Fences

In the short run, environmental fragmentation is certainly the greatest threat to Africa’s biodiversity, broadly defined. Without pushing the issues of climate change, poaching or invasive species to the fringes of our concern, environmental fragmentation happens so fast and on such a large scale that it should definitely be treated as a priority. Cities, roads, bridges, railways, dams, canals, power lines, pipelines, fields, artificial plantations, mines... there are endless ways to chop nature down into smaller and smaller parts, which are less and less able to maintain native biodiversity. Scientists have calculated that the tropical forest around the globe is now split into 50 million fragments. Worse, they predict that this figure could be multiplied by 30 by 2050, reducing most forest plots to nearly nothing.

The impacts are quite real: the great movements typical of the fauna on the continent are gradually disappearing (whether or not they were true migrations). And yet, they were instrumental to the genetic mix necessary for species to adapt to emerging threats. This incredible potential, what is called evolution, is dying. In an era when climate change will require even more adaptability, now is not the time to lose this irreplaceable faculty.

The genetic diversity of species is therefore gradually eroding, making some species highly vulnerable to new perils, modified balances, emerging diseases. It is today the case of the cheetah, probably that of lions tomorrow. By virtue of living in isolation and reproducing in ridiculously small groups, defects develop and potentialities fade.

This situation is beyond the direct control of protected area managers, so we act as if it did not exist. Yet we bear a significant burden of responsibility, which can be summed up in one word: fences.

Most were erected out of the historical necessity to separate wildlife from livestock as colonization progressed in southern Africa, against predators or more often, to avoid contagion by foot-and-mouth disease. It is now known that wildlife plays a minimal role in this, but a century ago, the simplest solution was to separate human activities from the rest and gradually, to enclose wildlife. The long-term consequences were not envisioned.

As a health tool, fences have become a philosophy and are omnipresent in this part of the continent. They ended-up circumscribing protected areas. Certainly, they make it easier to control the fauna or the ecosystem, but they require large investments and the use of artificial means to keep up genetic diversity, for example, through animal transfers. Hermetically locking out inhabitants, they of course limit conflicts, but also prevent local populations from appropriating and perpetuating their heritage. Part of the population keeps this environment in memory, while the vast majority is no longer aware of its existence.

Elsewhere, such as in West Africa, fences are virtually non-existent, allowing the free flow of men, their flocks and wildlife. As a result, the latter has
strongly declined because it is permanently under pressure from poaching or competing for access to resources. But the remaining wildlife is still able to evolve without human intervention. Conflicts linger, the fauna is threatened but people have not forgotten it.

Which model should we choose? It is not a peripheral question, on the contrary. Should we give up “wild” Africa and keep some pieces in pens, and in doing so, preserve certain values untouched? Or risk losing everything in the hope of conserving it “whole”, with the ability to evolve without the constraints imposed by man?

In either case, there is a lot to lose and very little to gain. The only question that remains is to know what we want to get in the end.

More on:

https://theconversation.com/the-worlds-vanishing-wild-places-are-vital-for-saving-species-66403


https://theconversation.com/africas-great-migrations-failing-but-there-is-a-solution-and-you-can-eat-it-too-93749

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 ONLINE TRAININGS

Back online! Our four MOOC, namely:
1) Protected areas management
2) Ecological monitoring
3) Species conservation and
4) Law enforcement

…are now open again for registration. They started on the 16th of April and will last until the 13th of July. You’ve got plenty of time to do the course(s) and to pass the exams if you wish to get the certificate(s). The courses are completely free and registration is open to all.

