



# NAPA News from African Protected Areas

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en Afrique

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## Edito

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### Oceans of plastic



I am incredibly fortunate to regularly visit the island of Aldabra, a small coral atoll of the Seychelles. The island's remoteness has preserved it from human hands, as it lays peacefully in the middle of the Indian Ocean, miles away from the closest land. I can imagine, or at least I hope there are other places like this on earth, or rather at sea - but in my mind, this little and delicate piece of land is the closest depiction of paradise I can possibly imagine. Once you set foot on the island, you clearly need to accept sharing the beach with other animals, from enormous lazy tortoises to small rails – some deeply facetious non-flying birds - not to mention the armies of giant red-clawed crabs immersing at night from who knows where. The lagoon is an immense and translucent aquarium where you swim your way through bales of turtles, fevers of rays and schools of sharks and fish all coming in the most extravagant array of shapes and sizes. Despite all this, wherever on Aldabra you may be, there isn't a single spot where you feel unwelcome.

Aldabra is a protected area, and it demonstrates the relevance of keeping an ecosystem in the most natural state possible. This mission is carried out successfully by the group managing the island: the Seychelles Islands Foundation (SIF).

Everything would go wonderfully if it weren't for a reality even the most benevolent and resolute spirits can't beat: pollution - especially when

caused by floating wastes, mostly plastic. Some beaches of the atoll that are exposed to marine currents are often covered in thousands, if not millions of plastic pieces: flip-flops, lighters (it's amazing how many lighters float in the sea!), buoys, bottles, bags, tires, clothes, nets... and an unimaginable amount of random multicolor plastic pieces. In some areas, these debris form artificial dunes where no life can prosper, thereby spoiling the purity of a place so pristine.

This reality is depressing, disgusting, shocking...there are no other words to say this.

In June, a special United Nations conference was held on this topic - proof that the situation is *that* serious. The goal was to set the conditions to achieving sustainable development objective #14 which is "to conserve and sustainably exploit oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development". To meet this target, the basic requirement is to have healthy oceans; well, we are very far from this.

Estimates show that over 150 million tons of plastic waste currently float in the oceans, an amount that could possibly double by 2050 and lead to a simple yet dramatic equation: a larger mass of plastic than of fish in the sea. This is unimaginable isn't it? Thus, we already know that due to currents, this waste is already clustered in large areas called, not without irony, the seventh continent (!) because of their incredible sizes. One single part of this continent, in the North Pacific, already covers over 3.5 million km<sup>2</sup>.

Marine fauna is entangled in plastic, it chokes, drowns, it is poisoned, cut up, slashed...and the

sea gradually becomes an environment hostile to its own life. Consequently, to ours too.

The situation is undeniably urgent, and the protection of more marine and coastal areas, in other words the creation of more marine protected areas will certainly help. But it will take much more to reverse the toxic trajectory on which we are set. This NAPA reports on a number of local-level initiatives to address this challenge. Let's hope they multiply in the future ... faster than the waste itself!



A view from Aldabra

Papaco is also on:



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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 ended in Ouagadougou

Our thirteen University Diploma (a 8-week onsite training course for West Africa PA managers) has ended. Nineteen students, coming from 8 countries (Benin, Burkina, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo) have graduated! They received their diploma during a formal closing ceremony (see picture below). This edition was fully funded by the [Fondation MAVA](#).

You can follow them now on our Facebook page (IUCNPapaco) or on the MOOC/Training group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/208309996241190/>

Our next University Diploma? It will be organized in **April 2018**... Stay tuned, we will recruit in October.



The UD closing ceremony in Ouagadougou

### The fifth Master's Degree on PA management terminated in Alexandria

Twenty students have passed successfully their Master's Degree in Alexandria (Senghor University - Egypt). This was the fifth time we organize this master class. Five of the students were directly funded by IUCN-Papaco (with the generous support of the [Fondation MAVA](#)) and you'll find them on the pic next page. The valedictorian is one of them, Omar Kabore, from Burkina Faso!

