

NAPA#166

NEWS FROM AFRICAN PROTECTED AREAS SEPTEMBER 2022



West African giraffes in Niger, by Oumarou Hamadou Soumana

EDITORIAL **ALL-ROUND TRAINING**

PDF PAGE 3 **MOOC CONSERVATION NEWS**

PDF PAGE 4 **MOOC CONSERVATION: HERE WE GO AGAIN!**

PDF PAGE 7 **AMBASSADORS: APAC 2022 AND OTHER OUTINGS**

PDF PAGE 8 **YOUTH CONSERVATION**

PDF PAGE 9 **PODCAST & JOBS**

Editorial



GEOFFROY MAUVAIS
PAPACO COORDINATOR

ALL-ROUND TRAINING

In NAPA 76's editorial (June 2014) I mentioned: "Protected areas are not all the same. This means that there is no omniscient manager. There is no reason to think that because one is a park manager one day, one can handle all of the world's protected areas. That one has to have specific knowledge for each category, for each context, for each period... In a word, it means having the skills of the position one occupies, when one occupies it."

This variety of skills can only be acquired through a variety of training. There is no simple solution to a park manager' complex needs. There is no permanent solution either: what was true yesterday is no longer true today.

In NAPA 90's editorial (October 2015), I made yet another basic statement: "Africa's population will double by 2050, yet, only 7% have access to higher education today compared to 76% in Europe for example... We would be blind if we think that the continent will attain the level it deserves simply by increasing the number, but not the qualifications of its inhabitants."

When that NAPA was sent, we kicked off preparations for our first MOOC on African PAs. Our aim was simple: bridge the gap that separates protected area conservation actors from the knowledge and skills they need to succeed. We moved from in person to virtual, from training a few dozens of people every year in our Masters or University Diploma to...nearly 90 000 learners today! And are they committed? There is no doubt as it reads in the Editorial of NAPA 95 (March 2016): "A new generation is emerging, more curious, more demanding and with a little bit of struggle, it should be able to bring a fresh perspective and energy to conservation."

In NAPA 115 (January 2018) however, we kept a cool head: "We are only a tiny drop in the ocean of everything that needs to be done, but in the end, the ocean is made up of drops. Changing a mentality goes much further than the person concerned: he/she speaks, exchanges, convinces, educates, transmits.... Each relay creates relays and these relays amplify the message, multiply the influence, change the world."

For this reason, we kept diversifying our course offering, with the Essentials of course (NAPA 149 in February 2021), and today by targeting a younger generation on youth-conservation.org (don't miss next month's NAPA!). Because as it is reminded in NAPA 164 (June 2022): "Without awakening people's sensitivity to nature early on, we won't manage to save it. Let us provide simple, playful and adapted trainings for children and their teachers, on a platform that will evolve according to the feedback we receive."

Training is like a river. It fills up from the streams that pour into it, bringing in new topics, new techniques, new audiences. It dries up as we learn, draining fields of knowledge, irrigating channels of understanding, satiating the thirst of "ignorants". But every time the rain falls, it fills up again, overflowing from its bed, flooding new spaces, shaping a new landscape. It is a renewed cycle, uneven, unpredictable, but endless. You do not enclose a river, you do not stop it, you follow it, accompany it, you adapt and enjoy its strength.

Thus, each morning, as we resume our "capacity building" activities (catch-all term that doesn't really mean much), it seems we have a million things left to do, emergencies and priorities. Well that is true. Our little boat, swaying on this river, has many currents left to follow, what a joy! •

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.ORG

MOOCS

New session. The second semester’s session will start on 12 September this year. If you do not have an account yet, remember to create one, and to enrol in the MOOCs you are interested in. If you already enrolled, you simply need to wait for the starting date. A few pieces of information are to keep in mind this session, we’ll talk about that from page 4 of this NAPA.

Next session: 12 September to 11 December 2022.

Registrations: 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.



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.

MOOC CONSERVATION: HERE WE GO AGAIN!

You have been following us for a while and know that we run two MOOC sessions a year. One between January and June, the other one between September and December. This rhythm allows our small team to be fully invested during sessions: answer learners' questions, organise chats or videoconferences etc. Then to take a break during down times so we can reflect, see what works, what doesn't, implement your recommendations and start again on an even better note.

GOALS OF THE SECOND SEMESTER OF 2022

We have several goals this second semester. The first one is very ambitious: have 100 000 enrolled students by December 2022. After all, why not? We are almost at 90 000 already.

Interest in conservation increases each session and we are continuously surprised by the increasing demand for good free online courses, especially in Africa. We still have a long way to go. The first semester's session showed there were still some "MOOC Conservation deserts" left on the continent, and that a single motivated and motivating ambassador was enough to spread the news efficiently in his region. It was the case in Mozambique thanks to the work done by Cristovao, and a little later in Angola thanks to Pascoal. Let's keep going. !