To enroll, please visit www.papaco.org (page MOOCs) or go to the following links:

Protected areas management:
http://papaco.org/how-to-join-the-pam-mooc/

Ecological monitoring:
http://papaco.org/how-to-join-the-em-mooc/

Species conservation:
http://papaco.org/how-to-join-the-sp-mooc/

Law enforcement:
http://papaco.org/how-to-join-the-le-mooc/

Find more information about our MOOC on www.papaco.org, at the page « trainings »

Also, join our Group MOOC on Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/208309996241190/

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

Our MOOC are developed in cooperation with the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne
The 14th University Diploma has ended in Ouagadougou

Our annual onsite training (UD - University Diploma), organized with the Senghor University (Egypt – Francophonie) and IUCN-PACO, has ended in mid-April, in Ouagadougou: 20 students coming from 10 countries (Benin, Burkina, Côte d’Ivoire, Central African Republic, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo) have been together for eight weeks and all have all passed the final exam. The course covered several topics such as conservation and protected areas, definitions and categories, governance types, international conventions, planning and management effectiveness assessment, useful biology notions for PA conservation including in marine environment, funding and PA benefits, ecosystem services, climate change, ecological monitoring (including field application) and local development and local population involvement, laws and regulations that applies to PA conservation… The training was funded by the MAVA foundation.

The 14th promotion of the University Diploma at the end of the course, receiving the diploma

A friend of Papaco has gone in April…
A tribute to Dr Francis Lauginie

By Dr Fanny Ngolo
Executive Director of the Foundation for Parks and Reserves in Côte d’Ivoire

In these few words, I wish to pay a heartfelt tribute to a person whom, for almost thirty years, had been not only a great colleague but also an amazing friend.

Twenty-five years ago, I started my career in wildlife management working with Francis. He was a legend in the field of nature conservation. With no less than thirty years of experience in natural resources conservation, in the creation and development of national parks and reserves, in ecology and management of organizations, and also in environmental services of Africa’s tropical regions, Francis knew how to share his knowledge.

To the people who had the privilege of knowing Francis professionally and personally, his passing is a tremendous loss. Francis spent most of his career in Côte d’Ivoire. After having held high-level positions within nature conservation organisations, Francis decided to put an end to his career in Côte d’Ivoire, his adoptive country, to devote himself to the NGO, Afrique Nature International of which he was founding member.

Through his participation in many major protected area management related initiatives in Côte d’Ivoire, Francis was the mind of nature conservation in our country. His legacy to Côte d’Ivoire and to the world is a reference work of great scientific value titled Conservation de la nature et aires protégées en Côte d’Ivoire (Conservation of nature and protected areas in Côte d’Ivoire).

One the accomplishments Francis was most proud of, was the successful reform of the national parks sector in Côte d’Ivoire through the creation of both the Ivorian Parks and Reserves Authority, and the
Foundation for Parks and Reserves of Côte d’Ivoire of which he was a founding member and administrator.

On account of the many services rendered to the Foundation for Parks and Reserves of Côte d’Ivoire, the board of this institution honoured him at two different occasions: on April 10, 2012 and July 17, 2017, by granting him symbolic rewards.

How not to remember his generosity, his humanity, his kindness, his attention, his sense of initiative and good spirits? Him whom I used to call “Professor” had an eye for detail and enjoyed a job perfectly executed.

Today, we are mourning the loss both of a colleague and true legend of nature conservation. Good bye Francis, may you rest in peace. All our support and affection go to Christiane Lauginie.

Note: Francis has taken part in several of Papaco’s works. He was in particular the author of our study on the impacts of big funding on conservation which was also published in NAPA 71 to 73, in 2014.

Protected areas: a hope in the midst of the sixth mass extinction
06.03.2018 - https://www.iucn.org/crossroads-blog/201803/protected-areas-hope-midst-sixth-mass-extinction

By Richard Leakey

Dr Richard Leakey is a prominent Kenyan paleoanthropologist and conservationist. He is known for extensive fossil finds related to human evolution and for his efforts to preserve the wildlife of the African continent. He is currently Professor of Anthropology at Stony Brook University, New York, and Founder and Chair of the Turkana Basin Institute, a Kenya-based research facility focused on palaeontology, archaeology and geology. Dr Leakey is also an IUCN Patron of Nature.

