

NAPPA#162

NEWS FROM AFRICAN PROTECTED AREAS APRIL 2022



A herd of 120 buffaloes in W Park, Niger. Photo by Oumarou Hamadou

PAPACO

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Editorial



GEOFFROY MAUVAIS
IUCN-PAPACO COORDINATOR

SPREADING THE WORD

In 2019, in order to make our online courses (better) known and to have a more tangible connection with our learners, we launched a bit of an original initiative: a network of volunteers, the ambassadors. Their mission is to help interested parties find us, assist them in enrolling in our courses and making sure learners have an overall good experience in following the MOOCs.

Like any initiative that is based on the goodwill of its participants, it was impossible to predict where, and especially how far this would go. Secretly, we had high hopes, and reality exceeded them.

Today, 43 volunteers from 27 countries are part of this network, a number that keeps growing. Most of them run activities in capital or big cities.

Little by little and quite organically, they have all found their own way of doing things. A Facebook group was created to have a dedicated area, but ambassadors also operate from faster communication channels such as WhatsApp. Just as spontaneously, they decided to formalise an association, which was founded in Togo in 2021. But above this group's ability to take ownership of

their role and run things in a way they deem efficient, we are most impressed by their resourcefulness.

They have been running email, radio, TV and social network campaigns. They visit schools and universities. They organise "green" outings, they participate in online or onsite conferences. They frequently tutor learners in cyber-café, they create clubs, knock on doors of different organisations... They have been using every means possible to make mooc-conservation.org known. With such incredible energy, some ambassadors have managed to open doors, and even windows we would never have been able to open up ourselves or that we did not even consider.

This NAPA is a tribute to them as we shine the light on some of their success stories. The network is growing, it is changing and keeps improving. We will continue to walk with them, they still decide what must be done, and the opportunity to surprise us over and over again is in their hands. Many thanks to them! ●



Geoffroy with Alpha and Oumarou, two MOOC Conservation ambassadors from Niger. They are both students of the 19th edition of the University Diploma in Protected Area Management which started in March 2022.

PAPACO ONLINE

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

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

[@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](#)



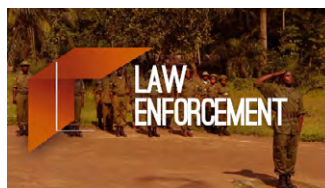
MOOC CONSERVATION NEWS

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.

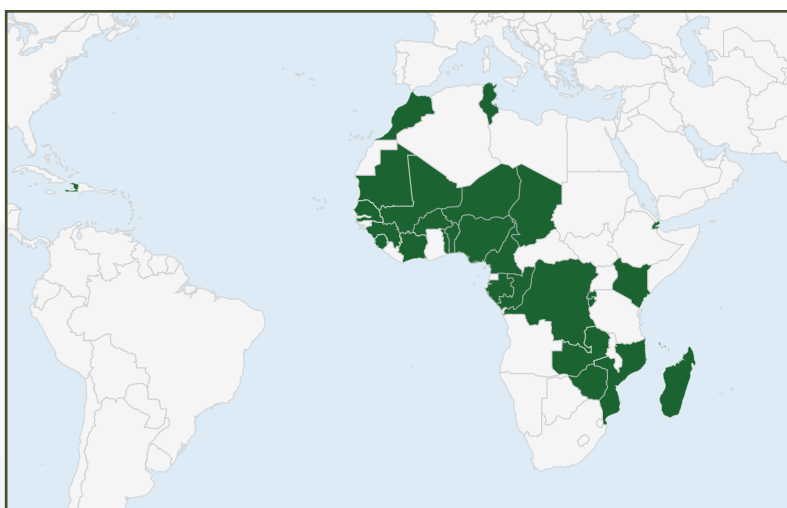
MOOC CONSERVATION AMBASSADORS

MOOC CONSERVATION HUBS: 43 AMBASSADORS IN 30 COUNTRIES

And the numbers keep growing. Each ambassador is running a “HUB”, or a local network of MOOC Conservation students. These hubs are a place to talk about MOOCs, of course, but also to bring up conservation matters that are specific to the location the learners find themselves at, and above all to share job opportunities, internships, courses etc. A hub’s vitality partly depends on the ambassador running it, but the members are the ones that can make a difference. For a hub to reach its full potential, each member has to contribute: post the job opportunity you saw, share that article on a protected area in your region, ask questions...

