



Newsletter from African protected areas

#123, October 2018 — www.papaco.org



Editorial

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BLU IS NOW EXTINCT

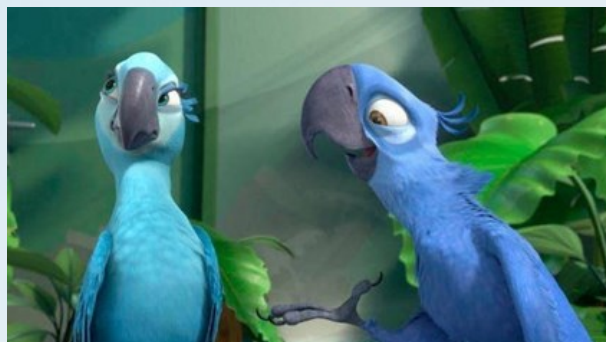
Last month, after several years of careful study, Birdlife International disclosed its conclusion that eight bird species are now officially extinct in the wild, if not extinct altogether.

First notable information, the species mentioned are not, as often was the case in the past, island species with limited numbers of individuals, limited distribution and thus at high risk of extinction. This time, five continental species are concerned (in Latin America) and this must be a warning sign, as they could be the first of a long series to come. As usual, the main causes are the destruction of their natural environment (in particular deforestation) and poaching, especially to feed the growing captive birds market.

The second notable point is the identity of one of these species: the Spix's Macaw (*Cyanopsitta spixii*). Does this name ring a bell? It doesn't yet it should. This macaw is the undisputed star of the movie "Rio", produced by 20th Century Fox and released in 2011. The film tells the story of Blu, a blue parrot (our macaw) who -from his small cage in Minnesota where he should never have been in the first place- returns to Brazil to seek love in a breeding center dedicated to the rescue of his species. After many adventures, he

finally succeeds, founding a lovely family that returns to the wild in the following episode. The film humorously describes the misadventures of poachers and traffickers who display great creativity to recover these rare birds. Fortunately, they are unsuccessful. Traffickers are, rightly, the villains of this story.

Those who seek out, buy, keep these parrots as companions? We do not see them. They are not villains, just absentees. And yet without their presence, no traffic.



© 20th Century Fox

Today, our only opportunity to save the species from complete extinction is to raise it for potential future reintroduction in the rainforest. Less than a hundred Macaws are still found in specialized centers which (one can reasonably hope) could achieve this result in the coming years. We can also hope that these centers only received animals seized during the fight against trafficking, or those abandoned by their indelicate "owners", and that they obviously have no part in the demand that led to the excessive poaching of the species. Will this be the case of all those who will be hailed in the future for having "saved the species"? Not so sure.

This is the paradox. Anyone can convince themselves that owning one specimen of a threatened species is ultimately not a big crime. That owning one or two pangolins doesn't make you responsible for their decline. But when ten million people think the same, we face a real problem. Even with the best intention in the world, sometimes even draped in the rightful cloth of science, under the blanket of "ex situ conservation", the need to put animals in captivity and, therefore, to have them captured at all costs in their natural environment contributes to their disappearance in nature. And thus, to the subsequent need to repair that fault.

It is not a coincidence if, in "Rio", Blu's owner found him by accident, in a box fallen from a truck (and can you imagine the likelihood of that happening on a snowy road in the USA?). Thus, she is not tainted by the original sin that would definitely destroy all the beauty of the story.

Guillermo Navarro

Our courses



Next MOOC session starts
17 September 2018
Register now!

The courses are OPEN TO ALL and completely FREE of charge, from registration to certification.

REGISTRATION: follow the instructions on papaco.org/how-to-join/.
The following courses are currently available:

		Coming soon: MOOC PA Valorisation
		Coming soon: MOOC New technologies

SPONSORING CONTEST

KEVIN, EMMANUEL and RICHARD are the winners of this year's edition of the SPONSORING CONTEST. They will be joining the PAPACO team for a couple of days in a SOUTH AFRICAN PARK. Kevin and Emmanuel's stories are in this NAPA, we will put Richard's in next month's NAPA.




THAT'S NOT IT!

The 2019 edition of the contest has started!

