

NAPPA#161

NEWS FROM AFRICAN PROTECTED AREAS MARCH 2022



Sunset in Gorongosa National Park, Mozambique. Photo by Jemima Martins



PAPACO

EDITORIAL **REBUILDING TRUST** BY GEOFFROY MAUVAIS

PDF PAGE 3 **MOOC CONSERVATION NEWS**

PDF PAGE 4 **MOOC CONSERVATION AMBASSADORS**

PDF PAGE 6 **IUCN REPORT: CONFLICT AND CONSERVATION**

PDF PAGE 10 **OTHER NEWS**

Editorial



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REBUILDING TRUST

Late January, an interesting [article](#) on Kruger National Park in South Africa came out. It is interesting in many ways.

First, because with its surface covering two million hectares and its century of existence, Kruger National Park is one of the largest and oldest national parks in Africa. It is often cited, and rightfully so, as an example in the world of conservation and “it’s been part of South Africa’s DNA for generations.”

As it is the case with many parks of the continent where there are still resources left to plunder, Kruger National Park is horribly enticing. Its white rhino population in particular dropped from 10 000 individuals in 2010 to less than 3 000 today. Protecting such an area is almost mission impossible, and over 2 700 poaching incidents are recorded each year. That doesn’t even include everything we don’t see!

The area around Kruger is very similar to the surrounding areas of other parks on the continent. “More than two million poor people live up against the park’s border.” Youth unemployment in some places reaches 60%. In this context, it is difficult to consider conservation a priority and resist the pressure from poaching syndicates. To make things worse, 73% of these surrounding residents have never set foot in the park. Some consider it merely a source of “sustenance” surrounded by hunger.

Faced with such a situation, the government does what it can, but that is not enough. Not enough rangers, money, training, equipment or management. The park is highly dependent on tourism, and since the Covid crisis, it plunged into deficit. Like many other parks, Kruger National Park needs a deep reform of its management, but also of its governance so it can find new paths and solutions. But change is scary.

And then there is also the weight of history. To some, Kruger is “land stolen from their forebears during apartheid for exclusive white hunting and leisure”. Therefore, poaching in the park is simply a fair way to turn the tables. Many

people in other places share this view, but there, history is somewhat different.

In this article, Kruger managers finally raise the core issue: “How can we ensure communities feel a sense of ownership of Kruger?” To which they add: “If we were to start conservation in the park today, we’d do it entirely differently.”

This point is key: trust was lost. Trust inside the park between employees and their management, after multiple corruption scandals and betrayals. Trust in and with the surrounding communities who suffer and do not consider the park a solution, only a problem. Without this trust, which must go both ways, no collaboration is possible. Without this collaboration, which must be real, there is no chance of success.

The world has evolved, our perception of the world has changed, the means to protect nature have improved. All this allows us to tackle the future of our protected areas with greater objectivity and experience. This doesn’t mean they are in decline or decommissioned, quite the opposite since we are committing to creating more protected territories in different ways, by 2030. It means we have to give up old recipes, weapons, fences, use of force, coercion, frustration. For all of this to happen in private reserves, why not, if there is no alternative and it can be justified by what is at stake. After all, everyone is in charge of their own home! But not in national parks. They are, primarily, the legacy of a country and its inhabitants, and must fully remain their property. If we do not rebuild trust and the sense of ownership that comes with it, there is no hope for the park to be accepted as shared heritage, and no chance for it to survive increasing pressure. This is the lesson we can learn from Kruger. ●

PAPACO ONLINE

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

[MOOC FB Group \(English\)](https://www.facebook.com/groups/moocfbgroup)

[@moocconservation \(Instagram\)](https://www.instagram.com/moocconservation)

[@Papaco_IUCN \(Twitter\)](https://twitter.com/Papaco_IUCN)

[Papaco.org](https://www.papaco.org)

[IUCN Protected and Conserved Areas newsletter](#)



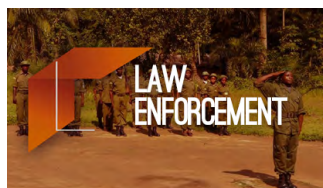
MOOC CONSERVATION NEWS

MOOCs

Session ongoing. Join the rest of this sessions’s learners, as it is not to late to enrol yet and you won’t have anything to catch up on. Each learner follows the course at their own pace.