This NAPA’s goal is to shine thank our ambassadors and put them in the spotlight. Some took some time to write a few words about their MOOC Conservation activities, but also about their occupations and passions related to conservation.

If you’d like to create a MOOC Conservation Hub in your city, first make sure that there is not already one (full list [here](#)). If you don’t see your city or country, get in touch with us. To be eligible, you need to have completed at least one MOOC. If you meet that criteria, we discuss with ambassadors already in place in your country (if there are any), and look at your general communication skills.



Countries with one or several MOOC Conservation ambassadors



KÉVIN KASSOUWIN, BENIN

GIS and Sustainable management of the environment expert

[Send Kevin an email](#)



PAUL ZOUGOURI, BURKINA FASO (BOBO-DIOULASSO)

Student in environmental inspection at the national Water and Forestry School

[Send Paul an email](#)



LÉONIDAS BIGIRINDAVYI, BURUNDI

Project coordinator, Founder of *Trees for Burundi*, an association promoting reforestation. One goal: having planted over 20 million trees by 2040.

[Send Léonidas an email](#)



MATHIAS DJOUMESSI, CAMEROON (DOUALA)

Trainer in agronomy

[Send Mathias an email](#)



PASCALE MVOTO AKONO, CAMEROON (YAOUNDÉ)

Project manager - SOGEFI CAMEROUN

[Send Pascale an email](#)



FRÉDÉRIC MBIDA, CAMEROON (NGAOUNDÉRÉ)

General coordinator of Health and Conservation

[Send Frédéric an email](#)



HUMBLOT NASSUF, COMOROS (MITSAMILOUL)

Curator of Mitsamiouli-Ndroudé National Park

[Send Humblot an email](#)



VALÉRY THIOMBIANO, BURKINA FASO
(OUAGADOUGOU)

Consultant - International facilitator /
Speaker / Ambassador

On Sunday 13 February, MOOC Conservation's ambassador in Ougadougou (Burkina Faso) led a workshop at Ouagadougou's Private Higher Polytechnic Institute (*Institut Supérieur Polytechnique Privé*) on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Fifteen people from Youth Action for Development took part. Title of the workshop: "SGDs: origin, goals, targets, implementation".

Since the focus was on the Environmental aspect of SGDs, and since capacity building is essential to achieve SDGs, the workshop was the opportunity for Valéry to stress why and how MOOC Conservation plays and should keep playing an essential role in achieving SDGs, especially Goals 14 and 15.



[Send Valéry an email](#)



CHEICK DIARRA, BURKINA FASO
(TENKODOGO)

Certified forester / Trainer at the Rural Development Training Institute / Technical lead of Moringa and Carbon sequestration at the *International Federation of Moringa Producers - Burkina Faso* / Trainer at the Health, Education and Environment Association

From 9 to 17 March 2022, two workshops took place at Koupéla on the risk ecosystems are facing from the use of pesticides - they fragilise ecosystems and they threaten human health and social cohesion.

100 participants from 30 towns were in attendance.

Some of the topics included the consequences of the use of pesticides on the environment, and the urgency for a paradigm shift when it comes to the use of bio pesticides.

These sessions were the opportunity for MOOC Conservation's ambassador in Tenkodogo to encourage participants (mostly forest and agriculture professionals) to exercise caution in using conservation spaces, while reminding them of the importance of these areas for the well-being of the general population and future generations.

Both sessions were made possible thanks to a collaboration between the General management of Ecological transition and of the Environment, and with the financial support of the Belgian Development Agency.



