



NAPA News from African Protected Areas

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Optimism



April was a month of paradoxes. A month like any other in the small world of conservation, one would say. It started off poorly, with the American President's decision to authorize wolf and bear hunting in Alaska (even those still hibernating in their burrows). The decision may see marginal (seen from Africa) but it reveals lobbies' ability to influence the billionaire's risky decisions – a billionaire for whom, and this is an understatement, the environment is not a priority. These same lobbies will soon use their full strength in favor of raking the last trophies in Africa, for the benefit of a selfish handful, perhaps even President Trump's own family -since his sons seem to have taken an interest in the matter. Obviously, we will be told that killing rare species is the best way to conserve them, a statement which would not necessarily be totally false – if only the hunting industry actually changed its mode of governance to increase transparency, and if its "conservationist" pretensions did not serve to hide the mere creation of permits to kill. This situation is difficult to imagine, given how opaque elitism characterizes the hunting industry. But let's be optimistic...

Optimism is precisely what was discussed in London at the end of the month at the Conservation Optimism Summit (www.conservationoptimism.org). The vision of the summit was that "conservation is too often seen as a discipline of crisis, in which bad news predominate. While nature is facing enormous challenges ... there are many positive

stories where conservation has made a difference in people's lives and the status of wilderness. Progress, at this moment, tends to be eclipsed by negativity... We believe this is counterproductive. Conservationists... must feel inspired, not be depressed by pessimism. The public, business and government must know that their actions can make a difference. With this summit, we aim to reform the conservation movement by celebrating positive thinking..."

This is a great initiative and its impacts will have to be monitored and measured. It is true that we all tend to be overwhelmed by the catastrophes that surround us, and they abound. When we see the challenge as too great, too impossible to overcome, we lower our shoulders and move on. This apathy of the greatest number, understandable in light of human nature, ruins the efforts of those who keep struggling. And too often, we forget great initiatives that display humanity's incredible ability to change the world, hopefully for the best. The NAPA has often echoed these beautiful stories: let's recall our 22 champions at the World Parks Congress in 2014, our training offers that have been growing since 2010, the Green List since 2012, small local initiatives since 2006, and so on. But also, today, the enthusiastic report that came to us from visitors who went recently to the Pendjari National Park (see page 4).

Conservation is probably a rather romantic perception of the world around us. Conservation is no neutral matter, and no one can engage in this practice coldly, treating it like any other topic. In this sense, conservation generates and concentrates love, hate, passion, disappointment, agreement, opposition, energy, lassitude, optimism or

pessimism ... This is not abnormal. Let us stay wary of any naïve optimism which would be just as damaging as cynicism (see the editorials of the NAPA n° 74 and n° 80). And if hope prevails over passivity, and if it opens doors that so far have been closed, then let us hurry!

Papaco is also on:



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

And on:



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

Please also visit the IUCN-GPAP (IUCN global PA program) webpage and read the newsletter:
<https://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/our-work/newsletter>

OUR ONSITE TRAININGS



The 13th University Diploma has started in Ouagadougou



Our annual onsite training (University Diploma), organized with the Senghor University (Egypt – Francophonie) has started on the 3rd of April in Ouagadougou: 19 students coming from 8 countries (Benin, Burkina, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo) will be working together for eight weeks including 2 in the field (Nazinga Game Reserve). This is the 13th time we organize this training...

You can find more on our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/IUCNpapaco>



OUR ONLINE TRAININGS



A few testimonials from students currently inscribed to the MOOC on Ecological Monitoring



I am Manala Maurice Nicolas, a forestry worker by trade (Master's degree), and I work in the field of nature conservation. I started off working in conservation NGOs

(Wildlife Conservation Society: 2012 to 2015 and Gilman International Conservation: 2009 to 2010) and moved on to joining the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN), a public institution managing protected areas in RD Congo.



Nicolas, working on the statistics (module 2)...

Why are you doing the MOOC on ecological monitoring?

Even though I have 7 years' experience in nature conservation, I have only ever followed one course on biological inventories. The EM-MOOC is an opportunity for me to strengthen my skills, which is very important because I am a research assistant in the research and monitoring program within my PA (Wildlife Reserve in Okapi). Specifically, I would like to acquire more technical skills in terms of ecological monitoring, inventory etc.

Any word of advice for those who just started?

The content of this MOOC is very rich, and I think it can be understood by anyone interested in nature conservation. It requires good concentration, and you have to get to work from day one.



I am Alphonse Ngniado Wouala, a forest manager, and I work as Senior Forest Officer for the WWF in Cameroon and its *South-East Jengi* program.

What are your expectations from this MOOC?