Note: IUCN has launched a platform called “crossroads” to allow IUCN Members and partners to exchange ideas and opinions on some of the most topical and controversial issues. This NAPA refers to a blog posted in March in relation to conservation of biodiversity and protected areas in Africa. More information on: https://www.iucn.org/crossroads-blog/201802/welcome-crossroads

Intro

With the world entering the biggest mass extinction since the dinosaurs disappeared 65 million years ago, it is time for IUCN and the global conservation community it represents to prioritize the right conservation actions. National parks and other protected areas should be central to our efforts, but with poorer countries unable to pay to protect them it is essential we find effective solutions involving both private and public lands – writes distinguished Kenyan conservationist and IUCN Patron of Nature Richard Leakey.

Blog

In the current circumstances on our planet, I find it difficult to offer a set of priorities on what we need to do. In every way, I believe that the impact of climate change is likely to be fundamental to the world we know. Our universal expectations of a better tomorrow based on economic growth are
probably delusional for the majority of the human species, and I dare say for almost all terrestrial and aquatic forms of life. This scenario is certainly not a new one for planet earth, but it is completely new to humans who have neither seen, nor experienced climate-driven mass extinctions.

The sixth mass extinction and the human species
To add to our extraordinary position, we are now aware of previous mass extinctions – we have and continue to document the planet's geologic history where there is clear evidence of climate change and its consequences. We seem to be paralyzed by these stark messages, and totally unwilling in a general sense to relate to the fact that there is now a sixth major extinction phenomenon underway. The idea that we may be a significant causal factor is gradually being accepted but it is slow, and the very notion that our own species is very much a candidate for extinction, along with the majority of other species great and small, is largely an unacceptable concept.

Do we have plans to follow as sea level rise accelerates with ice cap melt, and the sea ports and coastal cities everywhere have to be relocated? Do we have the means to relocate? This is not a question for the unborn and unknown generations of humans because it is likely to affect those who are now young. My grandchildren will have children who may well find there is no Boston, Miami, Mombasa, Sydney or the thousands of other seaside cities. These cities seem likely to be under water from sea level rise that could be up to 30 meters over the next one hundred not one thousand years! So, how then do we, the Patrons of Nature, offer advice on protecting nature everywhere on our little planet?

I am increasingly convinced that in the tropics, and particularly in the poorer nations, protecting nature everywhere is an effort with diminishing returns. I believe that protected areas (that is areas of land set aside by governments and governed by national statutes) such as national parks and national forests are the best targets if nature is to be protected.

Community conservancies or national parks?
Whilst I understand and welcome the new fad of community conservation efforts and wildlife conservancies, I am forced to question whether these efforts can succeed in the longer time frame of even 50 years. Private rather than public funds should be the backbone of any nongovernmental enterprise, and in poor countries, private wealth and not-for-profit investments are challenging to sustain.

Whilst state-owned wildlife land, designated as national parks, is vital, in some countries private land may also be secured by state laws that allow for private ownership of title. Thus an individual can use such land for wildlife and nature protection for the duration of the term of the title and this can be equally as secure as a national park.

Not all countries have constitutional provision for private ownership of land, and instead occupancy and land use are regulated by lease hold. In respect to conservation, this is certainly a better option than group-owned or community-owned land where in time wildlife could be untenable given governance arrangements on community-owned assets.

In Kenya, where I have some experience, there currently exists a growing potential for conflict. Group-owned conservancies want a ready cash income from their asset, and nature tourism is an obvious low-hanging fruit. As "owner families" realise cash for better homes, school expenses and health, the expectations are that the money from conservation fees, bed nights in lodges, etc., will grow too.