You can have a look at the list of ambassadors by [clicking here](#). If you do not see your country and wish to become an ambassador, contact us. What are the criteria you ask? Having completed some of our MOOCs, being familiar with the MOOC Conservation ecosystem and knowing how to communicate (written, spoken, knowing how to use social

media etc.).

Figures are an easy goal for us to assess the situation. They show us our work is worth something, but also that there is room for improvement. However, the real assessment comes from the field. In your stories and testimonials, hearing how the MOOCs have helped you improve your work or simply find employment are the real accomplishment. It is always a pleasure to read you and if you wish to share your story, please send it to us.

KEY DATES THIS SESSION

If you are new here, know that when a session starts, the only dates you need to comply with are closing of registrations and of session. There are no course or exam dates, and each learner follows the MOOC at his own pace. You can enrol between now and 1 December 2022, then start a course and sit the exams when you are (really) ready.

That said, there are a couple of dates to keep in mind this session for a little added value. It is all a little different than usual, so don't skip the following programme:

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DÉCEMBER
<p>12 The session starts. You can log in and start.</p> <p>29 at 8:00 UTC Webinar* with Papaco at 8:00 UTC.</p>	<p>13 to 8:00 UTC Webinar* with Paul Ndiaye, speaker of the MOOC Protected Area Management.</p>	<p>1st at 8:00 UTC Webinar* with Emmanuel Hema, speaker of the MOOC EM.</p> <p>15 at 8:00 UTC Webinar* with Papaco at 8:00 UTC.</p> <p>27 Registrations close.</p>	<p>11 Session closes – you must have finished the exams by this date.</p> <p>15 at 8:00 UTC Exam to obtain the online Certificate on Protected Area Conservation (French only).</p>

*If you are an enrolled learner, you will receive the links you need to take part in the videoconferences.

ESSENTIALS KEEP RUNNING

Finally, to those of you who work in protected areas and who already completed all the MOOCs you needed or if you simply lack time, the Essential courses are for you. For these short courses, we selected videos from MOOCs and compiled them according to four types of professionals you would find in a protected area as defined by the WCPA:

RANGER ESSENTIALS: you are a qualified worker who executes orders of a manager. You carry out practical activities in the protected area. **Skills needed:** basic understanding of protected area conservation, precise technical skills and methodology.

MANAGER ESSENTIALS: you set the actions to carry out within a protected area and manage the Ranger. **Skills needed:** relatively technical skills depending on the topics you cover, the ability to make decisions, personnel management, analyse results and make assessment to be able to reframe protected area planning when needed. We offer two specialisations:

- ➔ **Manager-Law:** the main activity is law enforcement, then comes PA and natural resources valorisation.
- ➔ **Manager-Research:** mainly focuses on research activities, assessment monitoring and ecological monitoring.

LEADER ESSENTIALS: you do not necessarily work directly in a protected area, but your position influences the context of protected area management (Ministry of environment, law maker etc.). **Skills needed:** general understanding of how protected areas work, what they need and even what they exactly are. You need to understand what is at stake when it comes to their conservation, but you do not require any specific technical skill to be able to do your job.

If you simply need a short course that covers all the basics you need to do your job, the Essentials are for you. They are available year-round: follow them at your own pace and always have the access you need to the supporting documents and the course itself.

HELP US SPREAD THE NEWS

In fact, before sharing the news about the existence of MOOC Conservation, start by enrolling and finish a couple of MOOCs. You can then help us in three different ways:

- ➔ If you work in a protected area or in the field of conservation, talk about MOOC Conservation with your

colleagues

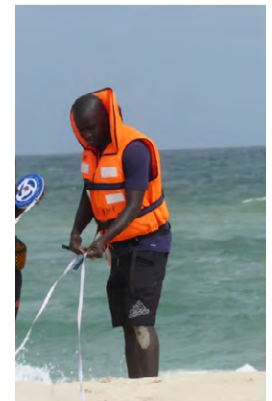
- ➔ Follow us on social media and share the publication related to the MOOCs: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) et [Linkedin](#)
- ➔ Join a Facebook group with other learners and participate: [French-speaking group](#), [English-speaking group](#), [Spanish-speaking group](#)
- ➔ Share the NAPA and invite your friends to [subscribe](#)
- ➔ Join an ambassador network close to you. See the full list [here](#), or become one yourself!

STORIES FROM OUR LEARNERS

CHIEF SERGENT KHADIM GNINGUE

At Joal-Fadiouth Marine Protected Area (MPA), Senegal

I am a National Parks agent, working at the Community Marine Protected Areas Directorate since 2014. I've served in several MPAs, and have been based at the Joel-Fadiouth MPA since November 2020. Papaco's MOOCs have a real impact on the way I work in the MPA in many ways, but more specifically in the following ones.