Ongoing session: 17 January - 12 June 2022 (midnight).

MOOC registration: mooc-conservation.org



ESSENTIALS

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.

Registrations: mooc-conservation.org



RANGER ESSENTIAL

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



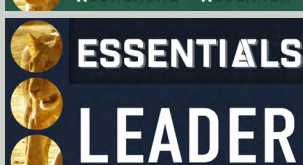
MANAGER ESSENTIAL

For protected area professionals who need to plan, manage and assed 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.

MOOC CONSERVATION AMBASSADORS

AMBASSADOR? An ambassador is a designated Papaco MOOC student who volunteered to help students in his/her city or region. An ambassadors managers a MOOC Conservation hub, which is a local network of MOOC Conservation students.

Liste complète : [here](#).

FIVE NEW AMBASSADORS

The ambassador family is getting bigger. If you are from one of the designated areas, join the hub;

- **Martin** in Kisangani (DRC), he is replacing Richard (merci Richard !);
- **Cristovao** in Mozambique ;
- **Victor** on Mahajanga (Madagascar) ;
- **Sariaka** joins Raymond in Antananarivo (Madagascar) ;
- **Cheick** in Tenkodogo (Burkina Faso).



Martin, Kisangani (DRC)



Cristovao, Mozambique



Victor, Mahajanga (Madagascar)



Sariaka, Antananarivo (Madagascar)



Cheick, Tenkodogo (Burkina Faso)

MEETING IN GABON :

"On 26 January 2022, a meeting took place at the Ecole Nationale des Eaux et Forêts (ENEF, Forestry school in Gabon) between students from ENEF and MOOC Conservation ambassadors in Gabon.

The goal of the gathering was to inform ENEF students on MOOC Conservation courses. Why at ENEF? This school trains future high-level managers in the field of forest management and governance, protected areas and biodiversity conservation...

The following people participated:

- 50 students from different levels and departments
- The department head of Fauna and protected areas
- 8 MOOC Conservation students
- The GABON VERT TV channel.

The meeting ended with an outing around the mangroves of Mondah Bay (Esterias Cape).

This outing raised awareness on the threats this fragile ecosystem is facing. It also enabled Gabon MOOC Conservation students to apply their MOOC Conservation knowledge practically on the field." By Hans, MOOC Conservation ambassador in Gabon.

Watch the [video of the meeting, by Gabon Vert](#).



"On Sunday 26 December 2021, Burkina Faso MOOC Conservation students accepted an invitation from Full For Progress Burkina Faso, to spend the day cleaning and improving Bangr-weoogo Urban Park in Ouagadougou. 400 people from over 20 organisations took part in this event!

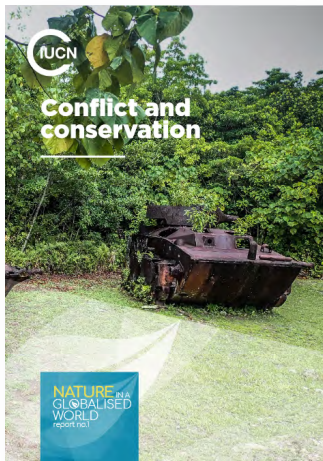
During this day, Ouagadougou's MOOC Conservation ambassador made a short presentation of the MOOC Conservation programme, and invited interested parties to get in touch with him and enrol." By Valéry Aristide THIOMBIANO, MOOC Conservation ambassador in Ouagadougou.



If you'd like to create a MOOC Conservation Hub in your city, first make sure there isn't an existing one (full list [here](#)). If you don't see one in your city and especially country, do get in touch with us. To be eligible, you must have successfully completed at least one MOOC.

FEATURING THIS MONTH

CONFLICT AND CONSERVATION



The imperative of conserving nature and mitigating conflict is formalised as three of the seventeen United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: 14 (Life below water), 15 (Life on land), and 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions). However, while there is a long history of scholarly and policy attention to the interlinkages between war and environment in general, specific relationships between armed conflict and nature conservation have received relatively little attention. Part I of this Report fills this gap through synthesis of the literature, targeted data analysis, and assessment of implications for policy and practice.