Too many tourists and the overcrowding of facilities becomes a problem, as does raising prices, and in time, the use of the land for "conservation" is no longer the "golden egg" it started out as. More children need more fees, better schooling costs more money, and so it goes with the cash needs rapidly exceeding realistic revenues in the longer term.
This may play out over 30 years but probably not much more. So what happened to our original goal of protecting nature on community land conservancies?

On private land individually owned by title, the cost/benefit situation can be more readily analysed, and an element of long-term nature protection is possible and can provide some species with reasonable survival prospects. It is not, however, a realistic global strategy.

Let me return then to national parks and national forests. These are surely where our greatest effort must be concentrated. I would urge that we consider how a new initiative can be driven to better secure these protected areas. Leaving this challenge to individual governments to deal with is unrealistic given poverty and the terrible imbalance between people’s needs and nature’s needs.

Perhaps it is time for the Patrons of Nature to put forward once again the idea that the world cannot afford to lose protected areas. At the same time we should accept that the poorer economies cannot afford the measures to protect them. Saving endangered species is a short term public relations and fundraising exercise which, whilst doing good, is not addressing the bigger questions.

Nobody can expect to protect nature everywhere for all time and it is time to prioritize our efforts. The broad range of conservation initiatives need to be ranked and prioritized by scientific assessment of the crisis we face. Climate change means all change and when humanity starts to see seaside cities going under the sea with their economies, nature will have a very muted voice if one at all.

I do believe that IUCN and we, its Patrons of Nature, can rise to the challenge, but in truth, I fear I also have to ask the last question –“Can we?”

The Réseau des Educateurs et Professionnels de la Conservation à Madagascar (REPC-MD) developed the first competence register and standards for protected area (PA) management in Madagascar, following a participatory approach involving the Ministry of Environment and 150 individuals from almost 30 institutions. It covers the critical knowledge areas, skill sets, and attitudes required by effective PA professionals, and profiles the roles and responsibilities associated with effective PA management.

The REPC – MD supports training and certification of PA professionals aligned with this register to advance the professionalization of national PA management. Through the integration of a partnership and participatory approach with a competency based approach, strategic long term thinking and action for improving PA management is being catalyzed. The standards serve as a tool for performance assessment, designing training curricula and career development pathways, and for recruitment in the field of PA management.

More info on PANORAMA
http://panorama.solutions/en/portal/protected-areas
TO READ

Business in Key Biodiversity Areas: minimising the risk to nature

A roadmap for businesses operating in some of the most biologically significant places on the planet has been issued in April by the Key Biodiversity Area Partnership involving 12 of the world’s leading conservation organisations – including IUCN.

The report, Guidelines on Business and KBAs: Managing Risk to Biodiversity outlines steps that businesses can take to actively safeguard biodiversity and avoid contributing to its loss. It recommends businesses of all sizes and across all sectors to adopt 15 guidelines to better manage their direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on places deemed critical for the conservation of species and ecosystems worldwide, known as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs).

The report addresses issues such as avoidance of impacts, limits to biodiversity offsets, as well as financial guarantees and corporate reporting. It guides businesses in managing the potential losses and other risks associated with their negative impact on biodiversity, including potential impacts on access to financing and increased company exposure to negative press.

The report and associated website aim to help businesses demonstrate good environmental practice and compliance with voluntary sustainability standards or certification schemes. It also explains how companies operating in KBAs can make a positive contribution to biodiversity by investing in conservation actions and sharing relevant information about the KBAs, including data collected in Environmental Impact Assessments, baseline studies and monitoring activities, with the KBA Partners. Its aim is to assist governments in authorisation decisions related to business operations.

Following the adoption in 2016 of a global standard for the identification of KBAs, the KBA Partnership was created to map, monitor and conserve the areas. More than 15,000 KBAs have been identified so far, many of which currently support commercial activities, such as farming, fisheries, forestry and mining. Although the global KBA network does not yet cover all geographical regions or species groups, the KBA Partnership is working to fill these gaps.

