

# Newsletter from African protected areas



#146, November 2020 — [www.papaco.org](http://www.papaco.org)



*Editorial*

**GEOFFROY MAUVAIS**

IUCN-PAPACO COORDINATOR

## 30%

The year 2020 is coming to a close. It should have been “a decisive year” regarding environmental commitments. One could say, “yet another decisive year”: full of international meetings, 2020 was a year that was supposed to close the decade (not flamboyantly, to be honest) and to put forth new measures for the next one. Ambitious measures, meant to pull us out of the downward spiral in which humanity stuck itself by following a deadly logic proper to our species.

But COVID-19, by preventing important people from meeting up, gripped this machine. In the end, urgent decisions found themselves postponed – maybe forever.

In the hubbub that usually preceded conferences and summits, an interesting idea emerged and marked the minds. Cynical ones could imagine that it was designed by the marketing team of a toothpaste company: 30% of the Earth should be protected by 2030. 30-30: a punchy message, easy to understand and memorize, what more to ask for?

But is this idea easy to realize?

In 2010, the famous Aichi targets called us to protect 17% of our lands by 2020. Progress made over the last decade allowed us to gain less than 2%, bringing the total estimated protected surface to 15.5%. A lot of efforts were realized in certain places, but contrary movements are underway (decreasing the size or protection level of protected areas, de-listing them, the PADDD mechanism). Moreover, it is extremely difficult to assert what is actually protected, beyond lines on a map, because these areas are supposed to meet essential criteria in terms of efficiency, equity, connectivity and representativity. These are rarely met or even evaluated. We can imagine that these problems will persist through the

coming years, even if the addition of territories benefitting from “other effective conservation measures” (OECM) will be determinant to increase mathematically the surface of areas protected in one way or another.

Even so, 30% protected leaves out 70%. We know since ages that one factory is enough to threaten the entire planet. Isn't it more important to focus on what we are doing, rather than where? But how can we translate this concept into something as sexy as our toothpaste marketing invention?

Maybe by changing nothing to the slogan. 30% in 2030, but instead of referring to space, referring to time. 30% of our activity set aside for the conservation of our planet. 30% of time in school, at University, at work, 30% of our hobbies, etc. For some this will be easy: they already do extra. Others will have to change, to make new commitments, to transform themselves, to find motivation. For others, it will be impossible due to the destructive nature of their activity – if it cannot be replaced- but they can be made up for by those who do more than their share. If all of mankind spent, on average, one third of their time thinking about our planet, its climate, its biodiversity, its beauty, its wealth, and acting to preserve them, would we really change things for the better? Probably. And it would not require costly investments; only a global evolution of our philosophy of life, priorities, ambitions. No rights abused, no land removed, no populations displaced. A philosophy accessible to all, everywhere, to each according to their means, with no exclusion, no champions. Everyone could participate, alone or in a group, following others' example or leading in their own way. Maybe it would not be enough, but it is certainly indispensable. ●

# Our courses

## MOOCS

- A month to go -

You have until 1 December to enrol, and until 15 December to finish the MOOCs. It's not too late, as you study at your own pace, but the deadline is coming up.

Remember to request your certificate of completion by sending an email at [moocs@papaco.org](mailto:moocs@papaco.org).

**MORE DETAILS:** [mooc-conservation.org](http://mooc-conservation.org)



## ONSITE COURSE

- University Diploma -

[In French only] We have a date! The 17th edition of the U.D. will take place from 15 February to 3 April 2021 in Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso).

#UNIVERSITÉSENGHOR  
université internationale de langue française  
au service du développement africain

The goal of this course is to equip protected area managers in West Africa (and their partners) with tools, as well as with technical and scientific tools to improve their ways of managing parks.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** [click here](#)

**OFFICIAL APPLICATION:** [click here](#)



### FIND PAPACO ONLINE

[facebook/IUCNpapaco](https://www.facebook.com/IUCNpapaco)

[MOOC Private Group \(English\)](#)

[@moocconservation \(Instagram\)](#)

[@Papaco IUCN \(Twitter\)](#)

[Papaco.org](http://Papaco.org)

[GPAP newsletter \(IUCN Programme of PAs\)](#)



# Ambassadors

## HEAR FROM OUR AMBASSADORS: MEETINGS IN BENIN

Last month, Kévin in Bénin has organised several meetings:

- at Abomey Calavi University with 11 students,
- at the Lycée Agricole Médji de Sekou with 41 students,
- at Dassa-Zoumé University with 27 students,
- at Parakou University with 33 students.

