



Newsletter from African protected areas

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Editorial

AFTER THE COP 15 IN CHINA, IS THERE ROOM FOR HOPE?

Illustration: Lyse Mauvais •



MOOC Conservation

MOOCS

Session starting. The new MOOC session has started, and all MOOCs are available. If you are already enrolled, you simply need to resume the course - exams were reset. If you aren't enrolled yet, simply create an account, and enrol in the courses you're interested in.

Ongoing session: 1 Sept. - 19 Dec. 2021 (midnight).

MOOC registrations: moo-conservation.org.



THE ESSENTIALS

Exams reset. Every MOOC session we reset Essential scores. So you can have another go at trying to obtain the attestation of participation.

What are they? They are short courses geared to a specific profile of protected area conservation actors.

Four options are possible: Rangers, Managers (involved in Research R or in Law enforcement L) and Leaders.

The Essentials are open throughout the year.

Inscriptions : moo-conservation.org



RANGER ESSENTIAL

For protected area (PA) professionals who apply decisions and ensure the implementation of activities inside the PA.



MANAGER ESSENTIAL

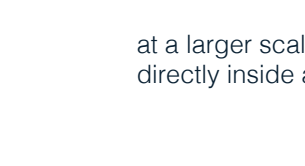
For protected area professionals who need to plan, manage and assess the work carried out by field agents.



→ **MANAGER LAW:** focuses on law enforcement and the valorisation of the PA and its natural resources.



→ **MANAGER RESEARCH:** focuses on research activities, monitoring-evaluation and ecological monitoring.



LEADER ESSENTIAL

For actors who are influencing the protected area context at a larger scale, without necessarily working directly inside a protected area.

Ambassadors etc.

MEETING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LOMÉ

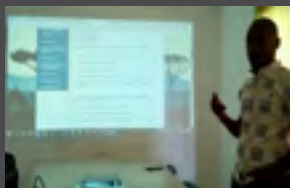
By Koffi Valentin, MOOC-Conservation ambassador in Togo



A meeting organised at the University of Lomé by Valentin, our ambassador in Togo, brought together 36 people, members of the Association des Professionnels de Gestion et Conservation de la Biodiversité (APro-GCB) and students from the University of Lomé Faculty of Sciences and School of Agronomy. This meeting led to discussions on capacity building on Nature conservation and biological resources and allowed new students to join the MOOCs and learn to use the courses platform.

GABONESE STUDENTS GATHERING IN LIBREVILLE

By Hans Mak, MOOC-Conservation ambassador in Gabon



On Saturday, October 9, 2021, at the headquarters of the NGO KEVA INITIATIVE in Libreville, a gathering of students from Gabon was organised. The former MOOC-Conservation ambassador Mr.

Brice Ulrich MAGANGA was present to support the new ambassador to start his new role as well as they met with the students, to guide and share their experience. Students participated on-site and online to this meeting which focused on the following agenda:

- The difficulties and concerns of students regarding the MOOC platform,

- The use of the platforms, the key to succeed to exams (guidance on the steps to follow from registration to exams, compliance with instructions, work strategy, etc.).

Participants also discussed future activities to be carried out, including:

- a meeting with the national school of water and forests (ENEF) of Gabon,

- a field trip with the students at the end of the current session

- the introduction of IUCN-Papaco ambassadors for Gabonese students living outside of Gabon.

NEW AMBASSADORS IN MADAGASCAR



Two new volunteers just joined the ranks of MOOC-Conservation ambassadors: Sariaka Randrenalijaona and Desire Victor Gaius Ben-Besoa will help our current ambassador, Rahariniaina Raymond Paul, in his mission to promote our MOOCs in Madagascar.

A graduate in biological anthropology and evolution and a biology teacher, Sariaka will be in charge of students from the Antananarivo region, while Victor, a student from the University of Mahajanga and herpetology amateur will help students from the North-Western part of the island.

AMBASSADOR ? An ambassador is a designated Papaco MOOC student who volunteered to help students in his/her city or region.

Website with all ambassadors: [here](#).