The next Master's Degree starts in **September 2017**... and a few additional students should join also in the second year (M2) in 2018.





The five students supported by IUCN-Papaco – Congrats!

## OUR ONLINE TRAININGS



Both our current MOOCs (Protected Areas Management and Ecological Monitoring) will start again in September (on the 18<sup>th</sup>). But you can already register to be fully ready by then!

### MOOC on Protected Areas management:

**Register on:**

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

**Watch the teaser:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10SQ2DRGWoQ>

### MOOC on Ecological Monitoring:

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

Find more information about both our MOOCs (PA management and ecological monitoring) on [www.papaco.org](http://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*



## BLUE SOLUTIONS FROM AFRICA

*This NAPA presents a few of the solutions that have been identified during the third regional forum on solutions for Oceans, Coasts and human Wellbeing in Africa, held in 2016. For more information, please refer to [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org) or visit this [page](#). You'll find there the full stories, relevant contacts and explanations about what to learn from these solutions and how to apply them in your own context...*

From outer space the earth has a remarkable, blue appearance originating from the huge amount of water on the planet. The ocean covers over two-thirds of the globe's surface and plays a crucial role in almost all natural processes. In addition to supplying people with food, clean air and climate stability, millions rely on marine and coastal biodiversity for their food security, income and socio-cultural and economic development. But the ocean and coasts are under stress from pressures such as overexploitation of resources or pollution, intensified through climatic change impacts. Response to these threats is often limited due to a lack of regulation and enforcement, insufficient management and governance or limited awareness.



By focusing on holistic, successful approaches for sustainable management and conservation of marine and coastal resources, the Blue Solutions Initiative helps to address challenges in the coastal

and marine realm. The global project collates documents and promotes so called “blue solutions” – successful case studies from all over the world – with the objective to inspire, share knowledge and support a worldwide exchange of replicable ideas to accelerate action for our ocean.

*Blue Solutions is funded through the International Climate Initiative (ICI) as a contribution of the German Environment Ministry (BMUB) and is being implemented jointly by GIZ, GRID-Arendal, IUCN and UNEP.*



The publication compiles 32 blue solutions from Africa, most of which were presented during the third forum on Ocean, Coast and Human Wellbeing. The selected solutions focus on topics such as marine protected areas, sustainable tourism, sustainable fisheries, sustainable livelihoods, conservation of resources and biodiversity as well as mitigation of the effects of climate change. It is an inspiring guide through Africa's activities and projects towards the protection and integrated, sustainable management of its valuable and vulnerable coast-al and marine ecosystems.

## IN CAMEROUN

### 1) Alternatives to mangrove degradation and improvement of women well-being

Every year Cameroon is currently losing more than 3,000 ha of its 250,000 ha of mangroves (400,000 ha following the handover of the Bakassi peninsula by Nigeria). 80% is used to smoke fish, an activity that many women in the coastal areas depend on for their livelihood. The solution implemented by the

Organization for the Environment and Sustainable Development (OPED) leads to the widespread use of improved energy-efficient smokerries and alternatives to mangrove trees as energy sources for smoking fish. It identifies ways of replicating the taste (using local aromatic plants) and color (smoking using fish scales) of fish smoked using mangrove trees. The initiative has led to a 70–80 % reduction in the use of mangrove trees, cut the women's workload by more than 60%, reduced eye and respiratory diseases as well as the traditional consumption of alcohol in an effort to combat the heat, and improved household hygiene and health.

**Testimonial from Jonas Kemajou Syapze from OPED:** “Cameroonian women traditionally use mangrove wood to smoke fish be-cause it gives the fish a good color and flavor. However, it was discovered that the women who were smoking the fish were placing huge pressure on the mangroves and exposing themselves to smoke and heat (the cause of respiratory and eye diseases, fever etc.). They had a heavy workload and a low income. We began working with groups of women on activities to protect the mangroves, trying to find ways to raise their income and reduce both their work-load and the adverse impact the fish smoking was having on their health. Together, the activities have modified the deforestation process, increased blue carbon stocks in the mangrove ecosystems in Kribi, raised the women's income and enhanced their well-being.”