Students really enjoyed the meetings and requested more of them. Professors at Dassa-Zoumé University insisted on more meetings to be held. At Parakou University, the Ecology and Botanical Lab director, Armand Natta, was present, as well as another professor from the Agricultural sciences department. The Lab director was very pleased to welcome us in his Lab and wishes for this partnership to continue. He mentioned that the meeting will be part of the thesis seminars of their Lab, and that PhD students that completed MOOCs could earn credits for their thesis, as there were PhD students at the meeting. - Kévin

### LYCÉE AGRICOLE MEDJI DE SEKOU

### DASSA-ZOUMÉ UNIVERSITY



### PARAKOU UNIVERSITY



## MEETING AT PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI

Saturday 10 October 2020 at the restaurant La Bonne Dégustation, Talot Bertrand invited some young people to meet and talk about IUCN-Papaco's online courses. Several participants enrolled, namely in the Protected Area Management course. Participants were satisfied and requested more meetings to be held. Hence another meeting to take place Saturday 14 November.

Thank you to everyone who came over, and to former students namely Jean Luc ST-PIERRE, Hallen-by G. LAMARQUE, Mirvole-Marleine MAHOTIERE who helped us in running this meeting. - Talot



## MEETING IN LIBREVILLE, GABON

On 10 October 2020, I organised a MOOC workshop in Libreville. Around 10 people attended - the Papaco family in Gabon is seriously growing! - Brice



## MEETING IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Côte d'Ivoire wanted to make sure they also took part in the MOOC workshops that are taking place. As such, we organised our first workshop in Abidjan. It took place on 10 October 2020 in Côte d'Ivoire's Parks and reserves Department. - Bernadette and Mamadou



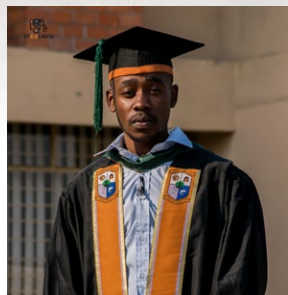
List of ambassadors (click on the name to send them an email):

- ➔ [Benin, Kévin](#)
- ➔ [Bouaké, Bernadette](#)
- ➔ [Burkina Faso, Valéry](#)
- ➔ [Burundi, Léonidas](#)
- ➔ [Comoros, Humblot](#)
- ➔ [Côte d'Ivoire, Mamadou](#)
- ➔ [Douala \(Cameroon\), Mathias](#)
- ➔ [Gabon, Brice](#)
- ➔ [Guinea \(Conakry\), Moussa](#)
- ➔ [Haïti, Talot](#)
- ➔ [Kara \(Togo\), Jean](#)
- ➔ [Kenya, James](#)
- ➔ [Kindu \(DRC\), Ohm](#)
- ➔ [Kinshasa \(DRC\), Emmanuel](#)
- ➔ [Kisangani \(DRC\), Richard](#)
- ➔ [Mali, Seydou](#)
- ➔ [Lomé \(Togo\), Samuel](#)
- ➔ [Lubumbashi \(DRC\), Albert](#)
- ➔ [Madagascar \(Tana\), Raymond](#)
- ➔ [Morocco, Rachid](#)
- ➔ [Mauritania, Fall](#)
- ➔ [Niger, Oumarou](#)
- ➔ [Nigeria, Michael](#)
- ➔ [Pointe Noire, Charmand](#)
- ➔ [Rwanda, Leonard](#)
- ➔ [Senegal, Thiam](#)
- ➔ [Chad, Seid](#)
- ➔ [Tunisia, Moadh](#)
- ➔ [Yaoundé \(Cameroon\), Pascale](#)
- ➔ [Zambia, Chewe](#)

# Hear from a MOOC ambassador

## MY EXPERIENCE AS MOOC AMBASSADOR ZAMBIA

Read about the advantages and disadvantages of e-learning courses that Chewe Chiti, MOOCs Ambassador Zambia, experienced over the last year and his recommendations to improve such programmes.



