

NAPPA#164

NEWS FROM AFRICAN PROTECTED AREAS JUNE 2022



Mania Dafa in the Boundou Nature Community Reserve in Senegal, by Benjamin Bureau



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Editorial



GEOFFROY MAUVAIS
PAPACO COORDINATOR

PREPARING THE FUTURE!

In October 2007, when we wrote the first NAPA newsletter, some of our colleagues at IUCN shrugged it off: “Newsletters come and go, it’s a waste of time!”. You are now reading number 164.

In 2009, we decided to create a Master’s Degree in Protected Areas Management, because all the evaluations we undertook in Francophone Africa underlined the severe lack of skills in parks. We received the same welcome: “This is not our job, and we can’t do it in the long run.” As we speak, the seventh cohort is being trained at Senghor University - many thanks to the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM), who believed in us back then!

In 2011, same reaction when we announced our university degree in Protected Areas Management - an on-site, eight weeks long training: “Too complicated to organize, too much logistics.” Thanks to the unwavering energy of Senghor University, we have just completed the 19th edition in Burkina Faso, funded by the European Union! Our first supporters were the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and FFEM again, and then the MAVA foundation, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF - World Bank). Others have joined in, and we thank them too.

In 2016, we scaled up with the launch of our MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses). That was really a gamble, a real risk we took because we did not know much about it! Immediately, some told us: “It’s never going to work, people in Africa are not online enough.” Yet we trained over 90,000 people, who must have found an internet subscription somewhere! There too, we received exceptional support: first from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology of Lausanne (EPFL) without whom nothing could have been possible, and then from Senghor University. Several private donors supported us, as well

as the French Agency for Development (AFD) and the MAVA foundation. All believed in this incredible adventure that took us way beyond anything we hoped for.

This year, we have a new target: children! Because without awakening people’s sensitivity to nature early on, we won’t manage to save it. This is belief, not knowledge. No dismissive shrugs this time round because we did not mention our project much, but we found a partner who immediately jumped on board - MAVA, once again! This NAPA gives us a few keys to discover our new platform youth-conservation.org. The idea is to provide simple, playful and adapted trainings for children and their teachers. A platform that will evolve according to the feedback we receive... We don’t have any set goal, but we are aiming for the maximum! Didn’t Confucius say that to move a mountain, one starts by carrying small rocks? At this stage, we are only carrying sand, at most little pebbles, but the will is there! Your opinion, advice, ideas are precious - don’t hesitate to write to us at info@youth-conservation.org. The page is blank, everything is yet to be written.

From all this, I take only what we already knew: the path we are treading is made of encounters. Many encounters, too many perhaps, confront us to people who see only obstacles and difficulties - or even create them when there are not enough. Thankfully, we also meet the others - those who see opportunities and push us beyond our own ambitions. We were lucky to meet a few of them! I hope many more will meet us on the way, because we still have many projects! ●

PAPACO ONLINE

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

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

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

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

Papaco.org

[IUCN Protected and Conserved Areas newsletter](#)



MOOC CONSERVATION NEWS

MOOCs

Registrations closed. Registrations for this sessions have closed, but you can still log in to finish your MOOCs. You have until 12 June to pass the exams you have left. The next session will start in September.

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

Access your MOOC: mooc-conservation.org

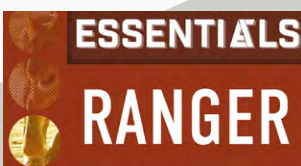


ESSENTIALS

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.



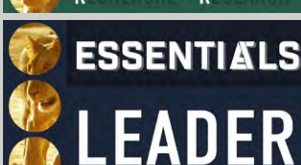
MANAGER ESSENTIAL

For protected area professionals who need to plan, manage and 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 - MEETING AND ACTIVITIES

AMBASSADORS? They are MOOC Conservation students who volunteered to assist other learners in their cities or regions. Full list: [here](#).



PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN MOOC CONSERVATION STUDENTS IN GABON AND THE RAPONDA WALKER ARBORETUM

The meeting took place on 20 April between Hans Morvan (MOOC Conservation ambassador for Gabon), Jonifer Bitsaka Doumbou (MOOC Conservation learner) and the Director of the Raponda Walker Arboretum, Ms Andréa MINKWE.

Goals of the meeting. This meeting was initiated by Hans and Jonifer in order to promote [moooc-conservation.org](#), with the idea in mind that the courses will help build capacities in the park. Because of its diverse landscape, Raponda Walker Arboretum welcomes many visitors. According to Hans: "Managers of this reserve deserve to have access to all the technical knowledge they need to carry out park activities, in order to guarantee the park is managed effectively. This is where [moooc-conservation.org](#) courses come into play." Ms Minkwe added that following these courses would be a definite benefit to the staff as they try to meet their conservation goals.