Encourage new student to enrol, and when they ask for their certificate, they simply need to mention you are their sponsor.

For more info: papaco.org/promote-moocs/

PAPACO is also on:

-  @Papaco IUCN
-  facebook /IUCNpapaco
-  LinkedIn

Also read: [monthly Protecting the Planet newsletter \(GPAP\)](#).

In addition to PAPACO's page, join the 5,000 members on the [Facebook group](#) dedicated to MOOCs.

All links and useful information is on papaco.org.

The best sponsors of 2018

Emmanuel, DRC.

My name is Lokpaka Bafalata Emmanuel, I am 25 years old and am from the Democratic Republic of Congo. In 2016, I graduated from Kisangani University (UNIKIS) in Forest Ecosystem Planning, and I am now busy with my Master's degree in the same university, specialising in biodiversity conservation. I am also the cofounder of an NGO (les ECO-PARTENAIRES Environnement) of which I am the treasurer. Conservation has a major place in my life, and I was immediately interested by the MOOCs proposed by IUCN and its partners. Thanks to these MOOCs, I am certain I will be of greater value in my future work.

I sponsored around 20 students (even though not all of them finished the MOOCs) because I wanted to help people wanting to receive training in the field of protected areas, and also to support PAPACO. This has allowed me to win a trip to South Africa. I am delighted as this is an opportunity for networking and to discover a South-African park. I thank you in advance!



KEVIN, BENIN.

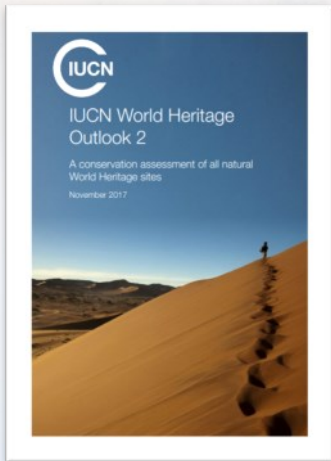
I am from Benin, and am an engineer in biodiversity and conservation, expert in protected area management and species conservation, I am a GIS specialist and a drone controller. I am also involved in many networks and projects related to protected areas, namely the Transfontier biosphere reserve project of the W-Arly-Pendjari region (RBT-WAP).

The conservation of resources and ecology are a passions that have a major place in my life, and it is one of the reasons that led me to do the MOOCs. They equipped me with better tools, with specific technical and scientific skills and improved my knowledge, thereby making me more operational in my mission of preserving biodiversity. My aim is to keep learning by doing the new MOOCs announced by PAPACO.

Biodiversity is seriously threatened and deserves special attention. This is why I sponsored students: to strengthen the skills of my coworkers so that they can better preserve our natural resources. The students in question were satisfied, and some of them have committed to sponsor other students themselves.

Featuring this month

About “IUCN World Heritage Outlook 2”



The IUCN World Heritage Outlook is the first global assessment of natural World Heritage. It evaluates the conservation prospects of all sites inscribed on the World Heritage List for their natural values, with every assessment available online (worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org) and a regular report presenting global and regional results.

This NAPA contains some excerpts of the report, the full report can be downloaded [here](#).

IUCN World Heritage Outlook 2 (excerpts)

Introduction

Natural World Heritage sites are internationally recognised as having the highest global nature conservation priority and include iconic places such as the Serengeti, Great Barrier Reef and Galápagos Islands. As of November 2017, the date of publication of this report, there are 241 natural and mixed (both cultural and natural) World Heritage sites, representing about 0.1% of the total number of protected areas globally, but yet with a total coverage of 294 million hectares, accounting for 8% of the combined surface of terrestrial and 6% of marine protected areas.

Through the World Heritage Convention, these renowned sites have the highest level of international visibility and provide a crucial insight into the successes and challenges on the frontlines of conservation. Monitoring World Heritage sites is therefore an extremely important barometer of the effectiveness of the global community's overall conservation effort.

In 2014 the IUCN World Heritage Outlook was launched, providing the first global assessment of the conservation prospects of all natural World Heritage sites (228 at the time). With Conservation Outlook Assessments carried out every three years to a

standard format, 2017 marks the first time that results can be compared.

