to mobilize the community for CREMA activities and mediate conflicts that arise in the CREMA operation.



2 - EMMANUEL WIRSYI, DIRECTOR OF CAMGEW - Cameroun

Emmanuel. you are the CAMGEW NGO Director, working in the Kilum-Ijim forest in the North West region of Cameroon. This community forest has a special story; can you tell us something about this one?

The Kilum-Ijim forest area covers two divisions of the North West Region and three tribes (Nso, Oku and Kom) with different languages but similar cultures living here.

This forest has the largest remaining Bamenda Highland Montane Forest with a large crater lake called Lake Oku. It is rich in Non Timber Products

and has trees that cannot be exploited for timber. The 18 community forests part of the Kilum-Ijim forest constitute the first community forests created in Cameroon, with the Birdlife International support in 1987. The forest is the largest remaining habitat for Bannermans Turaco, a red feathered bird endemic to the Bamenda Highland Region and classified by IUCN Redlist as endangered.

Kilum Mountain is the second highest mountain of the country after Mount Cameroon and Prunus Africana is a native tree which is found in this forest. A lot of honey is produced in this area and it is white in colour, commonly called Oku White Honey. It is certified by African Intellectual Property Right Organization as Geographical Indication Product and is cherished nationally and internationally. The white colour is a result of dominant white flowers produced by trees in this forest. To finish, the Kilum-Ijim forest trees are medicinal and this makes Oku White honey medicinal. This forest area is also a touristic destination.

The Kilum-Ijim forest hosts a tree species important for many reasons, Prunus Africana. What is it interest and what are the threats on it at the moment in Cameroon?

Yes, Prunus Africana is a native tree of the Kilum-Ijim forest and is important for many reasons. It produces white flowers that are bee loving helping for white honey production. It is a watershed tree which generates revenues because of its medicinal value.

The bark of this tree is harvested to produce drugs used to treat prostate cancer and herbalists use the barks of these trees to produce various traditional medicines.

Prunus Africana suffers from bushfire in the Kilum-Ijim forest, sometimes caused by cigarette smokers or honey harvesters who use poor methods of honey harvesting. It has also suffered from over exploitation and poor harvesting from local people who wanted to sell barks to international companies using this to produce drugs. In addition, domestic animals like goats are kept in this forest and these animals eat young planted Prunus trees making forest regeneration difficult.

The number of Prunus trees in the forest is reducing and there is a real need to plant and to protect this valuable tree.

Looking to this, what actions CAMGEW implements on the field to change this situation?

CAMGEW carries out activities in three main domains. It involves forest regeneration through tree planting, environmental education with community and schools and community engagement in apiculture. Agroforestry is linked to apiculture as forest peripheries need to produce flowers for forest bees when there is flower shortage in the forest. At the moment, CAMGEW has regenerated the Kilum-Ijim forest with about 44.000 trees, 33.000 being Prunus Africana and 11.000 being of 11 other tree species. On the whole, with support of World Bank (2012), PPI-FFEM (2013), MINFOF, Koning schools and BOTH ENDS, more than 500 community members participated to these plantation activities.



These activities continue and in 2015, CAMGEW planted 23.500 trees of various types with funds of several partners, still with the same community based approach.

Activities marking the regeneration of the Kilum-Ijim forest start yearly from June to August with tree launching by planting of a symbolic tree and ends with crowning ceremony by various community leaders.

The tree planting exercise always involves clearing, transportation of seedlings to the forest and planting. The various authorities take part in planning meetings and field visits to identify the site in the Kilum-Ijim forest for the tree planting exercise. The regeneration exercise always end on the last day with forest sensitization messages from community leaders calling on community members to protect their forest.

CAMGEW engages local people to own beehives in the forest after receiving training on how to better manage the forest. Beekeeping is a real incentive to protect the forest because ownership of hives by people in Kilum-Ijim forest pushes them to avoid

bushfire and forest destruction as they protect beehives as sources of incomes. Bee farming gives them a source of livelihood from the sale of honey and makes them see the importance to protect the forest. 347 persons from groups, especially women and children were trained on bee farming and 417 beehives were constructed and distributed at subsidized rates.