IUCN (2021). Conflict and conservation. Nature in a Globalised World Report No.1. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN

Read [full report here](#).

To read more about security in protected areas, see [Protected areas, conflict and insecurity: understanding the situation and defining the rules](#) by Jérôme Tubiana.

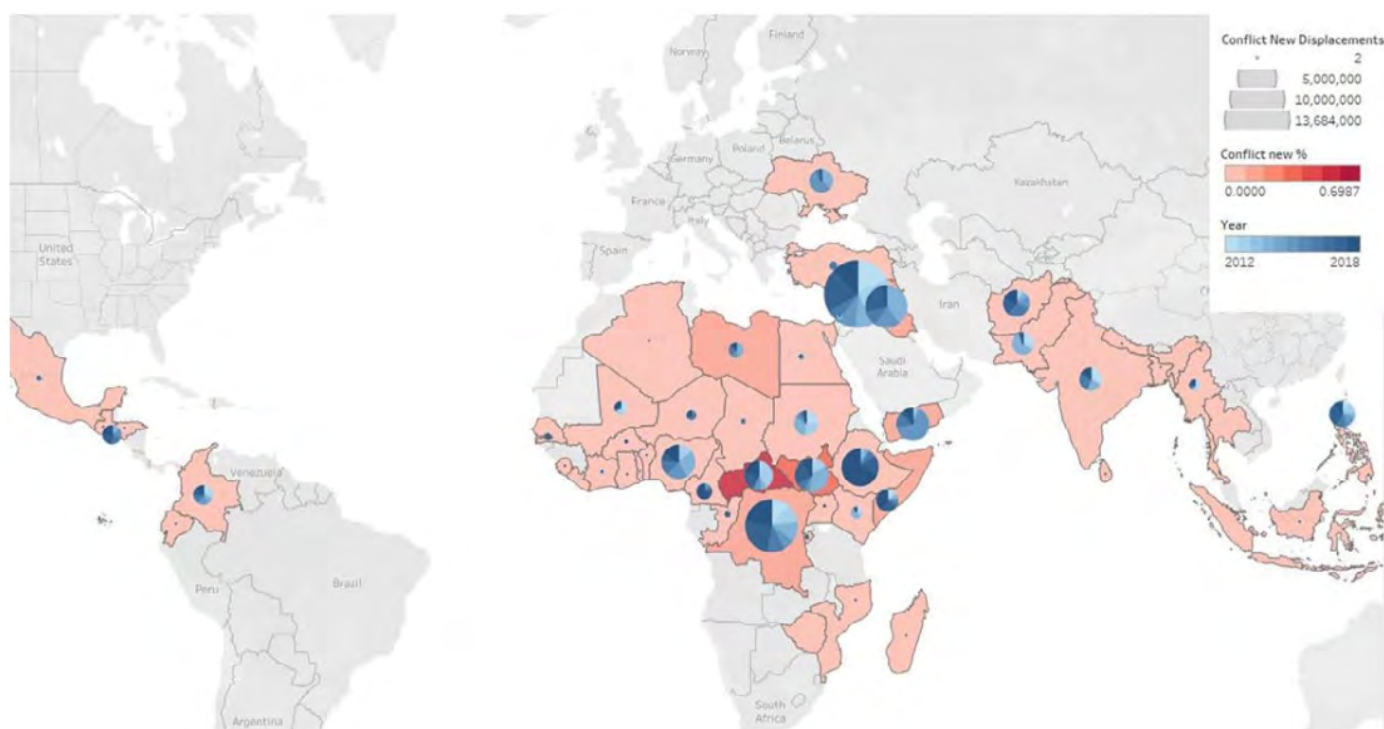
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Data from the Uppsala Conflict Data Program show that armed conflict events (that is, incidents where armed force used by an organised actor results in at least one death) have been increasing over the last 30 years and now exceed 7,000 armed conflicts annually worldwide. They are distributed globally but concentrated in Sub-Saharan Africa, and West and South Asia, and in aggregate are responsible for more than two million deaths over the period. Interlinkages with nature conservation occur across the conflict life cycle, encompassing not only war itself but also the preparation and post-war stages, with the latter often including forced displacement, which has affected more than 70 million people globally.