I hope to gain knowledge that will help me develop suitable protocols for wildlife monitoring in forest concessions on the outskirts of national parks. I also want to be able to identify threats on time, and to give relevant solutions to the different stakeholders.

Where and how do you follow the course?

I follow the courses online in the evening after work, and on week-ends when I have internet access.

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

Follow the courses, but don't forget to read the documents online and do further internet research. For young graduates, the MOOC is a good course if you intend to be involved in the conservation of natural resources in general, and specifically in protected area management. For those who already work in the field, this is the opportunity to update your knowledge.

My name is Essofa Zimari, an official of the forest administration of Togo, and hence a protector of the environment. I am currently enrolled in a forestry and protected area management course at the National School of Water and Forestry (ENEF) in Burkina, for two years.



Why are you doing the MOOC on ecological monitoring?

I am taking the MOOC on ecological monitoring as it coincides with my profession as a protected area manager, and adds to the training I am undergoing at the ENEF, dealing with wildlife inventory and management, and ecology. This MOOC has taught me a lot and deals with aspects we haven't had the chance to cover in our classes here.

After this MOOC, I hope the certificate will make me stand out from my colleagues who haven't followed the training.

Any word of advice for those who just started?

Taking this course is in your best interest - this is what I tell my forestry colleagues. I was the first in my school to enroll to a Papaco MOOC (the MOOC-GAP in 2015), but there are now more of us as I encouraged other students to join.

Find more information about both our **MOOCs** (PA management and ecological monitoring) on www.papaco.org, at the page « trainings »

Also, join our **Group MOOCs** on **Facebook**: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/208309996241190/>

And like our papaco **Facebook** page <https://www.facebook.com/IUCNpapaco>

Our MOOCs are developed in cooperation with the *Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne*



Join the MOOC on PA management!

Direction 4 of the Roadmap for African PAs

A new session of our **MOOC** (massive open online course) on **Protected Areas management** is online **until end of June**. The course is **free** and is organized in **7 modules**. Successful learners get a **Certificate** at the end of the course. Join us now!

Register on:

<http://papaco.org/enroll-to-the-mooc-gap/>

Watch the teaser:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10SQ2DRGWOQ>

This session of the MOOC on PA management will be open until end of June 2017



Join the MOOC on Ecological monitoring!

Direction 4 of the Roadmap for African PAs

A new session of our **new MOOC** on **Ecological Monitoring** is starting on the **2nd of May 2017**. The course is **free** and is organized in **4 modules** that can be followed at your own pace.

Register on:

<http://papaco.org/how-to-join-the-em-mooc/>

Watch the teaser:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TbXrSO5_Ktg&feature=youtu.be

This session of the MOOC on ecological monitoring will be open until end of June 2017

Conservation in action in West Africa! Feedback from a visit to Pendjari National Park (Benin)

Text and pictures by Patricia and Benoît Lebeurre - January 2017 - Lomé (Togo)

Twenty-nine!

This is the number of lions we saw in a week's time - more than once for some - males, females and cubs combined. We visited Pendjari National Park for the first time thirty years ago, and last time we were there was in January. So to say the least, these figures are compelling...



Besides, lions weren't the only animals we encountered, there were buffaloes as well. Herds would come out of the straw fields, and form one gigantic frontline before getting in line and make their way towards the water.



There were also herds of elephants gathering around the waterhole, moving about until it was their turn to bathe. Every single one of them would spend the exact same amount of time in the water – not a second shorter, not a second longer than the group going before or after.



One morning, a group of elephants went to the waterhole by forming a compact rotating block, with the baby elephants squeezed in the middle. This way, the herd was protecting its offspring from the big crocodiles who, the night before, intimidated a young female to the point of making her charge – she then left, followed by her group, trumpeting with fury, without even going to drink.

In terms of strategy, a professional army wouldn't have done better.



We also came across plenty of roan antelopes and hartebeests accompanied by their little ones almost every times we were out.



Not to mention kobs of all kinds, waterbucks, bushbucks, duikers and oribi, surely in smaller numbers except for the former, but they were also walking around freely. We also spotted a serval for a moment.



Seeing as many animals from so many different species in West Africa, in 2017, is a true privilege, and allows us to be witnesses of the conservation of these natural resources. It also prompts us to congratulate and encourage the different management teams in and around the park who, through their work over the past couple of years, have managed to obtain this beautiful conservation result!



IUCN launches a new programme to help carnivores and humans coexist across Africa

IUCN press release (extracts) - 6 April 2017

Protecting lions, cheetahs and other iconic African species by helping local communities coexist with these predators is the goal of a new 12 million euro programme, funded by the European Commission, to be managed by IUCN's SOS - Save Our Species initiative.