Possible collaboration. The meeting also covered a possible partnership between Raponda Walker Arboretum and the [moooc-conservation.org](#) learners in Gabon. The idea would be to grant learners access to the park so that they can carry out studies and thereby link theory and practice.

This collaboration is not the first one, as there is already a partnership between moooc-conservation Gabon and Keva Initiative (NGO) and Brainforest.

CHARMAND AT MARIEN NGOUABI UNIVERSITY, BRAZZAVILLE

"Saturday 07 Mai 2022, I was able to hold a [moooc-conservation.org](#) meeting with students from Marien Nguabi University in Brazzaville. After the presentation, we created accounts and students shared about some of the difficulties they encountered while doing or enrolling in the courses."



TWO AMBASSADORS MEET

05 Mai, Hans (Gabon) was in Brazzaville and met with Charmand: "The meeting was useful and we talked about a couple of shared strategies which we will implement during the next session." •



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.

YOUTH-CONSERVATION.ORG: LEARN TO LOVE AND PROTECT NATURE

In 2016, we launched mooc-conservation.org, a platform dedicated to people working in, around or with protected areas, especially in Africa. To this day, over 90 000 learners have participated. Our latest addition is youth-conservation.org.

GOAL

The goal of youth-conservation.org is to spark an interest in the environment and in nature conservation among the youth: students in high school, early university etc. It is a simple tool, it is educational of course, and it is fun. It helps you enjoy the learning process, understand the different topics by raising the right questions, get inspired by discovering initiatives taken by other communities, and finally work together to save the state of nature. The different modules cover current challenges in terms of conservation, biodiversity, climate change, health etc. The entire programme allows you to finally understand in detail all the topics related to the environment that we constantly read about in the news.

WHO IS IT FOR?

First, Youth Conservation is meant to be a simple online information platform for the youth. They can reach the platform through their smartphones, their tablets or computers, by themselves, in a group or in their classes. It is also a useful tool for teachers and parents! The platform is easy to use, and parents or teachers can assist their children or students as they discover any given module, they help them understand the different topics and take ownership of the different issues covered, and to brainstorm solutions.

Our goal is for the youth to feel fully involved in conservation matters (because they are), to understand how environmental challenges affect them today and will in the future, and to see how they can respond to these issues, at their own scale, by themselves, in a group setting, in their classes or between friends.



WHAT IS IT?

For the moment, six modules exist and they cover hot topics related to the environment:

MODULE 1 : NATURE ON EARTH	+	All its aspects, what is destroying it, how to protect it
MODULE 2 : MARINE BIODIVERSITY	+	Protecting the seas and the oceans
MODULE 3 : CLIMATE CHANGE	+	What causes it? Its impacts, possible solutions
MODULE 4 : THREATS TO NATURE	+	Pollution, invasive species
MODULE 5 : NATURE AND HEALTH	+	How our health depends on the environment's health
MODULE 6 : THE FUTURE OF THE PLANET	+	Technology to help us save the planet

Each module is made up of three parts: *Understand*, *Discover* and *Act*. This offers a logical progression to the topics, and gives options on how to act alone or as a group in order to meet the newfound challenges. We will be developing new modules, with users of the platform.



Image 1: Homepage

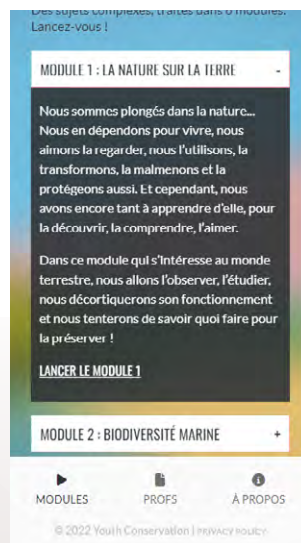


Image 2: Opening description of Module 1



Image 3: Module 1 open in a new window

HOW TO USE YOUTH-CONSERVATION?

It's very easy. Go to youth-conservation.org and select the module you are interested in. A new window will open, and click on "start". There are different ways to navigate the platform:

- From home, explore the different topics by yourself, do the quizzes, join online discussion groups etc.
- In a group or in your class, find a partner, and two by two or in small groups you can explore the modules, and discuss together after afterwards.
- The teacher projects the course on a screen and you all work through the modules together. This way you can have an ongoing discussion as you explore the topic.