This report focuses on living nature – that is, biodiversity – encompassing a continuum of levels of ecological organisation from genetic diversity through species to entire ecosystems. There is great variation in the concentration of biodiversity at all three levels around the

world, with the highest concentrations being in tropical forests, especially in mountains and on islands. However, this diversity of life is severely threatened. For example, the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ estimates that a quarter of species in well-known groups are threatened. Conservation responses addressing these threats encompass protection, sustainable use and restoration.

The linkages between conflict and nature and natural resources are not unidirectional but go both ways, with nature and natural resources playing a role in conflict, and conflict in turn affecting them. The impacts of armed conflict on nature are overwhelmingly negative, although they vary widely in detail. These impacts can include direct killing of individual organisms for food or trade, degradation of ecosystems as both a tactic and a consequence of war, reduction in conservation capacity, and persecution of environmental defenders. While there is also some, mainly historical, evidence of the positive impacts of war on nature through “gunpoint conservation”, such impacts appear to be temporary and soon overwhelmed by the



Internal displacement by conflict, 2012–2018

Sources: Compiled by authors using data from the Uppsala Conflict Data Program³⁵⁰ and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

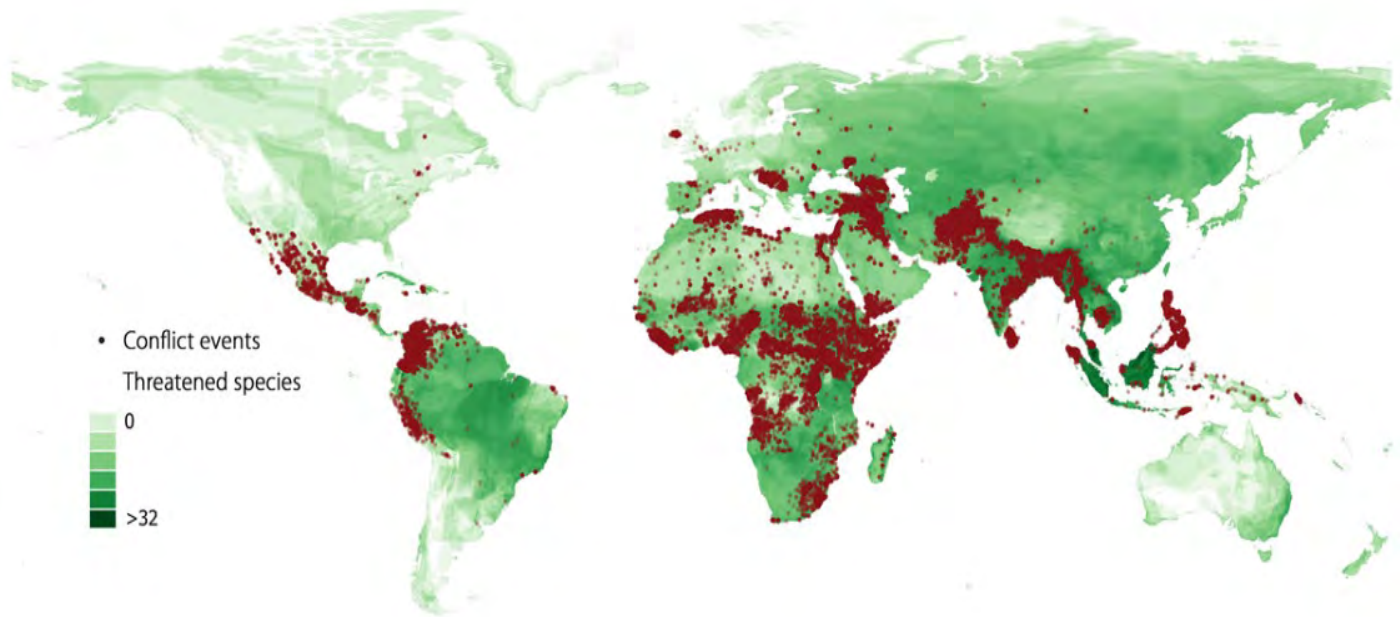
waves of unconstrained development that often follows armed conflict. Empirical data analysis reveals that species in general, and threatened species in particular, are more likely than expected to occur in areas that have experienced armed conflict over the last three decades. By contrast, Key Biodiversity Areas and protected areas contain less conflict than expected. Thus, the conflict-conservation relationships may be scale dependent, with positive associations at coarse scales but negative ones at fine scales.