The IUCN World Heritage Outlook system is both forward-looking and proactive. It helps determine where natural World Heritage sites and the critical values they protect are heading, how we can anticipate their future needs, and how we can optimise their contribution to human well-being. It also seeks to celebrate and amplify success, supporting the role of World Heritage sites in demonstrating excellence.

The main objectives of the IUCN World Heritage Outlook are to:

- ◇ Recognise well-managed sites for their conservation efforts and encourage the transfer of good management practices between sites.
- ◇ Track the state of conservation of all natural World Heritage sites over time and raise public awareness of their importance for biodiversity conservation.
- ◇ Identify the most pressing conservation issues affecting natural World Heritage sites and the actions needed to remedy those issues, thereby supporting the international community, including IUCN and its members

and partners, in helping to address site level challenges.

The IUCN World Heritage Outlook is built on site assessments, compiled for each natural World Heritage site.

Methodology

The IUCN World Heritage Outlook is the first global assessment of natural World Heritage. It consists of Conservation Outlook Assessments prepared for each natural World Heritage site, which provide a projection of whether a natural World Heritage site is likely to conserve its values over time. The Conservation Outlook Assessments are based on a desk-based assessment of:

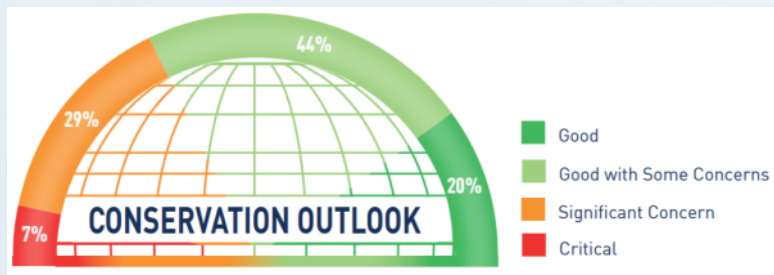
- ◇ The current state and trend of values
- ◇ The threats affecting those values
- ◇ The effectiveness of protection and management

The overall conservation outlook for a particular site is assessed against four categories shown on the gauge below. Where insufficient data is available to draw a conclusion, a site may be categorised as ‘data deficient’:

Global outlook - Overview

The 2014 IUCN World Heritage Outlook provided the first global assessment of all natural World Heritage sites – 228 at that time. Since 2015, 13 new sites have been inscribed on the World Heritage List from 15 countries, including two transboundary sites. Two of these sites are marine, 11 are terrestrial and four are mixed (both cultural and natural) sites. Significant extensions of four existing sites have also been approved since 2015. Oceania was the only region with no new sites or extensions since 2015.

A closer examination of some of these sites reveals concerns over the readiness of some sites to be inscribed, be it a result of poor site design, weak protection and/or inadequate management capacity. As a result these sites can generate additional monitoring activity and increased work under the World Heritage Convention’s mechanisms to rectify significant unresolved problems.



2017 Conservation Outlook for 241 natural World Heritage sites

Good outlook

If a site has a good conservation outlook, it indicates that its values are currently in good condition and are likely to be maintained for the foreseeable future, provided that current conservation measures are maintained. Some threats to the site’s values might exist and it is therefore essential that the management efforts are maintained in order to ensure the site’s conservation in the long term. It is important that World Heritage sites with a good outlook maintain their current performance, and serve as examples of good management practices.

Good outlook with some concerns

If a site’s conservation outlook is good with some concerns, it indicates that its values are currently in good condition and are likely to be maintained in the



Consultation process

The consultation process is indispensable to the IUCN World Heritage Outlook to ensure that Conservation Outlook Assessments are as accurate as possible and focused on the most pressing issues. Each assessment undergoes multiple internal and external reviews before finalisation.

long term, provided that minor additional conservation measures are put in place to address existing concerns. It is hoped that these sites will address these issues and seek to move to a good conservation outlook in future assessments.

Significant concern

If a site's conservation outlook is of significant concern, its values are considered to be threatened by a number of current and/or potential threats, with significant additional conservation measures being required to preserve these values over the medium to long term. The specific threats and protection and management issues vary across sites and this is discussed in more detail in the next two chapters.