For teachers or parents who are willing, each module comes with a "guide" which will help you lead discussions and go deeper into the topics, which will hopefully result in some concrete actions. We hope to see youth-conservation.org users implement practical solutions, and one day become proactive adults. Start by creating Nature clubs, organise outings, plant trees, clean parks or beaches, have debates and brainstorming sessions with your class or online...

We have created a Facebook group dedicated to teachers and parents who are interested to share their experiences and ideas. This space will give youth-conservation its vitality and make the platform a better tool.

Join the group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/youthconservation>

TEST PHASE: HELP US!

In June 2022, we are launching the test phase of youth-conservation.org. In other words, the platform isn't done, and we are counting on you to add what's missing, to adapt what should be improved, and to develop new topics. Is the content relevant? What would you like to see in the guides that are meant for teachers and parents? The guide for Module 1 already exists, but it's a first version so you have something to work from. We need your input to turn this guide into the tool you need to better help your students and children. What aspects should be changed to be of interest to our public? All comments and advice are important, as we want to make this tool, your tool. So please, send us your feedback by email to info@youth-conservation.org. We'll make sure to improve the platform based on your ideas.

And for English speakers, don't worry. If we find the means to do it, the platform will be available in English in 2023. ●



STORIES FROM THE FIELD

SAVING GREY CROWNED CRANES WITH ICF (INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION)



My name is Kelvin Steven Floyd, I am a Research Associate for the International Foundation in Zambia, a holder of BSc ecology and Wildlife Management from the University of Zambia. The International Crane Foundation (ICF) works worldwide to conserve cranes and the ecosystems, watersheds & flyways on which they depend. Our work in Zambia involve conducting field population surveys of Wattled and Grey Crowned Cranes and other waterbirds and large herbivores associated with the two species of Cranes in Zambia's protected area network and other Important Bird Areas.

I consider my line of work as wetland ecology, invasive species management and protected area management. I joined ICF in April 2018, since then I have spent most of my time on the Kafue Flats coordinating the control of an alien invasive plant – *Mimosa pigra* whose invasion resulted in the loss of critical habitat for the Vulnerable Wattled cranes, endangered Grey Crowned Cranes, endangered and endemic Kafue Lechwe and many water bird species. The Kafue Flats is a wetland of international importance and holds the highest

concentration of Wattled cranes population globally (30%). For the past four year, I have been coordinating the control of *Mimosa pigra* of which by December 2020, 2350ha of the targeted 3000ha critical wildlife habitat had been restored. I also undertake ecological monitoring and research associated with the removal of *Mimosa pigra* to monitor native vegetation recovery and return of cranes, Kafue Lechwe and large waterbirds in the restored sites. My work also involves population and nest surveys on the Kafue flats and other important crane sites to understand breeding success and threats and environmental education in schools to raise awareness on different conservation issues. ICF started supporting law enforcement activities in Lochinvar and Blue Lagoon National park in 2019, since then I have also been monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of law enforcement efforts for adaptive management. ●



CAMON X^{PRO}
24M Clear Selfie

PODCAST & JOBS



INVESTING FOR OCEAN IMPACT – MANGROVES AND CARBON IN MADAGASCAR

Working with the private sector is not always easy. But when we can align our goals and create positive collaboration with local communities, we can make a big impact for people and planet.

In Madagascar, Lalao Aigrette and her team at @blueventures are developing community-led mangrove carbon projects, making a difference for ecosystems and the local people who depend on them.

Find out how they balance community needs with mangrove conservation and private sector interests in IUCN's new podcast, Investing for Ocean Impact: <https://smarturl.it/oceanimpactpodcast>

Investing for Ocean Impact explores how ocean conservation can be integrated into sustainable businesses and projects and how investors of all sizes can invest in our ocean.

Listen now on your preferred podcast platform or on www.bluenaturalcapital.org/podcast

JOBS

SUSTAINABLE MARKETS MANAGER @ WCS

Where? DRC

Application deadline: 8 June 2022

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

CAMEROON PROGRAM MANAGER @ WCS

Where? Goma, DRC

Application deadline: 20 June 2022

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

DEPUTY COUNTRY DIRECTOR IN CHARGE OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS @ WCS

Where? Goma, DRC

Application deadline: 20 June 2022

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

DRC DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS @ WCS

Where? Goma, DRC

Application deadline: 20 June 2022

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

LEGAL OFFICER @ TRAFFIC

Where? Antananarivo, Madagascar

Application deadline: 12 June 2022

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

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANT @ TRAFFIC

Where? Antananarivo, Madagascar

Application deadline: 12 June 2022

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

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