Taking part in the Program on African Protected Areas Conservation (PAPACO) Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) has greatly improved my knowledge on how protected areas can best be managed to help biodiversity thrive and

improve the livelihoods of those living within its proximity. As a junior conservationist I am very eager to learn about ways that can help improve the protection of nature for the benefit of the people that depend on it and also for the improvement of my country's economy. This prompted me to take part in four MOOCs offered by PAPACO-IUCN and these include PA management, Species Conservation, Ecological Monitoring and Law enforcement in PAs. After completing these MOOCs I was given an opportunity to volunteer and become an ambassador for the MOOCs in Zambia so as to share the knowledge I acquired with more like-minded people.

As the Zambia PAPACO MOOCs ambassador, I am responsible for promoting the MOOCs, providing assistance to students who might be facing some challenges with the MOOCs (with the use of the online platform or any other challenge). I also encourage the students to complete the MOOCs and act a spokesperson for the students in Zambia.

In order to reach out to more people to take the PAPACO MOOCs I have created a WhatsApp group with members from most conservation organisations in Zambia and from Universities offering conservation related programmes. On this platform we carry out different discussions with regards to the MOOCs; a topic from the MOOCs is chosen twice a week and discussed in the group to help everyone better understand it and to get different views on the topic. I also meet with a few students in person to discuss how the knowledge gained from these courses can improve conservation efforts and how it can improve one's chances

of getting a job in the conservation sector.

Promoting the MOOCs and engaging students comes with its own challenges. As I mostly carry out my work online this means I have to spend money on internet, however sometimes I just do not have enough to spend on internet and this means I am unavailable to help students who might need my help. However, the MOOCs enable the students to learn at their own pace while also providing them with as much information as possible, the pre-exam assessments used such as quizzes are all handy helping one to understand concepts better and recall key concepts from the verbal presentations. The whole program is packaged in such a way as to encourage someone to understand and pass.

Another advantage is also that supplementary study materials are made available for students as further reading so that they get a better understanding of the topics in the MOOC. The course materials are also useful for one to keep learning even after exams. The discussions featured on the MOOCs platform help students from different countries and backgrounds to interact with one another and seek clarity from the lecturers on complicated concepts.

On other hand, most disadvantages are connected to the digitised method of delivery for the courses (online): technical errors such as poor sound in some verbal presentations and other errors that make the courses unavailable for some time. I believe it would be good if the time allocated to complete the course is adjusted accordingly when such errors occur. Since most students in Zambia like hands on experience with conservation work, it could be motivating for students taking the PAPACO MOOCs to have opportunities available to them to volunteer in the PAPACO-IUCN programs to get hands on experience. Additionally, I would recommend holding international conferences based on conservation issues so that the students could attend. • [By Chewe Chiti on WildHub](#)

Enrol in PAPACO MOOCs here: [mooc-conservation.org](http://mooc-conservation.org)

# Baotree

## THE GLOBAL OPERATING SYSTEM MANAGING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NATURE AND HUMANS

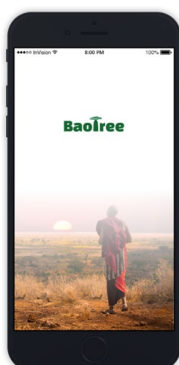
If you would like to connect with the team directly, please feel free to contact [Dimitri Syrris](#), Founder & CEO of Baotree

The current conservation and rural community landscape is under critical pressure, with the recent collapse of the safari-travel industry adding to a range of existing challenges. Further, the deployment of conservation tools, data collection and accessibility of funds is highly fragmented. The growing number of communities that are impacted by wildlife and other pressures in their immediate environment has rapidly increased during the Covid-19 pandemic. These issues have highlighted the shortcomings of the current models of conservation and community relations where the interests of stakeholders are misaligned and the current solutions unsustainable.

The challenges are many - increase of human-wildlife conflicts, habitat destruction, the illegal wildlife trade, deforestation, to name just a few. To solve these problems opens us to significant impact opportunities, such as supporting community well-being, education, access to funding and the mobilisation of the coexisting communities to become the stewards of their lands.

Baotree is a new technology organisation that is trialling its solution in November - December 2020, in the heart of Laikipia County, Kenya. The Baotree team have three conservancies on-board, including two NGO's and six rural communities for the upcoming beta-technology test.

Baotree was founded in 2019 to offer a refreshed perspective on how to empower, equip and enable conservation-community stakeholders in Africa.