### 2) Net-works

Net-Works is an innovative business that empowers people in fishing communities in Cameroon and the Philippines to collect and sell discarded nylon fishing nets, thereby removing these nets from lakes and oceans where they wreak havoc with aquatic life. The nets are then



sold into a global supply chain and recycled into yarn to make carpet tile. At the heart of Net-Works are the local community banks. Run by community members they provide access to finance, enabling people to save money and take out small loans. The banks also manage the local net supply chain: they organize coastal clean-ups, facilitate sales transactions and create »environment funds« to help finance local conservation projects. Since 2012 over 100 tons of waste nets have been collected through Net-Works, 900 families have been given access to finance and 60,000 people have benefitted from a healthier environment.

**Testimonial from Fanny Djomkam, who is the community coordinator for Net-Works in the Lake Ossa region of Cameroon. Her role involves working with communities to set up locally-managed savings groups and net collection activities.** *“Net-Works has benefitted local communities in many ways, but for me the biggest benefit has been the community banks or VSLAs (Village Savings and Loan Associations) as we call them locally. VSLAs have really helped to strengthen fisher communities. They provide a simple and effective mechanism that enables fishermen to organize themselves and manage their savings in a way that is clear and accountable. Where there may have been conflicts in the past, the VSLAs have helped communities come together in a spirit of cooperation. Fishermen committees are now working with the local administration to co-manage the lake and ensure the code of conduct for responsible fisheries is enforced. It’s brilliant to see them feeling so empowered.”*



## AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL IN WEST-AFRICA

### Africasaw – warning network to protect the sawfish

The sawfish, one of the most remarkable fish in West Africa, which can be found on all CFA franc banknotes, is classed as critically endangered. The solution has created a warning network to take swift, harmonized and coordinated action to protect this ray if it is captured (accidentally or intentionally); to draw up a map showing the spatial and temporal distribution of the species (*Pristis pristis* and *Pristis pectinata*); to inform the fishers and representatives at marine institutions about the status of these species and the ban on fishing and trade in these fish; to raise people’s awareness of the ecological and cultural importance of the sawfish to West Africa. Focal points can now respond, raise awareness and provide training in all of the six countries involved.



**Testimonial from Armelle Jung (Sharks and Humans - DRDH):** *“We contacted Salatou Sambou to ask him if he wanted to be the focal point for the AfricaSaw project in Casamance, a region historically important for sawfish. This gentleman, who was already working on setting up a Community Marine Protected Area, seemed to us the best person to raise the awareness of fishers in southern Senegal. The project is moving forward quickly and thanks to Sambou it’s been easier to establish contacts. One local resident mentioned seeing sawfish rostra a few years previously and Salatou managed to find the owner in a couple of days. We wanted to speak to radio station managers to record our messages, Salatou immediately found actors. Thanks to his efficiency, we were able to collect, investigate, raise awareness and train nearly 5,000 people in this important area for sawfish conservation.”*

## IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

### Sea turtle conservation and improving the well-being of residents

This solution has put an end to the poaching of sea turtles at Ivory Coast's largest nesting site, Mani-Kablaké beach in the west of the country. Thanks to the project implemented by CEM (Conservation of Marine Species) since 2013, turtle-hunting and nest destruction have been eradicated. Each year, more than 1,000 turtles and their nests are now protected. Local inhabitants have benefited from a solar-powered drinking water supply, solar-generated electricity, a renovated primary school and a cassava grinder. Ecotourism is developing in the region, partly thanks to the project. A customary law on turtle protection has been drafted using participatory procedures and has been approved by all stakeholders.