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 \(Togo\), Yenhame](#)
- ➔ [Kenya, James](#)
- ➔ [Kindu \(DRC\), Ohm](#)
- ➔ [Kinshasa \(DRC\), Emmanuel](#)
- ➔ [Kisangani \(DRC\), Richard](#)
- ➔ [Mali, Seydou](#)
- ➔ [Lomé \(Togo\), Valentin](#)
- ➔ [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](#)
- ➔ [Zimbabwe/South Africa, Fanuel](#)
- ➔ [Diffa \(Niger\), Omar](#)
- ➔ [Sierra Leone, James](#)



Featuring this month



STATE OF PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

State of protected and conserved areas in Eastern and Southern Africa is the first report that brings together information on protected and conserved areas for the whole Eastern and Southern Africa region. The Eastern and Southern Africa region covers 24 countries from South Africa in the south to Sudan in the north and four of the six Western Indian Ocean island nations. The region is culturally diverse and extremely rich in biodiversity, with an abundance of spectacular

wildlife, and many endemic species of flora and fauna. Considerable efforts are being made to conserve the biodiversity of the region, but growing human populations, land use conflict, overexploitation of resources, unsustainable recreational activities, deforestation and illegal trade are threatening protected areas, species and ecosystems. This report includes a global overview of conservation and the related policies and programmes, as well as a regional analysis. The report emphasizes the underlying rationale for implementing effective systems of protected and conserved areas. It contains numerous case studies from Eastern and Southern Africa.

➔ [Read the full document here.](#)

Introduction

The Eastern and Southern African region is one of the world's most biodiversity-rich areas consisting of a number of diverse protected and conserved areas managed by a wide range of stakeholders – governments, nongovernmental organisations (NGOs), local communities, the private sector and partnerships among these entities. The region has high levels of poverty and unemployment and, for this reason, governments tend to focus on socio-economic development, increasing employment and reducing poverty. In particular, a focus on the agricultural and mining sector, as well as major infrastructural developments, can result in land use conflicts and low investment in, and financing of, protected and conserved areas.

However, healthy ecosystems can reduce socio-economic vulnerability by supporting well-being, and the environmental knowledge held by Indigenous people can lead to the discovery of new species and populations and can enhance our understanding of status and trends of species and ecosystems, particularly those that contribute to human livelihoods and well-being. Effectiveness of protected areas is poor in many areas in the region due to a combination of

factors, such as climate change, overexploitation (bushmeat poaching, logging, livestock herding), civil conflicts, and encroachment from local populations to sustain their livelihoods, and inadequate park design, financing and administration (EC, 2015).

Freshwater biodiversity in Africa is under severe pressure with the majority of threatened species found in areas with high levels of development and demand on water resources, such as southern and eastern South Africa and in the great lakes in eastern Africa. Much of Africa's marine and coastal biodiversity is also threatened. The wide continental shelf along the northwest coast of Africa, mangrove forests of West and Eastern Africa and adjacent islands, provide diverse habitats that support high levels of biodiversity of fish and invertebrate species. Terrestrial biodiversity is also threatened by, amongst other things, mining, poaching, illegal wildlife trade, loss of habitat, alien vegetation and increasing human populations and the resultant land-use conflicts (EC, 2015).

From this perspective, an understanding of the state of protected and conserved areas in the region is important to provide a baseline against which the progress of

conservation targets to which governments have committed can be measured.

The report covers the following countries in Eastern and Southern Africa: Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe (see Figure 1.1).

Figure 1.1 Map of countries included in this report



3. Overview of the region

This section provides the context of this report and an overview of the state of protected and conserved areas in the Eastern and Southern Africa region as a whole. Where data are available, full analyses have been undertaken. It presents information on the institutions formed to meet to the specific needs and priorities of the sub-regions, including regional policies and legal instruments. Innovative approaches that inform and demonstrate success are highlighted and recommended.

The Eastern and Southern Africa region covers 24 countries including the Western Indian Ocean islands. It is home to four Regional Economic Communities: the East African Community (EAC); the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The Eastern and Southern Africa region is vast, covering approximately 16 million km², an area equivalent to approximately half the African land mass. It is a geographically diverse region that stretches from the Red Sea in the north to the Cape of Good Hope in the south, as well as the Western Indian Ocean islands. The region

includes numerous different biomes, including savannah, grassland, dryland and desert, tropical and subtropical dry and humid forest, wetland, and the unique fynbos biome of South Africa.