### Objective of Baotree

Baotree is an environmental and social impact business, focusing on the development of rural communities that live with wildlife, starting in Kenya, and with ambitions to expand across Africa and then globally from there. Their entry point is within the conservation-community landscape; however, their system is highly scalable for all community-driven development projects in all ecosystems.

### Why Baotree

Baotree's tech will reduce costs, increase operational efficiency and drive access to new funding sources, with maximised accountability and transparency.

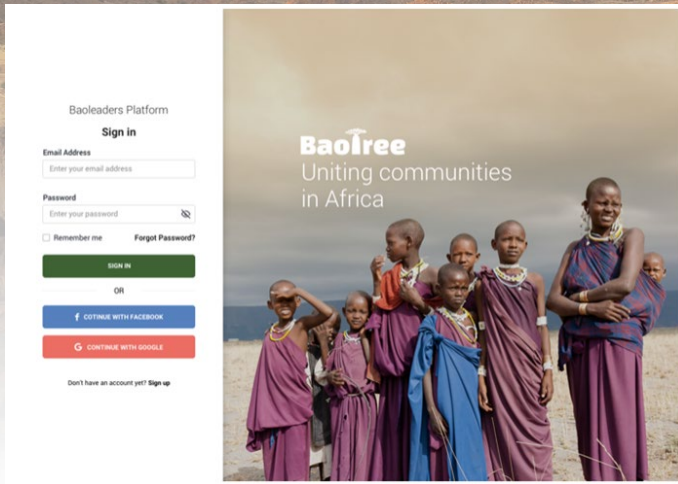
To collaborate and partner with some of the largest conservation/community organisations and institutions, Baotree offers:

- Community behavioural and attitudinal changes towards wildlife
- Scaled environmental and social impact through data-driven decisions
- Community mobilisation and empowerment towards positive environmental actions
- A collaborative tool allowing organisations to share ideas, best practices and mitigation techniques
- The model actively facilitates a new innovative funding model, while enabling the UN Sustainable Development Goals, at scale

### What they do

Baotree's technology enables and manages the dynamic relationships between conservation organisations and the relevant rural communities.

The platform allows communities to earn meaningful



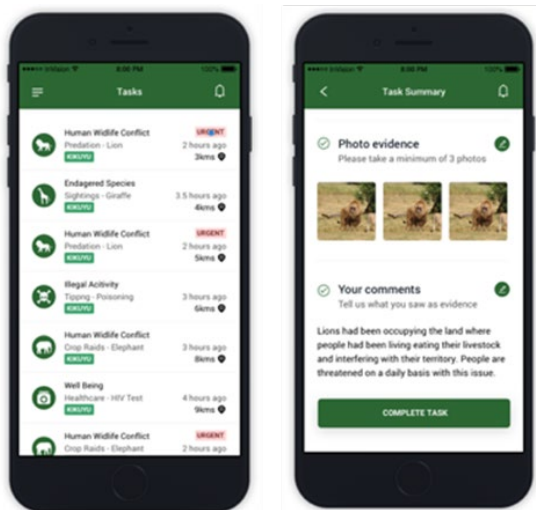
USSD or SMS functionality.



goods or services (e.g. farming equipment, irrigation systems, solar energy) by completing micro-tasks (e.g. planting trees, invasive species removal, human-wildlife conflicts management, anti-erosion ditches). In doing so, communities see value in the wildlife and land around them, thus taking responsibility for conservation efforts.

Baotree's customers develop 'Campaigns' in the system, which designate micro-tasks with an assigned eco-credit, dependent on their local ecological context. A campaign describes the community statement of need, the project beneficiaries and the cost of implementing a community's goals.

An eco-credit is the value assigned to a micro-task, by using a matrix of data-science variables such as urgency, community impact, seasonality, conflict type (to name a few). Over time Baotree's AI will learn how to dynamically assign the eco-credit's value based on the changing importance of the variables.