**Testimonial from Jose Gómez Peñate (CEM):** *"In 1995, while I was on holiday in Sassandra in the west of Côte d'Ivoire, I saw local residents poaching sea turtles at turtle nesting sites. There was no system in place to protect them even though sea turtles are listed as a protected species at national level. As a result, our association decided to make the protection of sea turtles a priority for biodiversity conservation in Côte d'Ivoire. A program was set up to raise awareness among local communities. Initiatives were developed to improve their living conditions in return for them ending the slaughter of these turtles and helping with the conservation efforts. The locals undertook to set up turtle protection committees and are now involved in night-time surveillance of females who come to lay their eggs on the beach, nest protection and the release of hatchlings"*



## IN KENYA

### Marine conservation entrepreneurship – from trash to trade

The quantity of marine debris is increasing world-wide and so is the damage caused by waste entering marine ecosystems. The main source of debris is land-based and goes back to poor waste management, lack of awareness and in small coastal communities also to limited livelihood opportunities beyond unsustainable practices. Ocean Sole is a marine conservation entrepreneurship model, which upcycles discarded flip-flops into products for sale, thus creating an economically viable enterprise, employing the skills of local artisans. Through this process Ocean Sole supports sustainable livelihood alternatives, skills improvements, waste collection and uses this to improve the establishment, management and expansion of local marine protected areas.



**Report -** In 1997 Julie Church, a marine conservationist from Kenya, was leading a conservation and development project and was situated on the remote Island of Kiwayu. Julie was horrified by the waste washing up onto the beaches creating an environmental disaster for the marine ecosystem and species. Inspired by the toys children were making out of the flip-flop debris, Julie encouraged their mothers to collect, wash, and cut the discarded flip-flops into colorful products. A large order from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Switzerland for 15,000 turtle key rings was received and the local women were empowered to create these from an estimated 1,000 kg of discarded flip-flops. This was the first step in "commercializing the business" and provided the first trade focused initiative that support the women and conservation in the Kiunga Marine National Reserve. It also resulted in the development of high quality products for sale to tourists in Kenya and socially responsible outlets through-out the world.

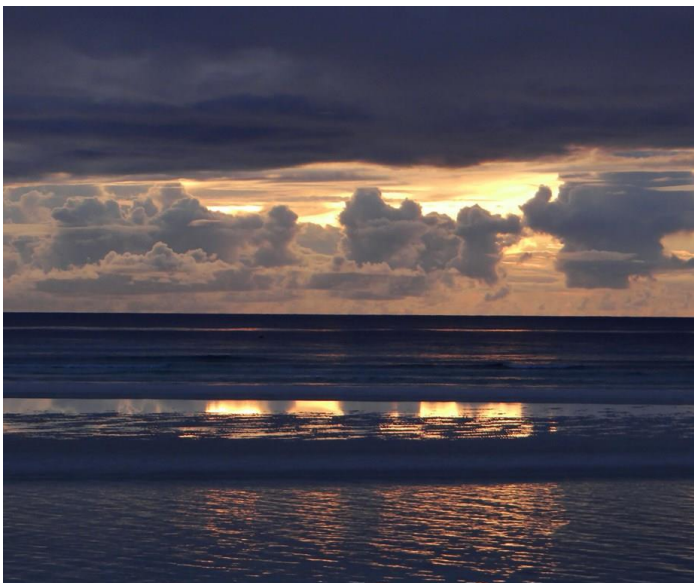


## IN MADAGASCAR

### Kick-starting marine conservation through local fisheries management

Declaring areas permanently off-limits to fishing all too often puts conservation at loggerheads with the needs of coastal communities, disenfranchising the people who depend on fisheries for their livelihoods. Along tropical coastlines, »Blue Ventures« works to overcome this challenge through the establishment of voluntary and temporary closures of octopus fishing grounds. They are used as a point of entry for community-based conservation. Closures typically cover 25% of a community's overall octopus fishing area and are in place for 2–3 months at a time. There is compelling evidence that this improves fishery yields and local incomes, thereby building community support to protect natural resources through locally managed marine areas that ban destructive fishing practices and often incorporate community-enforced no-take areas.