[Send Cheick an email](#)



CHARMAND MAKELE LADHY, CONGO
(BRAZZAVILLE)

Freelance consultant in Conservation ecology of protected areas

[Send Charmand an email](#)



MAMADOU KONÉ, CÔTE D'IVOIRE (ABIDJAN)

Technical assistant in charge of relations with local communities in Comoé National Park

[Send Mamadou an email](#)



BERNADETTE YEO, CÔTE D'IVOIRE (BOUAKÉ)

PhD candidate in law

[Send Bernadette an email](#)



HANS MAKOUNDI BOUMBA, GABON
(LIBREVILLE)

Volunteer (NGO Keva Initiative)

[Send Hans an email](#)



TALOT BERTRAND, HAITI (PORT-AU-PRINCE)

Director of the National Protected Area Agency

[Send Talot an email](#)



JAMES KAHORO, KENYA (NAIROBI)

Conservation specialist

[Send James an email](#)



RAYMOND RAHARINIAINA, MADAGASCAR
(ANTANANARIVO)

Biologist - ornithologist

[Send Raymond an email](#)



SEYDOU BERTHE, MALI (BAMAKO)

Water and forestry engineer

[Send Seydou an email](#)



SARIAKA RANDRENALIJAONA, MADAGASCAR (ANTANANARIVO)

Student (Master II) in Anthropobiology and sustainable development

Sariaka is passionate about nature and human nutrition, and is studying at Antananarivo University's Faculty of Science. Her interest in volunteering grew when she realised that change and improvement all stem from your own will. This is why she wanted to become a MOOC Conservation ambassador in Madagascar. This experience has helped her build relationships with students, with conservation professionals, and it also taught her a lot about leadership. Her research project is on strengthening food security in the face of climate change, especially in the context of Madagascar.

[Send Sariaka an email](#)



VICTOR GAIUS BEN-BESO, MADAGASCAR (MAHAJANGA)

Student (Master 2) in Environmental Science at Mahajanga University's Faculty of Science

Victor has always been a boy-scout. This exposure has instilled in him a love for nature. When he finished high school, he decided to study Environmental science. He currently prepares his final year research project (second year Masters degree at the Faculty of Science and Technology of Mahajanga University). His thesis is on the impact assessment of the Sand fiddler crab invasion in Bombetoka, a new protected area.

Helping others and the environment has always been a priority for him. For this reason, he wanted to become a MOOC Conservation ambassador in Mahajanga.

His goal is to get his PhD in the field of conservation and the valorisation of biodiversity.

[Send Victor an email](#)



EMMANUEL LOKPAKA BAFALATA, DRC (KINSHASA)

Vice-coordinator of the *Congolese Youth Biodiversity Network* (GYBN DRC) / Independent Consultant in forest management

Emmanuel is vice national coordinator of the Congolese Youth Biodiversity Network, the youth component of the UN's Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Their work in DRC aims at preventing biodiversity loss and preserving natural resources. Their mission is to connect, mobilise and empower the youth so it can be a real steward of biodiversity. Emmanuel thinks that biodiversity conservation relies on deep transformation of our societies and economic structures.

In this context, he currently coordinates and works with people and youth organisations on the #StopTheSame campaign in Kinshasa-DRC. Young people are tired of decision-makers, leaders and companies that keep making the same promises and don't keep them, who provide solutions that are way too small and come far too late. Through this campaign, the Congolese youth asks people in power, decision-makers and people of influence as well as all citizens to search and to truly adopt systemic and transformative changes of society as a whole. The situation is degrading, and the future looks gloomy.



Photo of Emmanuel during the press conference calling out the State's inaction in the face of oil exploration and exploitation projects in Virunga National Park.