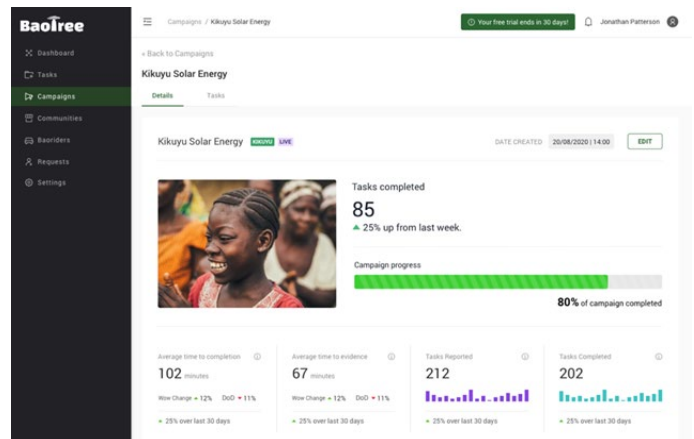
How they do it

Conservation, NGO or community development organisations serve as Baotree's customers who use the platform. Any organisation that coexists or works with rural communities in high priority conservation areas is a potential customer. These customers register their employed rangers or community workers, to act as the liaison officer between the conservation area and community. These officers, or 'Baoriders', validate the tasks reported in by the community members, through their own mobile Baorider platform.

Additionally, community members are volunteers within the system, having been registered by our customers. They can report tasks to the Baoriders via their feature phone with

Their non-profit funding platform

The technology facilitates verification of completed micro-tasks and data collected, thereby creating transparency for Campaign donors in real-time. Donors contribute to specific Campaigns via Baotree's non-profit funding platform, which funds the goods and services that the communities have earned through completing the micro-tasks. Once tasks are completed, and an eco-credit target is met, Baotree's customer will receive the funding to implement the community rewards.



The Baotree system shares both environmental and social

impact data captured in real-time – which marry into an overall theory of change analysis for customers to utilise for their funding efforts. The Baotree team are joining the collaborative call-to-action of achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

They believe that anything is possible when we listen to the signals of nature and respond in a balanced, collaborative manner.



- Predator proof materials
- Feeding schemes
- Healthcare trainings
- Solar energy systems
- Irrigation systems
- Infrastructure developments
- School bursaries
- Medical supplies

## Their Upcoming Beta-Technology Test

The Baotree team will be launching their technology test in the Laikipia County of Kenya this November – December 2020. They have partnered with 4 conservancies, 2 NGOs

and 6 communities to test, learn and optimise the system – before commencing sales to the wider Kenyan market in the first quarter of 2021.

Their partners are

- [Loisaba Conservancy](#)
- [Ol Pejeta Conservancy](#)
- [Borana Conservancy](#)
- [Lion Landscapes](#)
- [Communities Health Africa Trust \(CHAT\)](#)

To follow their journey, you can visit their [website](#) or follow them through social media

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

If you would like to connect with the team directly, please feel free to contact [Dimitri Syrris](#), Founder & CEO of Baotree

- [By Baotree](#)





# Announcements

## PANORAMA

SOLUTIONS FOR A HEALTHY PLANET

### Critical stakeholders engagement: fostering community stewardship for the safeguarding of the natural and cultural heritage of Victoria Falls/Mosi-Oa-Tunya

In 1989, the site of Mosi-Oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls was inscribed on the World Heritage list for its outstanding on-going geological processes, unique geomorphological formations, and exceptional natural beauty displayed through daytime and lunar rainbows. This is one of the world's largest waterfall in the world. However, the site is not only important for its internationally recognized natural values, Mosi-Oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls is also a very important site for local communities in Zambia, Zimbabwe and the wider south-eastern African region, which protect the site's spiritual and religious values it embodies.

The solution focuses on how these cultural values have been identified, mapped and how the inclusion of critical stakeholders - in combination with awareness raising and education campaigns - have become a change for improved management and for creating a framework for the sustainable economic development of the area, moving steps towards the a less tourism-dependent economy.



Joint monitoring mission to Mosi-oa-Tunya | Victoria Falls  
© John Zulu

Full article: [here](#).

More info on Panorama: [here](#).

#### Chief of Party: Sustainable Bushmeat @ WCS

**Where?** Republic of Congo

**Starting date:**  
December 2020

>> [Click here for the full job description](#) <<

#### Country Director @ WCS

**Where?** Maputo, Mozambique

**Application deadline:**  
15 November 2020

>> [Click here for the full job description](#) <<

#### Regional Business Manager East Africa @ WCS

**Where?** Kigali, Rwanda

**Application deadline:**  
15 November 2020

>> [Click here for the full job description](#) <<

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