Environmental sensitization has been carried out through Oku Community Radio, during holiday workshops and field visits to the forest with schools and community members. The population has been sensitized on the importance of the forest, ways to conserve it, services that forest provides to humanity, as carbon sink that mitigate climate change and provider of environmental services. CAMGEW have also been carrying out environmental education in schools to instil in students the need to grow up with love for forest and mature community members to change their behaviour toward the forest.

What are CAMGEW prospects for coming months?

For coming months, CAMGEW needs to take care of the 44.000 trees planted in the forest during the last years. We will train more or less 180 new people on bee farming and construct 100 beehives that will be distribute to trained persons for colonization and mounting in the forest.

Environmental education will continue and 150 farmers will be trained on agro-forestry techniques in order to better manage the forest surrounding landscape to get more food, promote bee farming and prevent erosion.

Support will be provided to bee farmers to create and manage 4 new honey cooperatives in order to improve honey quality and marketing. A support will also be provided to help bee farmers market their bee wax from the forest.



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Page publications



Partnership for
nature and people

Birdlife is seeking a Africa Marine Policy Officer. Find the advert on : <http://www.birdlife.org/job/africa-marine-policy-officer> .

Deadline for submitting is the **9th January 2016**



The Tour du Valat is seeking a senior Research Scientist

The *Tour du Valat* is a private foundation working for the research and conservation of Mediterranean wetlands. Founded in 1954 by Dr Luc Hoffmann and based in the Camargue,

it is at the cutting edge of multidisciplinary fields of research, building bridges between science, management and public policies, and drawing up management plans. The Tour du Valat has internationally recognized scientific expertise, and provides practical responses to problems regarding the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources. The Tour du Valat's projects are carried out in the Camargue and around the Mediterranean Basin.

With its 2600-hectare estate, the *Tour du Valat* has laboratories, experimental field sites and offices surrounded by wetlands and various other Mediterranean habitats. It has developed a wide range of local, national, and international partnerships. The *Tour du Valat* research teams work in close collaboration with several national and international research centers, in particular the nearby universities and CNRS (national scientific research centers) of Montpellier and Marseille, the Edward Grey Institute (Oxford), and the Doñana Biological Station (CSIC, Sevilla).

The Tour du Valat is managing the project "Observatory of Mediterranean Wetlands" which has been designed as a decision support tool developed under the MedWet Initiative and the Ramsar Convention. Using a series of themes and indicators, the Observatory produces syntheses on the status and trends of Mediterranean wetlands, analyzes the causes and consequences of changes in biodiversity and the services provided (<http://medwet.org/fr/publications/>). It works across the Mediterranean basin with declinations at in the regional, national and local scales. Policy makers are the main target of the transfer.

The **Tour du Valat** employs 60 people, including 10 researchers and about ten Ph.D. or other students.

For further information on the **Tour du Valat** visit: <http://www.tourduvalat.org/en>

The **Tour du Valat** is seeking a senior research scientist to develop its Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory project

His/her main tasks will be to develop a research and transfer program in the framework of the Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory, concentrating on ecological services.

The candidate should show:

1. An extensive and recognized expertise in the field of ecological services. This expertise should be supported by international scientific publications on the subject;
2. A capacity for analysis and synthesis, as well as excellent writing skills in French and English for different audiences;
3. Leadership with very good interpersonal skills and team building capacity and an ability to raise funds for the implementation of the project.

The selected candidate should have:

- A PhD in a relevant subject;
- Solid experience in research and research funding;
- A demonstrated interest in applied research and conservation and good writing skills in French and English.

The following capacities are also sought:

- Knowledge of the Mediterranean context ;
- Knowledge of issues related to wetland conservation;
- Fluency of languages other than French and English, including Arabic, Spanish...

Annual Salary: according to experience (CCNA convention)

Working location: Tour du Valat, Camargue, France, with occasional overseas travel, particularly in the Mediterranean basin.

Starting date: immediately

How to apply:

Send the application file to daubigney@tourduvalat.org (ref: TdV-2015-SR) by **10 January 2016**, with:

- a cover letter;
- a resume/CV
- a list of publications;
- a research program proposition (max. 2 pages);
- the names and contact details of three references (with e-mail addresses), including a recent employer.

The shortlisted applicants will be invited for an interview at the end of January 2016. They will make a short presentation of their research and their proposed program to the selection committee. Travelling expenses can be reimbursed at the applicant's request.

For any questions concerning the application procedure, please contact Florence Daubigney (daubigney@tourduvalat.org.)