[Send Emmanuel an email](#)



RACHID DAHMANI, MOROCCO (FES)

Forestry worker and ecotourism consultant

[Send Rachid an email](#)



FALL ADAMA MIKA, MAURITANIA (NOUAKCHOTT)

Protected area and biodiversity specialist

[Send Fall an email](#)



CRISTÓVÃO SILTO JAIME, MOZAMBIQUE

Masters student in territorial planning and biodiversity conservation

[Send Cristóvão an email](#)



OMAROU HAMADOU SOUMANA, NIGER (NIAMEY)

Geographer-Environmentalist

[Send Oumarou an email](#)



OMAR MAHAMADOU ALPHA, NIGER (DIFFA)

Water and forestry agent

[Send Omar an email](#)



MOUSSA CONDÉ, GUINEA (CONAKRY/LABE)

Surveillance programme manager at WCF Guinea

I've been an ambassador of IUCN's MOOCs on biodiversity conservation since January 2020, and I hold a Masters Degree in Protected area management from Senghor University of Alexandria (2017). For the past three years, I've been working at the Wild Chimpanzees Foundation (WCF) as Surveillance Programme Manager at Moyen-Bafing National Park

WCF is an international NGO established in four countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Its mission is to improve the survival of wild chimp populations and their habitat by safeguarding the behavioural diversity of this fascinating species.

In Guinea and since 2015, WCF has been working with the government to create a national park along the Bafing river. It was finally created in 2021. This zone is recognised as a priority for conservation as it is home to 12% of the last wild chimpanzees on earth.

When I started at WCF, I was in charge of camera-trap installations and maintenance. Currently, I am managing the surveillance programme, and support the operational design of surveillance activities in Moyen-Bafing National Park. I also establish the patrolling calendar and monitor surveillance missions. I set the terms of reference depending on resources available, I ensure planning is done, I make sure data collection tools on the field are used efficiently (GPS, Smart mobile), and I make sure the database is up to date and I write reports.

Finally, I'm involved in training field agents (ecoguards and community facilitators), and am part of the recruitment process as defined in the park's surveillance plan.

[Send Moussa an email](#)



Rowing on the Bafing river



Supervising the female surveillance team in the Dara management area



Maintenance of camera-trap in Bakoun



ABDOULAYE HAMA, NIGER (DOSSO)

Agronomy engineer specialised in forestry and sustainable management of natural resources

[Send Abdoulaye an email](#)



ABDOU OUSSEINI, NIGER (TILLABÉRY)

PhD candidate in geography

[Send Abdou an email](#)



SOULEYMANE SEIDOU, NIGER (NIAMEY)

Masters student in Forestry and sustainable use of natural resources

[Send Souleymane an email](#)



OHM OMENE, DRC (KINDU)

Provincial coordinator at FZS (Frankfurt Zoological Society)

[Send Ohm an email](#)



ALBERT ANKWANDA, DRC (LUBUMBASHI)

Assistant at Lubumbashi University

[Send Albert an email](#)



MARTIN AMISA, DRC (KISANGANI)

Lawyer at Tshopo / Researcher at Kisangani University's Faculty of law / Human rights defender at Christians for the abolition of torture NGO

[Send Martin an email](#)



LEONARD IYAMUREMYE, RWANDA

Global ambassador at Youth4nature

[Send Leonard an email](#)



OUMY THIAM, SENEGAL

Environmental scientist at earthsystemsafrika.com

[Send Oumy an email](#)



JAMES KOROMA, SIERRA LEONE (FREETOWN)

Environmental sustainability advocate

[Send James an email](#)



SEID KANIKA, CHAD

Masters in Sustainable development and environmental management

[Send Seid an email](#)



MICHAEL MANJA, NIGERIA (JOS)

Director, Biota Conservation Hub Foundation (BiotaCHF); www.biotaconservationhub.org /Science and Conservation educator at Ministry of Education, Jos, Plateau state.

I have a background in teaching and was then trained as a conservation Biologist in A. P. Leventist Ornithological Research institute, Jos, Plateau state, Nigeria (Masters degree). Immediately after graduation, I co-founded a conservation NGO: Biota Conservation Hub Foundation (BiotaCHF) where I continued volunteering as a Director even as other experts and science enthusiasts joined us. The NGO centers more attention in rural and sub-urban conservation of nature and Biodiversity. Other focuses of BiotaCHF include protecting endangered species and other wildlife, Conservation Orientations, community sensitisations and training of people having interest in nature conservation.