**Testimonial from Velvetine, a 60 year old octopus gleaner from Madagascar, speaking about her experience:** *“Octopus gleaning is the only way that I can earn money. Octopus is really the only seafood that we women can sell. Before we started doing octopus reserves, we were only catching two or three octopus in a day, and some days we wouldn't catch any at all. With the reserves we make a small sacrifice, but we can still glean on other reefs, and after waiting we catch more octopus – the catch is good in the days after openings. I have more money for food and for my family. For these reasons, I want to continue with the octopus reserves.”*



## IN MAURITANIA

### Sustainable governance of marine and coastal resources and territories

In the early 2000s the oil and gas sector started first exploitations in the exclusive economic zone of Mauritania. Soon after the first offshore oil field was discovered, an intense public debate started about environmental and social risks of this sector. Both, fishermen and industry now impact the marine environment and the cumulative effects increased the need for a sustainable, cross-sectorial marine spatial planning approach. That led to the development of the Program Biodiversity Oil and Gas (BGP). Through a collaborative and integrated approach the initiative collates data of the marine environment, develops and understanding for the ecological side-effects of human uses, designs technical tools to monitor activities, and implements corresponding policies.



**Testimonial from Moulaye Wagne researcher from the Laboratory of Marine and Coastal Environment Studies (LEMMC) of IMROP –** *“Since 2012, the Mauritanian Research Institute for Oceanography and Fisheries (IMROP), with other partners, is establishing an early warning system for micro-pollution. So far we have been sampling sediments, fish, bivalves, crabs, water four times a year and chemical as well as bioassays and biomarkers analyses. We take advantage of being in the field and all along the coastline to observe and record the stranding of cetaceans and turtles, and count sea bird populations. These moments are also an opportunity to train students and civil servants of the national parks. First of this type in Africa, this early warning system will enable the country to indirectly monitor industrial activities on the coast and at sea and make sure appropriate measures will be taken prior to any significant pollution or damage to the marine environment.”*



## IN SENEGAL

### Kawawana community conserved area: good life recovered through conservation

Kawawana (“our heritage to be preserved by us all”) is an estuarine territory where the ancient governance and management rules – renovated and agreed upon also by the municipal and regional governments – are finally again respected. With no financial support and limited in-kind outside support, the local fishermen govern, manage and provide much needed surveillance operations for their own Kawawana, which has dramatically recovered in quantity and quality of bio-diversity, fosters local food sovereignty (better diet and prosperity) and in part reversed the urban exodus. The practice of collective governance consolidates local solidarity. The community has learned sophisticated methodologies and regularly monitors

fishery and socio-economic results. Local interactive radio programs allow to dialogue with all who need to know and respect the rules.

**Report** - *At the dawn of the new millennium, uncontrolled fishery and ecosystem exploitation in the Rural Municipality of Mangagoulack (Casamance, Senegal) had basically depleted both livelihood resources and biodiversity. Empowered by the information that their country has internationally agreed (as part of the Convention on Biological Diversity) to support the territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities (in short, ICCAs), a local fishermen association established one of its own. While the success of Kawawana is nothing short of inspiring, the ongoing volunteering operations are taking a toll on the most generous members of the community. Ways to generate income to sustain surveillance and management operations will - sooner than later – need to emerge.*

**MORE on [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)**



## JOB OFFER

**WCS** is looking for a Project Director Okapi, Faunal Reserve in Democratic Republic of Congo

The purpose of this position is to provide overall co-ordination and responsibility for all WCS operations and budgets within the Okapi Faunal Reserve (OFR) and its buffer zone. The position is based in Epulu, the HQ of the Okapi Faunal Reserve, in Ituri Province and is open for 2 years with option for renewal. Deadline is 30<sup>th</sup> of July and the position is to start 1 September 2017.

To apply: please send a copy of your CV and a cover letter to: the WCS Africa Program at [africaapplications@wcs.org](mailto:africaapplications@wcs.org), and cc. [bthuaire@wcs.org](mailto:bthuaire@wcs.org) and mention OFR Project Director in your subject header.

For more info, follow this [link](#)

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