Critical outlook

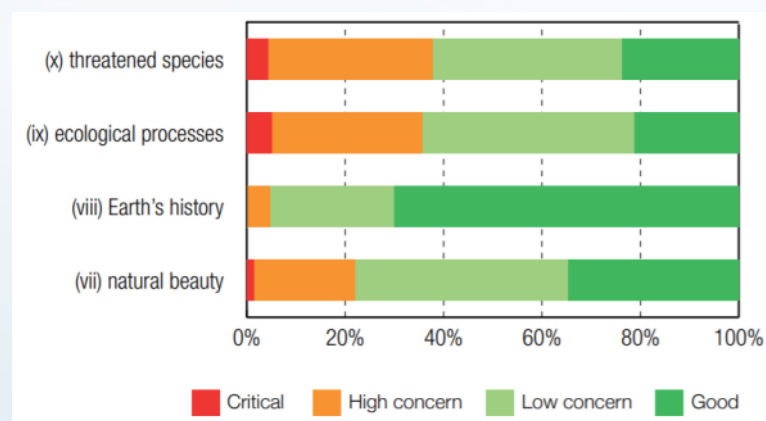
Sites with a critical conservation outlook are severely threatened and require urgent, additional, and large-scale conservation measures, or their values may be lost. These sites face a range of threats and in many cases have low capacity to address them. Often, however, the issues span national borders and international attention is urgently needed to help mitigate those threats and prevent these sites from irreversibly losing their values. Many of these sites are included on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and others should be considered for Danger Listing. They should be the highest priority for conservation action within the World Heritage Convention.

Values

The concept of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) is central to the World Heritage Convention. OUV is defined as “cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity” (*Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*, 2016).

The IUCN World Heritage Outlook evaluates the current state of the values for which a site was inscribed on the World Heritage List, as well as how the state of values may have changed compared to previous assessments.

Although changes in the state of values are assessed in a number of sites, the overall results from 2017 remain very similar to those from 2014, because both negative and positive changes between assessments balanced out. When considering values associated with different criteria, similarly to the results from 2014, the biodiversity values (criteria ix and x) continue to be of higher concern with many more attributes assessed as of high concern or critical:



State of World Heritage values associated with different criteria of all 241 natural World Heritage sites in 2017

Threats

The IUCN World Heritage Outlook identifies and evaluates current and potential threats affecting natural World Heritage sites. Current threats refer to activities or occurrences that have an immediately apparent impact affecting a site's values, such as built infrastructure, invasive species, tourism or natural disasters, while potential threats refer to planned activities or evolving trends that could have a future impact if they materialise, such as planned infrastructure projects. For each identified threat, its level is assessed against four possible categories: very low, low, high or very high.

Current threats

The 2017 results show that invasive species and climate change now represent the two most significant current threats to natural World Heritage. These are followed by tourism impacts, legal and illegal fishing and hunting, fires, water pollution and dams.

Climate change has been the fastest moving current threat increasing dramatically since 2014 – by 77% (62 sites in 2017 where it was assessed as a high or very high current threat, compared to 35 in 2014).

The IUCN World Heritage Outlook 2014 assessed climate change as the most significant potential threat and for a number of sites this threat has since become a discernible reality.

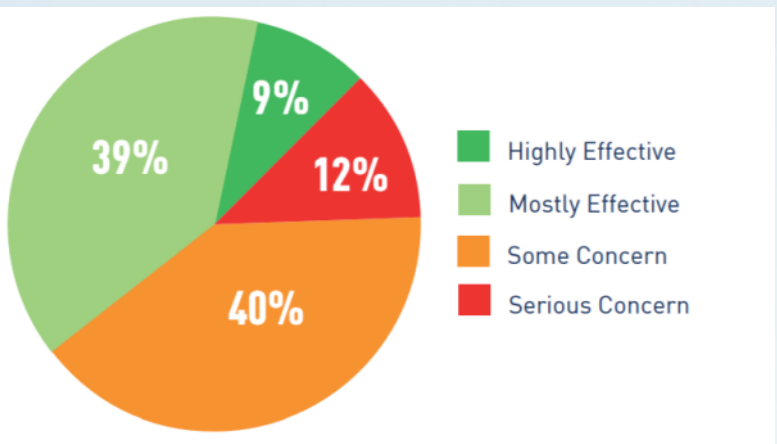
Potential threats

While its impacts are becoming increasingly visible in many natural sites, climate change is also the most widespread significant potential threat and in fact it has been reported as a potential threat in more sites in 2017 compared to 2014 (55 compared to 49).