Webinar and publication: African protected area solutions to climate change

IUCN-GPAP

A new IUCN publication, launched at the UN climate change conference in Paris and funded in partnership with Papaco, highlights specific examples of how African protected areas can help communities and ecosystems adapt to climate change. A **webinar** will be held on the 28th January, where some of the authors will introduce their solutions and discuss them with the audience. Contact Marie Fischborn (marie.fischborn@iucn.org) to sign up for the webinar!

The book, African Solutions in a Rapidly Changing World, includes a selection of solutions – offered by African marine and terrestrial protected areas – to reduce climate vulnerability and increase natural and community resilience.

Even though Africa is one of the continents most affected by climate change, Africans have coped with unpredictable and highly variable environments over millennia, and many countries and communities have developed nature-based solutions for adapting to environmental uncertainty. Protected areas can play a key role in securing healthy ecosystems, which provide natural barriers to disasters, store carbon and support local communities.



The new publication showcases solutions from across the African continent and Western Indian Ocean region, and was launched at the Climate COP in Paris. The publication is part of IUCN's Panorama initiative, which assembles case studies showcasing how protected areas can provide solutions to some of today's global challenges, including climate change.

During the webinar session on **28th January (time tbc)**, some of the publication's authors will present and discuss their solutions in an interactive setting. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about locally managed marine area management in Madagascar, restoration of degraded lands in Senegal's Saloum Delta, and mangrove restoration for carbon offsetting in Kenya! The webinar will also be an opportunity to find out more about the Panorama initiative, and ways in which you can contribute to it.

To learn more about the [webinar](#)
Or to download the [publication](#)
(also available on www.papaco.org)
And learn more about the [Panorama initiative](#)
Please contact marie.fischborn@iucn.org



WCS is looking for a project director for Conkouati Douli national park in Congo

Conkouati-Douli National Park (CDNP) is the most ecologically diverse national park in the Republic of Congo, spanning 5,050 square kilometers from the Atlantic coast to inland mountain and savannah. Habitats range from beaches, littoral forest, mangroves, large lagoons and inland lakes surrounded by wetland forests to a mountain chain with dense tropical forest. CDNP has been managed by the Ministry of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development (MEFDD) in partnership with WCS since 2000, just after its creation. A focus on building up protection efforts and management capacity and infrastructure, has transformed the park into one teaming with wildlife 15 years after its creation, rendering CDNP a growing tourist destination and an important conservation success story in Central Africa. The WCS project director reports to the WCS-Congo Country Director and works closely with the Congolese government appointed representatives to coordinate conservation activities in CDNP and surrounding landscape. The Project Director is based in the field, living permanently on-site at the park

headquarters, in Conkouati Douli NP. The general responsibilities will be:

- Manage the day to day operations of the Project in collaboration with associated Ministry staff
- Assist government counterpart with development and oversight of protection strategy (including terrestrial and marine ecoguards), research program (including annual turtle monitoring), socio-economic outreach, and tourism development
- Implementation of annual work plans and budgets
- Assure that all contracts, accords and conventions related to the park are followed.
- Build and maintain relationships with Government and Community partners, and other key stakeholders
- Ensure recruitment, training, mentoring, and management of project staff.
- Work with cross-border partners to assess cross-border threats
- Identify potential funders and develop proposals to secure funding for the Conkouati Douli Project
- Assist the Project Administrator to arrange purchasing, logistics, monthly payroll, and other administrative activities.

Qualification requirements:

- MSc or PhD in Conservation Biology, Ecology or related field + at least 5 year experience conducting or overseeing a conservation project in Africa
- Proven ability to work with national and local organizations + experience working in Africa.
- Good communication skills, both written and verbal. English & French required.
- Effective "roll up the sleeves" work ethic, with attention to detail.

Interested candidates should apply by sending an application letter and CV together with the names and contact information of three referees to the addresses below not later than **January 30th, 2016**. Please include "WCS Project Director, Conkouati Douli National Park" in the subject line of your email addressed to: africaapplications@wcs.org with a copy to apokempner@wcs.org

NAPA – CONTACTS

www.papaco.org and www.iucn.org

geoffroy.mauvais@iucn.org
beatrice.chataigner@iucn.org
marion.langrand@iucn.org

Program on African Protected Areas & Conservation
PAPACO - Program Officer
PAPACO – Program Officer

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