MY TRAINING WITH IUCN PAPACO

I was lacking in some specific skills which impacted my expected performance in the NGO until I found out about IUCN PAPACO's courses (MOOCs). I wasted no time and enrolled straight away. I took several courses including New Technologies in Protected Areas, Species Conservation in Protected Areas and Ecological monitoring in Protected Areas. I gained more skills and knowledge in protected area conservation in Africa. This made me better equipped and skilled than ever before in managing, and conserving nature and species. It increased the level of accuracy of my decisions in bio-conservation matters and practical field surveys.

HOW THE SUCCESSFUL TRAINING BY IUCN'S PAPACO ENHANCED MY WORK WITH BIOTA CONSERVATION HUB FOUNDATION (BIOTACHF)

Our work in BiotaCHF is to enhance rural biodiversity conservation. We carried out conservation projects in rural areas where we helped in conserving endangered species, such as Hooded Vultures, owls, some species of bats, other wildlife and indigenous plant species. Because of my training by IUCN-PAPACO, my training in using new technologies in Protected Areas exposed me to the use of camera traps in monitoring wildlife species in a Protected Area or research sites. Most importantly, I learned to use Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) or Drones in field monitoring of wildlife and surveys. With the help of granting bodies such as IdeaWild, the organisation owns drones and other materials for biodiversity monitoring.

The Rufford small grant foundation has supported me in accomplishing more in nature conservation, especially when we embarked in conservation education and afforestation programs in rural areas of Southern Bauchi and parts of Plateau state, Nigeria.

I currently train other colleagues in using drones for field surveys and in using camera-traps. Other conservation enthusiasts who volunteered to join BiotaCHF are trained in using Global positioning system (GPS) to improve monitoring the distribution of some wildlife species, especially some crocodiles in three newly discovered ponds. I led a team of researchers in surveying the crocodiles that the organisation discovered during some of the community conservation outreaches in some rural areas of Plateau and Bauchi states. I'm using the skills obtained in Ecological monitoring, species conservation and new technologies in Protected



Michael Manja Williams surveying Hooded vultures (*Necrosyrtes monachus*)



Michael and Mr. Gideon Meshak with secondary school students during Ornithological field practicals



Michael Manja Williams Presenting during a community Outreach in Plateau State, Nigeria



GHISLAIN ALYO, CHAD (MOUSSORO)

MEAL Officer at OXFAM

[Send Ghislain an email](#)



YENHAME ALI, TOGO (DAPAONG)

Holds a Masters in rural geography, consultant in cartography-geomatics, promoter of AirGisCenter-Dapaong/Togo

[Send Yenhame an email](#)



KOFFI VALENTIN MAWOUNGIGNAN, TOGO (LOMÉ)

Zootechnical engineer, student in ecology and wildlife resources management at Lomé University

[Send Valentin an email](#)

Areas to ensure the protection of the crocodiles and Hooded vultures which are both already facing threats owing to hunting for belief-based uses. My roles and leadership in BiotaCHF is yielding much desired conservation results with the help of the IUCN's PAPACO training. Every skill learned through PAPACO's MOOC is used in enhancing my work in BiotaCHF. I've particular interest in the protection of Hooded Vultures and other Vultures. I carried several surveys about their threats and status and already published two works about them in late 2021. We're still researching on them and other raptors in Nigeria.

MY WORK AS IUCN'S PAPACO AMBASSADOR IN NIGERIA

Being an IUCN PAPACO student that already learned much and is still learning more through Program on Africa's Protected Areas and Conservation (PAPACO), I realised that, the skills obtained are qualitative and result oriented in achieving protection of wildlife and nature. The courses are free and self-pace (according to your time and pace). One will earn a certificate after obtaining a score of 75% in a course.

I thought about to be part in guiding other students to also succeed in obtaining the conservation skills in Nigeria. I was nominated as an ambassador to be enhancing the learning of the courses and also supporting students who are taking the courses or who intend to be part in the conservation skill acquisition since the last quarter of 2020.

As the ambassador in Nigeria, I organised interactive sessions with higher learning institutions (universities, colleges of education etc.) to sensitise the students on the importance of taking the PAPACO's MOOCs and also to support instant enrollment or registration to take the courses. I give tutorials in some courses according to the students' needs.