Nature and natural resources affect conflict in many different ways. For example, the degradation of nature is strongly if variably associated with increasing risk of conflict. This is the case across multiple components of living nature. At the species level, there is some evidence for unsustainable exploitation of wildlife and timber as drivers in financing conflict; a counter-narrative highlights situations of “green militarisation” in which conservation in fact drives conflict. At ecosystem levels, both land degradation and deterioration of aquatic ecosystems can also increase the risk of armed conflict, while a prominent – albeit contested – branch of the literature points to climate change as a driver of conflict. Novel analysis of armed conflict events over the last 30 years finds that countries tend to be more conflict-prone when natural

resources, especially agricultural lands, are less available or less productive, when countries are more dependent on natural resources, or when drought is prevalent.

These relationships shed light on a suite of potential policy options that can simultaneously conserve nature and promote peace. Many of these revolve around strengthening natural resource governance through inclusive decision-making, stabilising land tenure and resource rights, improving accountability and transparency, recognising the rights of indigenous peoples and women, and advancing coordination within countries, to name a few. Improved natural resource management is also important for example, through protected area establishment and management, sustainable land and water use, adherence to standards and safeguards for environmental and social sustainability, and the greening of military and humanitarian operations. Finally, mechanisms for environmental peacebuilding between countries encompass both legal instruments (e.g. international agreements and enforcement of obligations in international courts) and transboundary management arrangements (e.g. through hydro-diplomacy, management of shared marine resources, and establishment of *Parks for Peace*).

The implications of these analyses, syntheses and policy



Global distribution of threatened birds, mammals and amphibians (in green) with armed conflict events since 1989 (overlaid in red)

Sources: Compiled by the authors using data from the IUCN Red List of Threatened SpeciesTM 357 and the Uppsala Conflict Data Program

options vary across different sectors:

For natural resource governance, conservation, and management agencies, the overarching implication, given the positive relationship between biodiversity and conflict, is that **conservation must continue even in war-torn regions**, with the safety of frontline environmental defenders, as well as the environment they are defending, as paramount considerations. **Conservation engagement in post-conflict situations** is also essential to mitigate what are often extremely severe pressures on nature following the cessation of hostilities in war-stricken regions. Most proactively, conservation practice should recognise that **effective conservation and restoration of nature can contribute to mitigating and pre-empting armed conflict**. That the converse is also true underscores the importance of socially-inclusive conservation, and of equitable sharing of the benefits that it provides. Moreover, conservationists must stay vigilant to ensure that the process of conservation itself does not trigger or exacerbate armed conflicts.

For international agreements and law, urgent implications of the relationships between conflict and nature include the establishment of **explicit protections for protected area staff and other conservationists**, and **sanctions against those who commit environmental**

war crimes. Mechanisms to establish such sanctions could include enhancing the United Nations Compensation Commission and ensuring prosecution of environmental war crimes through the International Criminal Court, strengthened by the ongoing deliberations by the International Law Commission. In addition, more effective, even-handed means are needed to **coordinate law enforcement efforts across sectors and scales** to strengthen prevention and mitigation of both conflict and environmental degradation, for example between protected area staff, police and military personnel, and engagement between wildlife agencies, and immigration and customs at border crossings.

For humanitarian and development agencies, contributions towards environmental peacebuilding through strengthening equitable and transparent governance are already substantial. However, beyond these contributions there is considerable scope for recognition of the benefits that **strengthening management of natural resources can make towards environmental peacebuilding** through the management of protected areas, lands and waters for example. Moreover, it is important for humanitarian and development agencies to implement actions to **address the footprints on nature resulting from their own activities** (including their

impacts through procurement processes), drawing from established standards and safeguards as well as best practice approaches such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' Environmental Guidelines.

For military interventions, the most proximate implication is a simple one: **military investment should actively mitigate harm to living nature**, both during and after conflict. This is relevant for reducing direct environmental harm as well as avoiding inadvertent

impacts. Also important is natural resource management and governance training for soldiers, humanitarian workers, and peacekeeping forces, and the promotion of conservation and sustainable resource use in post-war recovery policies. In the longer-term, though, the most important implication is that **investment in conservation increases the chances of peace**.