The new programme aims primarily to halt the decline of lions, leopards, cheetahs, wild dogs and Ethiopian wolves, increasingly threatened by poaching, habitat fragmentation and human

encroachment on wild habitats. Made possible by funding from the European Commission's B4Life initiative, the SOS African Wildlife project will enable coordinated conservation work across the species' natural habitats. A call for project proposals is now open inviting civil society organisations to apply.

*"We are extremely grateful for the support from the European Commission," says **Jean-Christophe Vié, Deputy Director Global Species Programme and SOS Director**. "This new programme is an important step in the journey of helping people build resilience and wealth by cherishing their unique natural heritage. It will help us protect Africa's fast-disappearing apex predators as well as their main prey species, large ecosystems and support local livelihoods."*



The African lion (*Panthera leo*) is classified as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List. Lions exist at low densities, have very large home ranges and can be amazingly elusive, which makes them difficult to count. Additionally, individual recognition is not as easy as in other large cats. As many important lion populations have never been properly surveyed, and given the rates of decline in surveyed populations, the number of wild lions is believed to be close to 20,000.

Despite successful conservation action in southern Africa, the lion (*Panthera leo*) remains listed as globally Vulnerable by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ due to declines in other regions across Africa. A recent study determined that just 7,100 cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*) remain in the wild. Meanwhile, only 500 Endangered Ethiopian wolves (*Canis simensis*) survive, confined to isolated mountain ranges in Ethiopia's highlands. Leopards are also declining in most of their range.

The new programme will enable coordinated conservation action by financing a portfolio of conservation projects undertaken by civil society organisations across the continent. It will address human-wildlife conflict, which is at the root of much of the decline, by generating alternative livelihoods for local communities. It will also contribute to ensuring the long-term survival of smaller carnivores and prey species such as various antelope species by empowering civil society organisations which will work with relevant authorities and involve local communities in finding solutions to prevent their extinction.

The cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) is globally listed as Vulnerable by the IUCN Red List. Cheetahs are well-adapted to dry conditions and were formerly

found in savannahs and arid environments right across Africa. However, the cheetah only remains in 10% of its historic range in Africa.

Its range is increasingly fragmented and highly restricted. A large part of the current cheetah population lives outside protected areas in regions where lions and spotted hyenas have been extirpated and hence faces more conflicts with human land-use than any other large cat. All known cheetah populations are relatively small and for many countries their numbers are not properly surveyed. The number of mature individuals is estimated at approximately 7,000 animals and the number of subpopulations at 29.



Concrete outputs expected include increases in the populations of species targeted by each project and in critical habitat area as well as the reduction of direct threats and conflicts.

Co-Chair of the IUCN Cat Specialist Group Urs Breitenmoser says: "Conserving lions, leopards and cheetahs will help us conserve other species. Meanwhile, we will have to address a broad range of threats and conflicts and involve many parts of society in different ways depending on the species in question".

The SOS African Wildlife programme will support anti-poaching efforts which comply with the aims of the EU Action Plan against wildlife trafficking. This will be achieved by ensuring smaller projects funded through SOS are complementary to larger projects which will be directly supported by the European Commission to implement its strategic approach to Wildlife Conservation in Africa, "Larger than Elephants".



The leopard (*Panthera pardus*) is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. Populations have strongly decreased, suffering from habitat loss and fragmentations, prey loss and poaching for the illegal wildlife trade and it has vanished from large parts of its historic range across North, East and West Africa. The leopard is, compared to the other large cats, a neglected species and robust data is only available for a tiny fraction of its range.

Claudio Sillero-Zubiri, Chair of the IUCN SSC Canid Specialist Group, says: “On the roof of Africa a few hundred Ethiopian wolves - Africa’s rarest and most threatened carnivore species - survive against the odds in tiny mountain enclaves. In contrast, wild dogs require vast areas across Sub-Saharan Africa to eke out a living. The destiny of these iconic carnivores inevitably depends on diminishing prey populations, the advance of the agriculture frontier and our ability to protect them from resulting conflicts. SOS African Wildlife offers a great opportunity to empower and support dedicated organisations and individuals across Africa to protect these threatened carnivores and the habitats they represent.”

The Ethiopian wolf (*Canis simensis*) – an elegant long-legged Endangered canid – is currently confined to seven isolated mountain ranges of the Ethiopian highlands, at altitudes of 3,000–4,500 metres above sea level. Some 500 survive today in small populations, threatened by loss of highland habitats, disease and persecution.