These Guidelines on Business and KBAs build on input provided at an end user consultation workshop held in Gland, Switzerland, from 4 to 5 July 2016, and during a public consultation from 2 December 2016 to 17 March 2017. A Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas was adopted by IUCN in April 2016 and launched at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in September of that year. It comprises a set of globally standardised criteria for the identification of KBAs worldwide. It establishes a consultative, science-based process for KBA identification, founded on the consistent application of global criteria with quantitative thresholds that have been developed through an extensive consultation exercise spanning several years.

To consult the full report:
https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/47660

A tribute to Philippe Bouché
By IUCN-HQ, April 2018

Our friend and colleague Philippe Bouché tragically passed away on Tuesday 5 April, as the aircraft he was piloting crashed on take-off from the La Tapoa resort in W National Park in Niger, West Africa. He leaves behind his wife and two children.

Having trained in Liège, Belgium, Philippe Bouché worked as a researcher in game management and coordinated anti-poaching activities and wildlife inventories. His contribution to wildlife conservation on the African continent has been recognised by the entire conservation community, particularly his wildlife inventories and his work monitoring illegal
elephant killing in protected areas and national parks in West and Central Africa.

Philippe provided exceptional contributions to IUCN’s mission in the region, starting in 2000 as a technical coordinator of the aerial wildlife inventory in the Arly Conservation Unit, now part of the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) Complex, in Burkina Faso. He went on to be IUCN’s expert for the IUCN-CITES Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) Programme between 2001 and 2004. Philippe re-joined IUCN in July 2016, in the last phase of the project Minimising the Illegal Killing of Elephants and other Endangered Species (MIKES), having worked as a consultant for a large number of conservation initiatives throughout Africa, often piloting himself or conducting aerial surveys on board his ultralight aircraft. The WAP, a transboundary conservation complex in West Africa, and flying, were a big part of his life.

Recognised as a prominent elephant expert in the region, Philippe was strongly committed to the fight against poaching. To this end, he trained over 200 conservation professionals in the use of modern tools for data collection, surveillance techniques and monitoring illegal elephant killings. Most recently, he was working to establish an innovative, cross-sectoral collaboration between security and surveillance actors around the WAP Complex.

Philippe published numerous articles including Will Elephants Soon Disappear from West African Savannahs? and Embargo on Lion Hunting Trophies from West Africa: An Effective Measure or a Threat to Lion Conservation?. Philippe also wrote the Northern Ghana elephant survey, published in Pachyderm No. 42.

See also: https://www.iucn.org/news/protected-areas/201804/philippe-bouché

SEMINAR THEMES

1) Planning and Management for Tourism and Public Use in Protected Areas:
Topics will include zoning, management plans, carrying capacity, stakeholder involvement, and destination planning, as well as the implications of climate change for tourism.

2) Governance, Policy, Law, and Finance:
Participants will observe and discuss the role of different government actors and levels of government; local communities, landowners, academia, businesses, NGOs, indigenous people, universities, industry associations, user groups, volunteers, and concessionaires and other public-private partnerships. The legal and policy frameworks will also be examined.

3) Infrastructure and Public Services:
Aspects of transportation networks, trails, hotels, campsites, souvenir shops, restrooms, food and fuel, emergency services, signage, staff-housing and facilities, and public services (water, sewerage, electricity, trash disposal, communications, etc.) will be considered.

4) Interpretation and Environmental Education:
The seminar will focus on guided and self-guided interpretation, visitor centers, night programs, wayside exhibits, publications, and the role of guides and outfitters.

Ideal participants will be mid-level professional and technical personnel who work for governmental or nongovernmental conservation and tourism organizations, in academia, in the private sector, and in community-based and indigenous tourism and conservation initiatives in or near protected areas.