[Send Michael an email](#)



Michael Manja Williams Piloting a Research Drone



Michael Manja Williams at an organise presentation on IUCN PAPACO's MOOCs in Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi Benue state, Nigeria



MOADH AYARI, TUNISIA

Veterinary

[Send Moadh an email](#)



CHEWE CHITI, ZAMBIA

Senior Environmental Officer

[Send Chewe an email](#)



FANUEL NLEYA, ZIMBABWE

Extension and interpretation officer ZimParks

[Send Fanuel an email](#)

AMBASSADORS - MEETING AND ACTIVITIES

EMMANUEL IN KINSHASA (DRC)

On 24 January, we were invited by EnviroNews, a local TV channel, to answer a couple of questions related to MOOC Conservation (everything there is to know, from registration to getting the attestation), our role as ambassador in DRC, priorities for biodiversity conservation in DRC and in Africa, the potential of the youth and the role it can play in nature conservation etc. This was for us, once more, the opportunity to promote these enriching courses, and to call on people interested in conservation to share about the existence of these courses. This is to improve their capacities and those of their coworkers, but also to contribute effectively to the preservation of protected spaces and their biodiversity.



HANS IN GABON

MEETING1: TRAINING ON SDGs

On Wednesday 16 March, Papaco students in Gabon took part in a workshop on the following topic: involvement of organisations and civil society to meet Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

The workshop was organised by the NGO Keva Initiative, and carried out by Jordan Okana from #PROSPECTIVE. It was the first of a series of annual courses in the context of the capacity development efforts of the NGO staff.

For MOOC Conservation students in Gabon, based on the diversity of profiles, it was all about familiarising themselves with the concept of sustainable development: better understand strategic goals in order to link SDGs and Conservation in general, and protected area management in particular.

For Keva's programme coordinator who encouraged MOOC Conservation students to get involved in such initiatives: "it is important to train teams in order to build capacities of agents so that each of them can be proactive and empowered, and can take on challenges to meet goals."

MEETING 2: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS

On 21 March and along with Keva Initiative and Green Continent, MOOC Conservation students in Gabon celebrated the International Day of Forests. Topics included: forests and sustainable production and consumption.

The group went to Miang village in Woleu-Ntem province (around 300 km from Libreville) to celebrate this day with the community of said village. The importance of this travelling was to have talks with local communities on the management of their community forest, in order to analyse strengths and weaknesses and to understand what runs and what slows down the social, economic and rational use of resources.

During these talks, Papaco students were able to use what they learnt in the MOOCs, namely the ones on Valorisation of resources, Species conservation, New technologies and Law enforcement, by contributing to the Question & Answer part of the meeting. This gave them the opportunity to improve their knowledge on the topic.



OTHER NEWS

UNIVERSITY DIPLOMA IN PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT: 19TH EDITION!

The University Diploma in Protected Area Management has been around for 19 editions over the course of 12 years. It remains a partnership with Senghor University. In total, over 400 African students were trained. They are professionals who are now better equipped to manage the protected areas where they work. By the way, the reason why our MOOCs (mooc-conservation.org) exist today is because we wanted to make this type of training available to as many people as possible. We changed scales. If it weren't for the UD, the MOOCs may have never existed! And without partnerships with, among others, the MAVA Foundation the French Development Agency, GEF and now the European Union, the UDs would not have survived all these years.

The next challenge is to secure the funding for the 20th edition! Students of this edition met in person late March in Burkina Faso. There are 19 of them from seven different countries.



Finance Compliance and Administrative Advisor @ WCS

Where? Mbatamila, Niassa, Mozambique

Application deadline:
13 April 2022

>> [Click here to learn more](#) <<

Regional Marine Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist @ WCS

Where? Mombasa, Kenya

Application deadline:
16 April 2022

>> [Click here to learn more](#) <<

Program Manager @ WCS

Where? Kigali, Rwanda, with regular travel to Kahuzi-Biega National Park (KBNP)

Application deadline:
14 April 2022

>> [Click here to learn more](#) <<

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