Sub-regional differences have implications on the management and governance of protected and conserved areas. Among the countries, there is a diversity of needs and priorities for development, including sustainable conservation, such as revising legislation and policies to allow for more inclusive conservation. Areas still undergoing conflict, as the case in South Sudan and Somalia, may require a greater focus on law enforcement, which will impact on management priorities and budgets. Countries are also at vastly different stages of sustainable conservation, with Botswana, Kenya, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda having more advanced policies and processes related to management and governance, while Eritrea, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan are still in the early stages of policy development, establishment of conservation areas and governance policies. The Western Indian Ocean islands have unique opportunities and challenges.

In 2019, Africa's population reached 1.32 billion (Worldometer, n.d.), representing 16.7% of the total world population, with a population density for the continent of 44 people per km². In the same year, Eastern and Southern Africa's population was 512 million, representing 6.6% of the world population, with a population density of 32 people per km². This figure varies greatly across the region, with Namibia having one of the lowest population densities (three people per km²) and Rwanda having one of the highest (512 people per km²). Population estimates suggest that growth will remain strong in the coming decades such that by 2050, one in four people in the world will be African. A strong population growth presents challenges which need to be effectively managed (IPBES, 2018), along with high levels of poverty and unemployment. A number of the regional threats to conservation are directly related to population growth and competition for land (EC, 2015; IPBES, 2018).

3.1 Eastern Africa

The Eastern African region marks the highest and lowest points on the continent and includes a range of habitats from rainforests and coastal reefs to deserts. Some of the unique features are the montane fauna and flora of the Ethiopian Highlands, including the endemic and endangered Ethiopian

Wolf (*Canis simensis*), the tropical glaciated mountains of the Ruwenzori and Kilimanjaro, the forested escarpments of the Albertine Rift Valley, the great lakes of Africa, the unique Horn of Africa, the largest migrations of savannah wildlife and important relic forests of the Eastern African coasts. The region also includes some of the most famous protected areas of the continent, including the Masai Mara National Reserve and Serengeti National Park. It is home to chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) and the world's largest population of lion (*Panthera leo*) (Tanzania).

Lake Tanganyika is the longest freshwater lake in the world and hosts 250 different species of cichlid fish, of which 98% are endemic. Lake Victoria shows less endemism but is an important fishery for local populations in three countries.

Similar to other tropical regions, the extent of the lowland and mountain rainforests and dry forests in Eastern Africa has been decreasing. In the eastern African coastal forests, loss is primarily through conversion to farmland, mainly through shifting cultivation. In Tanzania, for example, coastal forest cover declined by over a third from 420,765 hectares in 1990 to 358,333 hectares in 2000, and to 273,709 hectares in 2007. However, the rate of deforestation has been lower within Tanzanian reserves: 0.2% and 0.4% per year during 1990–2000 and 2000–2007, respectively, compared to 1.3% and 0.6% per year outside the reserves during the same periods (Burgess et al., 2017; Godoy et al., 2012).

3.2 Madagascar and the Western Indian Ocean islands

The island of Madagascar has high species richness and

extraordinary levels of endemism particularly seen in lemurs, tenrecs and chameleons. There are more plant species in Madagascar than in the entire Congo Basin. The forests in the north and east are humid, with those in the west and south been increasingly arid. The island constitutes a region of disproportionate conservation importance with high levels of endemism and a high proportion of endangered species. The smaller islands of Comoros, Mauritius and Seychelles are also of exceptional conservation importance as part of the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands biodiversity hotspot, with many endemic and threatened species and ecosystems, such as the Seychelles white-eye (*Zosterops modestus*).

The Malagasy eastern rainforests decreased by 1.69% annually from 1990–2000 and 1.08% from 2000–2010 (Mayaux et al., 2013), and an estimated 97% of Malagasy dry western forests have been destroyed since human settlement (WWF, 2017), with an annual deforestation rate of 0.75% from 1990–2000 (Gorenflo et al., 2011).

3.3 Southern Africa

The 10 countries of Southern Africa comprise the wealthiest and most developed sub-region of sub-Saharan Africa, albeit uneven. They also exhibit a high diversity of species and habitats.

Natural wonders in southern Africa include the great Etosha salt pans, the Victoria Falls and Zambezi River, and the unique inland Okavango Delta. The Kalahari and Namib Deserts are both large deserts, with the Namib considered to be the oldest desert in the world. The Karoo Desert in South Africa



has the world's richest flora of succulent plants and Fynbos shrubland forms a major element of the Cape Floristic Region in South Africa, which is one of the six recognised floral kingdoms of the world, with more than 9,000 vascular plant species of which 69% are endemic. The eastern coast of Southern Africa below the Great Escarpment is another important centre of plant endemism.