HOW TO APPLY
To apply or for more information, please email: protectedareas@colostate.edu. For more information visit: www.fs.fed.us/about-agency/internationalprograms/training-seminars
The deadline for submission is May 11, 2018

JOB OFFER

WCS is looking for a Coordinator, Law enforcement & Governance
Maputo, Mozambique - Application deadline: May 31

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is a US non-profit, tax-exempt, private organization established in 1895 that saves wildlife and wild places by understanding critical issues, crafting science-based solutions, and taking conservation actions that benefit nature and humanity. With more than a century of experience, long-term commitments in dozens of
News from African Protected Areas – NAPA

May 2018


 landscapes, presence in more than 60 nations, and experience helping to establish over 150 protected areas across the globe, WCS has amassed the biological knowledge, cultural understanding and partnerships to ensure that vibrant, wild places and wildlife thrive alongside local communities. Working with local communities and organizations, that knowledge is applied to address species, habitat and ecosystem management issues critical to improving the quality of life of poor rural people whose livelihoods depend on the direct utilization of natural resources.

WCS established a country program in Mozambique in 2012 with two primary objectives to increase the protection of Niassa National Reserve, a vast landscape in the north of the country, and improve the conservation status of its elephants through co-manage of the Reserve; and strengthen national-level protected area management by helping to improve policies and reinforcing the government’s ability to implement wildlife crime legislation through strategic engagement with government agencies in Maputo.

Job Summary: this position is to co-ordinate our work aimed at strengthening governance and law enforcement of transnational wildlife crime in Mozambique.

Major Responsibilities:
• Coordinate the strategic development and implementation of CWT work for WCS Mozambique with a focus on links to anti-poaching activities in Niassa National Reserve.
• Support relevant agencies in the Government of Mozambique to strengthen their capacity for intelligence-led enforcement.
• Develop relationships and work with the Investigation and Environmental Police, Attorney General’s office (PGR) to enhance enforcement and prosecutorial effectiveness on wildlife trafficking cases.
• Broaden information networks with foreign countries through formal and informal communication and knowledge sharing.
• Support and facilitate engagement between WCS and the Governments of Mozambique (GoMZ), and the Governments of Vietnam (GoVN) and China (GoCN) to enhance coordination of CWT efforts, build trust between key officers and finalise formal agreements between the two countries that address IWT (i.e. Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty).
• Develop an annual implementation plan with measurable indicators for this position and agree this plan with priority stakeholders.
• Foster and maintain internal dialogue within WCS with key internal stakeholders.
• Identify opportunities for collaboration and coordination with partners, and identify mechanisms for sharing intelligence and information.
• Identify agreed fund-raising opportunities to implement the objectives and activities agreed under this program.
• Contribute to the WCS CWT strategy, and the WCS Africa CWT strategy Implementation modalities:
  • All work, and communication with partners, in countries where WCS has country programs needs to be cleared by and linked to the country program through the Country Program Director.
  • Communication within WCS and with partners needs to be constant and ongoing.
  • Protocols for managing sensitive materials in communications need to be developed, agreed with relevant internal and external partners, and implemented.

Requirements and application:
• Minimum of five year experience non-profit sector (NGO, International organisations) working on governance, rule of law, judiciary, or enforcement issues OR wildlife trafficking.
• Strong relationships with relevant national authorities such as police, prosecutors, customs, or wildlife authorities.
• Demonstrated understanding of the policy arena, national politics related to transnational crimes and criminal justice reform in Mozambique.
• Demonstrated ability to independently establish and manage new NGO programs.
• Demonstrated ability to communicate with a variety of partners and stakeholders, and to mediate and resolve complex issues that involve multiple actors and/or interest areas.
• Demonstrated strong project management experience.
• Professional proficiency in English and Portuguese.

Application Process: interested candidates, who meet the above qualifications should apply by emailing an application letter and CV together with salary requirements and the names and contact information of three references to: africaapplications@wcs.org by May 31, 2018 deadline. Please include “Coordinator, Law enforcement & Governance” in the subject line of your email.

The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of IUCN

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