TRANSBOUNDARY GOVERNANCE AND CONFLICT AROUND LAKE CHAD

James Dalton & Camille Jepang (IUCN)

Poor governance of shared resources and a lack of knowledge of transboundary management mechanisms can impact social relations between communities along shared bodies of water, and increase the risk that unarmed conflict will escalate into something far worse. Considered to be one of the most fragile areas in the world, Lake Chad is shared by Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon and Chad. Since 2009, a large-scale security crisis has affected the Lake Chad area, around which multiple stressors converge, including unemployment, limited government presence, poverty and population growth. These stressors heighten existing competition for resources, in turn exacerbating tensions between pastoralists, farmers and fishers. This impacts people whose livelihoods depend on Lake Chad; in addition, it is threatening peace and security, compounding poverty and unemployment, as well as fuelling intra-regional migration, with some 2.5 million people, most of whom are women and children, forcibly displaced. Compounding these factors is the rise of ethnic militia and organised militant groups such as Boko Haram, as well as a vulnerable environmental situation, specifically the region's susceptibility to extreme weather and climate change.

The size of the lake is highly variable, reflecting multi-decadal patterns of climate change. After a period of contraction, Lake Chad has recently started to slowly expand again, but the main challenge facing people dependent on the lake is increased fluctuation and uncertainty. Now, more than ever before in its recorded history, the timing and duration of the rains vary erratically. The future impacts of climate change upon the lake are still poorly understood. As the number of people depending on the lake for their livelihoods continues to increase, it is clear that any further disruption to this fragile ecosystem will have profound negative implications for peace and security in the region.

In the Chari-Logone, a sub-basin of Lake Chad shared between Chad and Cameroon, Village and Canton Chiefs (Sultans) impose taxes on crossing of the Logone River in their respective zones. The taxes were first imposed by Chiefs on the Chadian side; their Cameroonian counterparts then followed suit. This affected local communities' interaction with each other, as by crossing the river to trade or visit family members, they would be taxed up to FCFA 60,000 (approximately US\$ 110). In response to Boko Haram, waterway traffic restrictions have also been added.

Many development organisations have responded to the Lake Chad crisis, including the Sahel Alliance, a coalition launched by France, Germany and the European Union; which was later joined by the World Bank, the African Development Bank, and the United Nations Development Programme, together with Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom, Luxembourg, Denmark and the Netherlands. The Alliance's Inclusive Economic and Social Recovery Project for Lake Chad (RESILAC) aims to: i) strengthen social cohesion by supporting territorial development and providing assistance to victims of violence; ii) contribute to the economic recovery of the region by creating jobs on sites to rehabilitate community facilities and supporting agricultural micro-entrepreneurship and apprenticeship; and iii) improve the governance of municipalities for a more effective management of territories and natural resources.

- [Read the full report here](#)

OTHER NEWS



The development of our educational platform for youth is moving forward. The first module is ready, and is currently being tested in different schools in Africa.

Why Youth Conservation? The platform's aim is to raise awareness on conservation in schools, and to make students realise what the stakes we are currently facing are. In a way, Youth Conservation is the step before MOOC Conservation, and is intended to become the go-to information tool in classrooms across Africa. It will first be available in French.



SOLUTIONS FOR A HEALTHY PLANET

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS TO COPE WITH COVID-19 CRISIS

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, over 90 % of the community members, living around the Murchison Falls Protected Areas, made an income from tourism related activities. Even the Uganda State as a whole was relying very much on tourism contributing to 7.9 percent to the GDP in 2019.

As a direct consequence of the tourism shutdown, local villagers went in the Protected Area to hunt for bush meat, find food, cut down tree cover for charcoal and find other resources for income.

The Environment Governance Institute (EGI) team has been working towards sustainably diversifying livelihoods to build resilience among local communities and awareness raising activities, that got eventually a large attention in the media. Thanks to a well-articulated combination of actions and supportive partnerships, local communities were able to overcome the challenges brought by the pandemic and improve their livelihoods, with a highly positive consequence on the Protected Area's integrity.

[Read the full solution here.](#)



Photo: EGI in Partnership with Uganda Wildlife Authority train communities on sustainable alternative livelihoods in Murchison falls National Park

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