Road construction has become the second most widespread potential threat and it is the threat which has increased most significantly between 2014 and 2017 – by 83% (22 sites assessed as potentially affected in 2017 compared to 12 in 2014).

Protection and management

The IUCN World Heritage Outlook evaluates 14 different aspects of protection and management for sites, including legislative frameworks, management systems, relationships with local people, monitoring, site boundaries, and tourism and visitation management. The assessments for each of these categories are then used to determine the overall assessment of the protection and management effectiveness of each site.



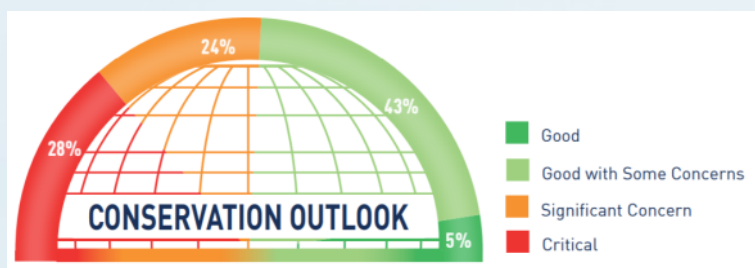
2017 results for protection and management, % of all sites

Overall, effectiveness of protection and management has decreased between 2014 and 2017. From the 228 sites inscribed on the World Heritage List up to 2014, more sites are assessed as having some

concern overall with protection and management, and fewer sites are assessed as having overall effective or highly effective protection and management. It is clearly evident that more effort is needed to address declining protection and management standards for natural World Heritage sites. In this respect there are many tools and standards which aim at increasing management effectiveness which should be directed at sites most in need. The developing proposals for IUCN's Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas offer much scope to support these priority sites and help to lift standards.

Regional outlook : Africa

Results of the IUCN World Heritage Outlook 2 show that, of all natural and mixed (both natural and cultural) World Heritage sites in Africa, for 48% the conservation outlook is either "good" or "good with some concerns", for 24% it is of "significant concern" and for 28% the outlook is "critical".



Conservation Outlook 2017 results for natural World Heritage in Africa

One new site was inscribed in Africa since 2015:

Country	Site	Conservation Outlook 2017	Inscription year
Chad	Ennedi Massif: Natural and Cultural Landscape	Significant concern	2016

Among the sites that were inscribed up to 2014 and were therefore already assessed in the IUCN World Heritage Outlook 2014, the conservation outlook for four sites showed an improvement and deteriorated for one:

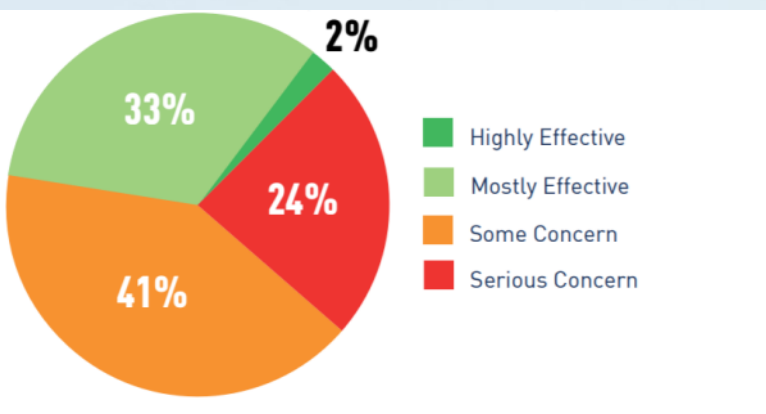
Country	Site	Conservation Outlook 2014	Conservation Outlook 2017
Chad	Lakes of Ounianga	Good with some concerns	Good
Côte d'Ivoire	Comoé National Park	Critical	Significant concern
Benin/Burkina Faso/ Niger	W-Arly-Pendjari Complex	Significant concern	Good with some concerns
Madagascar	Tsingy de Bemaraha Strict Nature Reserve	Good	Good with some concerns
Tanzania	Serengeti National Park	Significant concern	Good with some concerns

Threats

Legal and illegal hunting, fires, logging, invasive species and climate change are the most significant current threats to natural sites in Africa.

