

My name is Bidéname Kedjeji, I am from Togo. I have served actively in the Togolese forest administration for 7 years, from 2006 to 2013. For personal reasons but also with the intention of making a career change, in 2013, I started taking a series of courses to develop and gain new skills. I got a Masters (2013-2015) in Ecosystem and tropical forest environmental management at AgroParisTech Centre in France. I am currently in Quebec where I am studying for a diploma in International Environment. Occasionally, as a volunteer, I take part in activities of nature protection organisations such as the Nature Conservancy in Quebec.

## EM-MOOC: PARTICIPANTS' PERSPECTIVES



### ***Why are you doing the MOOC? Why ecological monitoring?***

I am doing this MOOC to stay informed of what is happening in terms of protected area management, mainly in Africa. It helps me to gain knowledge on biodiversity conservation through effective protected areas management.

Why ecological monitoring? Because I think it is an aspect that is too often neglected in protected area management in Africa, especially in Togo. I intend to make professional move to this field which is key for an effective and efficient conservation of flagship natural resources or values of protected areas.

### ***Any word of advice for those who just started or haven't signed up for the class yet?***

I encourage those who have already enrolled to persevere and finish the course. I try to apply this advice myself, because there always comes a time when you want to give up and give priority to other things. But it is important to set a schedule based on your availabilities, to clear one or two hours, two or three times a week, to watch the videos and do the quizzes, and to deal with the exam in separate bits if you can't finish it in one stretch. You can also set a part a day of the weekend.

Finally, I urge people who haven't signed up yet to join the MOOC, because the training is of good quality and in addition, it's free. It *is* worth taking this opportunity.