Lake Malawi/Niassa/Nyasa is 570-km long and is the most southerly lake of the Rift Valley, containing more species of fish than any other lake on earth, including more than 1,000 endemic species of cichlid fish and many endemic molluscs.

Southern Africa contains more elephant and rhinoceros than the rest of the continent, as well as some of the oldest and largest reserves and parks in Africa. Southern African countries have a long history of wildlife conservation and game management and have been pioneers of community-based natural resource use, transfrontier conservation and other innovative conservation approaches. The first Peace Park emerged in Southern Africa in 1990 and the Lubombo Transfrontier Conservation Area established in 2000 was the first marine TFCA in Africa (see section 4.5 for more information on TFCAs).

12 Recommendations

Protected areas will continue to be an essential element of global biodiversity conservation efforts in the post-2020 era, shielding precious biodiversity, maintaining natural processes in the landscape and providing key habitats and refuges for species in an era of unprecedented and rapid change (Ceballos et al., 2015). Protected areas also provide livelihood benefits for people, from clean drinking water to food security in addition to a myriad of other cultural, spiritual and socio-economic benefits, but conservation measures can also have negative social impacts as well.

Challenges threaten the existence and efficiency of protected areas, as global biodiversity continues to deteriorate (Secretariat of the CBD, 2014; Thomas & Gillingham, 2015). The key issues of climate change and biodiversity loss mean that an expanded and effectively-managed system of protected areas and other conserved areas is not just increasingly vital, but also needs a higher level of well-targeted and coordinated investment.

The following list of recommendations are priorities for attention by protected area authorities, donors, NGOs and partners throughout Eastern and Southern Africa in order to meet global targets as well as to ensure that protected areas are able to both conserve biodiversity and contribute to enhanced livelihoods throughout the region.

The BIOPAMA workplan, which was developed through national and regional consultation and assessment of national and regional needs, aligns with the recommendations outlined below. It includes capacity building and other activities related to each of the recommendations to support an improvement in management effectiveness, governance and equity.

12.1 Increase sustainable financing and political support for protected and conserved areas

Adequate and sustainable financing is essential for the management of protected and conserved areas. While the region is currently far from meeting this target, there are exciting new mechanisms for innovative financing of protected areas, and more work is required to pilot and scale up approaches in diverse contexts throughout Eastern and Southern Africa. In addition, more work is required to demonstrate the importance of protected and conserved areas in providing ecosystem services and supporting rural livelihoods. This may help increase the political will and commitments by governments, and hopefully lead to increased budgetary allocations towards the conservation sector which are needed to ensure longer-term sustainable support for these networks. The importance of the wildlife economy and the important role of biodiversity conservation are increasingly being acknowledged by stakeholders as a key to sustainable development in the region.

12.2 Enhance capacities for protected and conserved area management

Capacity building throughout the sector of protected area management and biodiversity conservation is urgently needed throughout the region. This includes support to front-line personnel, such as rangers, but also extends to 'head office' personnel as well as community support organisations, NGOs and donors. Capacity building for middle managers in the sector is also critical as many of these managers move from field positions and lack the necessary administrative, financial and negotiation skills

required for success in their new position as middle managers of protected and conserved areas. Capacity building is required, not only in traditional protected area management and anti-poaching, but in conservation technology, community engagement, markets and business, innovative financing (e.g. carbon markets), and partnerships, including public-private partnerships.

12.3 Diversify governance of protected areas and recognise effective local, community and co-management governance initiatives

Eastern and Southern Africa is home to a great diversity of governance arrangements for protecting and conserving biodiversity. Continued support and enhanced enabling policy environments will strengthen this growing sector. The identification of OECMs is critical in order to understand and maximise the full range of opportunities for innovation in biodiversity conservation across the region. The establishment of collaborative management partnerships with non-governmental organisations can be one important mechanism for overcoming these challenges, and has grown in its importance across the protected area estate in Eastern and Southern Africa. Public-private partnerships represent a significant opportunity to increase the funding for, and improved management of, protected areas in the region. Policies, structures and staff need to be in place to facilitate and oversee such innovative arrangements.