Protection and management

Only 35% of natural World Heritage sites in Africa have been assessed as having mostly effective or highly effective protection and management, while for 41% protection and management have been assessed as of some concern and for 24% as of serious concern.



2017 results for protection and management, % of all sites in the region

Conclusions

The IUCN World Heritage Outlook 2 provides the first indicator of whether we are on track for meeting the 10-year agenda set by the Promise of Sydney in 2014: to secure a brighter conservation outlook for

all natural World Heritage sites. Results show that, while we can still celebrate success in many sites, prospects are not improving overall.

Global results remain similar to 2014, with the conservation outlook being “good” or “good with some concerns” for 64% of sites, of “significant concern” for 29% and “critical” for 7%. While the big picture remains even, many changes in status have been assessed at the level of individual sites and regions, and in relation to threats and protection and management. The conservation outlook of 26 sites changed between 2014 and 2017: 14 improved and 12 deteriorated. As for new listings since the last report, 10 out of 13 of the new natural World Heritage sites are assessed in the green (good or good with some concerns), and for three sites the conservation outlook is assessed as of significant concern.

Like in 2014, climate change remains by far the largest potential threat, with 55 sites where it was assessed as a high or very high potential threat in 2017. Major infrastructure development (roads, dams and tourism facilities), mining and oil and gas development are also among the top potential threats. Road construction has increased most significantly as a potential threat since 2014, with nearly twice as many sites that could be affected (22 sites where this threat was assessed as high or very high in 2017 compared to 12 in 2014). The number of sites which could be significantly affected by hydropower infrastructure development has grown from 13 to 17 and by construction of tourism facilities from 11 to 15 since 2014.

While pressure from threats is mounting, the overall effectiveness of protection and management of natural World Heritage sites has decreased since 2014. The percentage of sites where protection and management were assessed as overall effective or highly effective has dropped from 54% in 2014 to 48% in 2017, when comparing the 228 sites for which two assessments are available. This combination of increasing threats and less effective protection and management presents a clear risk to the World Heritage values of the sites. This strongly signals an opportunity to better utilise tools and standards which aim at increasing management effectiveness such as the developing proposals for IUCN’s Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas.

The IUCN World Heritage Outlook 2 shows that we must refocus efforts on protection and management

to secure a bright outlook for the planet's most iconic natural areas. Since the launch of the IUCN World Heritage Outlook in 2014, IUCN has strived to build on the results and the information collected to improve the state of conservation of the most threatened natural World Heritage sites by establishing site-specific partnerships with IUCN Members. The objective is to develop initiatives and projects collaboratively with IUCN World Heritage Outlook Partners, to help address the main

challenges that these sites are facing, guide management efforts, and improve the effectiveness of their conservation.

Read the full report [here](#).

Announcements

>> Tanzania Country director <<
WCS Tanzania

Where? Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Lead manage the diverse and growing country program. Be the primary liaison with government, and lead strategic partnerships with donors.

Full description of the position: [here](#).

>> Regional business manager <<
WCS Kenya

Where? Nairobi, Kenya

Oversee the budget and finances of the region, and to provide direct support to the Regional Director in managing the operations of the Regional Program.

Full description of the position: [here](#).



PANORAMA

SOLUTIONS FOR A HEALTHY PLANET

Mass-media radio drama in Rwanda protects gorilla habitat

In Rwanda, Population Media Center (PMC) wrote and produced Umurage Urukwiye ("Rwanda's Brighter Future") in Kinyarwanda, one of Rwanda's official languages. This 312-episode radio serial drama aired April 2007 to July 2009 and was rebroadcast October 2012 to October 2014. One of Umurage Urukwiye's storylines role modeled the preservation of forests, natural resources, and mountain gorillas, and motivated the audience to protect and rehabilitate the park forests.

Full article [here](#).

More info about Panorama, [here](#).

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THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF IUCN