The new programme builds on the experience and results of the first five-year phase of IUCN’s SOS - Save Our Species in which over 100 grants were awarded to support the conservation of 250 threatened species worldwide since 2010. It also complements IUCN’s Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme funded by the German

government, initiated in 2014, as well as the recently announced [SOS Lemurs initiative](#). These first five years of conservation action under SOS achieved important results in the protection of numerous threatened species.



The African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*) is an Endangered species of generalist pack-hunting canid that preys on animals such as antelope larger than individual dogs. The largest populations remain in southern Africa and the southern part of East Africa. Population densities in well-studied areas suggest that 3,000–5,500 free-ranging wild dogs remain in Africa. Population size is continuing to decline as a result of ongoing conflict with human activities, infectious diseases and habitat fragmentation

For more information please contact:
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About SOS – Save Our Species

SOS – Save Our Species is an initiative led by IUCN. It was founded by IUCN, the Global Environment Facility and the World Bank. It is a global partnership aiming at joining forces to ensure the long-term survival of threatened wildlife, their habitats and the people who depend on them by supporting civil society organisations. It is IUCN’s response to the Red List of Threatened Species™ mobilizing IUCN unique knowledge and expertise from more than 11,000 experts forming the Species Survival Commission. Over the years SOS was joined by a number of different partners including foundations, individuals, bilateral and multilateral donors as well as the private sector.

About SOS: www.SaveOurSpecies.org

Apply for a grant: <http://saveourspecies.org/our-work/apply-grant>

Download SOS 5 Year Report:
<https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/46240>

IUCN-Papaco is looking for testimonies about corruption

We are currently preparing a new online course and it will be about “law enforcement” in protected areas. One module will deal with corruption and what it represents in parks and reserves. We would like to have testimonies from people who have actually been confronted with this problem to illustrate the course with good case studies. Some of the questions we wish to cover are, for example:

- i) Were you ever asked to close your eyes on a breach of a conservation law against payment? How did you react? Have you talked about it?
- ii) Have you been threatened and obliged to commit a breach in your protected area's regulations?
- iii) Did you encounter any problems following a denunciation you made? Did you lose your job because of your reaction?
- iv) Have you ever noticed that representatives of the authority of your PA/region/country may have voluntarily violated conservation laws? Have you denounced them? What has happened?
- v) Have any of your colleagues or superiors violated these laws? How did you react?
- vi) Have you been pressured by administrative or judicial bodies seeking to quash any denunciations you may have made against people with wealth or power? Etc.

If you have any story to share, please contact us directly at geoffroy.mauvais@iucn.org. This will remain strictly confidential and we will discuss how to use (or not!) the information (anonymously or not according to your choice). If you know people who can give us interesting testimonies, please ask them to contact us.

Thanks in advance



JOB OFFER

Rwanda Country Director

Based in Kigali, Rwanda with frequent travel in Rwanda, Central, East and Southern Africa, and to WCS Global Conservation Program Headquarters in NY.

The primary focus of the Country Program is to work in partnership with the Rwanda Government to protect globally significant biodiversity and the critical natural resource base within and outside of protected areas. This includes a diverse set of actions that span from directly supporting the management of Nyungwe National Park as a cornerstone of WCS's historical engagement in Rwanda, to helping the Rwanda government accomplish its goal of achieving green, sustainable development by 2050. Additional priorities include insuring close collaboration with the Rwanda Government to support their new initiatives, connecting them with new WCS-launched initiatives, and insuring constructive and mutually beneficial relationships with local communities. Similarly, the Country Director must be able to lead and manage a team of highly motivated staff and sustain the fundraising needed to support the program.

Core Responsibilities

- Lead the WCS country program in Rwanda in consultation with the Africa Program team based in NY.
- Act as legal representative of WCS in Rwanda, working with the WCS Office of General Counsel.
- Act as political representative of WCS in Rwanda with all government partners including the Rwanda government, and bilateral donors/agencies.
- Represent the WCS Rwanda Program to donors, the press, the Government of Rwanda, and other internal and external stakeholders.
- Develop and manage the WCS Rwanda Country Program budget and prepare and implement annual workplans and associated budgets.
- Fundraise from public and private sources for the Rwanda Program in collaboration with other WCS fundraising teams.
- Prepare annual country reports and oversee preparation of reports on projects and for donors.
- Collaborate with other WCS initiatives including but not limited to the WCS Species Program and Conservation Solutions team.

See **required qualifications** on the website. Interested candidates should apply by emailing an application letter and CV together with the names and contact information of three references to: africaapplications@wcs.org by **May 15, 2017** deadline. Include “Rwanda Country Director” in the subject line of your email. Candidates must also apply online via the WCS career portal by searching job title at: <http://www.wcs.org/about-us/careers>.

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