12.4 Address gaps in the coverage of marine and terrestrial ecosystems in protected and conserved area estates

There has been, and will continue to be, an increase in technological tools available to analyse the connectivity and representativity of protected and conserved areas. It is necessary to use these tools to identify critical gaps in coverage, allowing for the process to ensure their protection to begin, as well as for stakeholders to focus more on a landscape approach, rather than isolated areas being conserved. The benefits of landscape conservation are increasingly being highlighted and the analyses of the overlap of important species (fauna and flora) and conserved areas need to be a key focus area for policymakers and land-use planners.

12.5 Enhance collaboration across borders and sectors to respond to existing and

emerging threats

In these times of dramatic climatic changes, accelerating biodiversity loss, growing illegal wildlife trade and rapid demographic shifts, Eastern and Southern Africa faces a monumental challenge in its quest to maintain a robust and connected protected area network. 'Business-as-usual' has not proven to be successful, and it is necessary to enhance collaboration across borders and sectors to respond to emerging threats, through increased use of information-sharing mechanisms. The BIOPAMA Regional Resource Hub provides an important platform for information sharing and knowledge exchange.

12.6 Enhance transboundary conservation

Eastern and Southern Africa is home to 30 established and potential transboundary conservation areas. These areas have the potential to support action at ecologically and economically meaningful scales, and are of interest to bilateral and multilateral funders. SADC has established a strong TFCA programme, which may serve as a useful model for Eastern Africa as it works to enhance transboundary conservation in the sub-region. A number of important conservation areas in Eastern Africa are transboundary and increased collaboration in the conservation of those areas is needed. In addition, marine and coastal conservation areas are generally underrepresented in the TFCA estate.

12.7 Improve coverage of assessments of management effectiveness, governance and equity

Currently, only 13% of protected areas in the region have had at least one assessment of management effectiveness, and a much smaller proportion have assessed governance and equity. Furthermore, no recent regional analysis of the outcomes of these assessments has been conducted. Aichi Target 11 states clearly that the target is to have effectively and equitably managed protected areas. In the absence of data, it is impossible to know the extent to which the region is meeting this important target. Improving capacity to carry out management effectiveness, governance and equity at local and national levels is therefore a priority. At the same time, it is also important to raise awareness and increase guidance on how to report through global platforms to monitor achievement of targets. These are important to ensure sustainability and enhanced institutionalisation of assessments. A thorough analysis of the outcomes of the

recent assessments carried out in the Eastern and Southern Africa region is needed to help build a regional picture of the status of management effectiveness and equitable governance, and to guide future interventions.

12.8 Enhance frequency and comprehensiveness of reporting to the World Database of Protected Areas

The Eastern and Southern African region has almost achieved the Aichi Target 11 for terrestrial protected areas, almost reaching the target of 17% of the terrestrial land area covered by protected areas. For marine and coastal protection, the region has achieved just over half of the

target of 10%, with 5.6% of the coastal and marine area covered by protection. With the expansion of the target to include OECMs, countries are encouraged to report all protected and conserved areas to the WDPA. Since there is a high proportion of 'unreported' in the IUCN governance and management categories, countries are encouraged to clarify the categories into which existing protected and conserved areas fit. The WDPA data is used to set and measure many global and regional targets, which makes it crucial that countries ensure that the data is up-to-date and accurate. • [Read full publication here.](#)



Announcements

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



University diploma: edition 18

On October 25, the 18th University Diploma (UD), organized by the Papaco, the Senghor University of Alexandria and the PACO (IUCN's regional program for West and Central Africa) began in Ouagadougou, with a support from the PAPBIO project (funded by the European Union). For 7 weeks, the course will host 17 students from five countries of the region. This edition is a bit special since it specializes in environmental criminality: thus three weeks will be specifically dedicated to this very important subject for protected areas, especially in the Sahel ecosystem, including a week of field work. This UD will end on December 12 and should be followed by the 19th UD in March or April 2022; registrations should open in December.



JOB OPPORTUNITIES



Transboundary Land-use Planning Expert

Where? Bamingui-Bangoran, Centrafrique ; Manovo-Gounda-St.Floris, Centrafrique ; Aouk, Chad

Application deadline:
november 2021

[>> Click here to access full job description <<](#)

Logistics Officer

Where? Garoua, Cameroon

Application deadline:
november 2021

[>> Click here to access full job description <<](#)

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