MPA surveillance

Surveillance is a key activity in biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of resources at the MPA level. Thanks to Papaco's MOOCs, I understood that when surveillance is carried out in a participatory way by agents from the local community, members of the management committee and ecoguards, results are much better than when surveillance is done by agents alone. Experience has shown that MPA users cooperate better when they see resource persons carrying out surveillance activities with agents in charge of surveillance.

Control of the mangrove ecosystem

Protection of the MPA's mangrove system is crucial. Despite notable efforts on raising awareness among the population, we notice clear degradation of the ecosystem in this area. This situation is due to natural factors, namely reduced rainfall which leads to narrowing streambeds and increased salinity, but also to anthropic pressure such as

wood cutting and ancient oyster harvesting techniques where the roots are being cut. Given this threat, the MPA benefits from a reforestation project for the restoration of the mangrove. By following the different MOOCs, I realised that to reach a sustainable management of mangroves, we must involve neighbouring communities. Since we've done this, we noticed fewer infringements, and we implemented a joint monitoring system to have better visibility of the reforestation results and guarantee the project's durability. Thus, we organise outings so we can monitor the mangrove together.

MPA boundaries

We know an MPA must be clearly defined so we can properly set the zones of intervention. This choice must take into account the ecological values the MPA seeks to protect, take into consideration the use and the implementation of surveillance operations. Despite all these measures, we often had differences with fishers on delineation matters, and this can be explained by the fact that tags were simply installed by following GPS points. Papaco's MOOCs helped us understand that at sea, boundaries must be easy to perceive. For instance, some will be straight-lined so that maritime surveillance teams will be able to follow a steady course.

Management plan

As with a terrestrial protected area, the MPA's initial planning must have conservation, valorisation and socio-economic development goals. However, for a long time we forbade any human activity in the MPA, and this has often created conflict with certain users. Papaco's MOOC helped me understand that there are different categories of MPAs. In our case, some traditional fishing activities and low-impact recreational activities such as diving are authorised. Thus, we have progressively improved the way we work with users, and in return, they often let us know when an offence has been committed in the MPA.

FRÉDÉRIC M. MBIDA

Ambassador of the Ngaoundéré HUB,
Cameroon and General Coordinator of
HAC

I've been passionate about nature and species conservation for the longest time, and my work in this field has started in 2019. When I did my Doctorate thesis in veterinary science, my work in protected areas (mostly



national parks) focused only on epidemiology of zoonotic diseases I wildlife, and this was the case until 2020. Thanks to Papaco's MOOCs, I was able to have a more global understanding of conservation. This has completely transformed my professional aspirations.

The MOOCs gave me practical skills, specific skills and above all, the potential of a more inclusive way of conserving nature. I have been more active in ex-situ conservation, and the notions acquired on species conservation have improved my work on the field, my technical management skills, and thereby the quality of results. The same can be said from MOOCs EM, GAP, TECH, Law and VAL – they have all added so much value to my skills in the different fields.

More practically, the MOOCs have allowed me to reorganise Health and Conservation (HAC), a civil society organisation that I coordinate. In addition to health, we added the following fields: environment, education/research, law, socio-anthropological. This way we are much more efficient and grow more harmoniously as we take into consideration all these different aspects of species conservation. The use of new technologies have also helped us get better ecological monitoring data for research, and thus to produce better publications that immediately had a great impact on the target audience. Our new course of action intends to focus on training and encouraging teams to complete all Papaco's MOOCs, as well as the Essentials. They must use the modules as compasses during their field missions. ●

AMBASSADORS - APAC AND OTHER OUTINGS

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

APAC 2022

Dr. Youssouph Diedhiou from Papaco and Green List and World Heritage expert was at the APAC, the African Protected Area Congress. He was able to meet three of our ambassadors: Hans Makoundi from Gabon, Emmanuel Lokpaka from Kinshasa and Leonard Iyamuremye from Rwanda.

My impressions on APAC 2022? It was worth making the trip. It was a fantastic opportunity for me to learn, to contribute to some discussions regarding innovative solutions for the challenges faced by protected areas, I was able to network, to make my voice heard and finally to reassess my commitment for a harmonious future with nature and climate.



Here are a few words from Emmanuel:

The first APAC took place in Kigali, Rwanda, from 18 to 23 July. Hans Makoundi (Gabon ambassador), Pascale Mvoto (Cameroon ambassador) and myself have organised a MOOC Conservation information session for onsite and virtual attendees. The topic of the session was training and the youth's involvement in nature conservation in Africa. The goal was to talk about MOOC Conservation and about other training opportunities available for young conservation professionals, but also about the role this demographic can play in the field of protected area conservation. 39 people took part in the session, 11 onsite, and 28 online.

MOOC CONSERVATION MEETING IN KINSHASA

As if the APAC weren't enough, Emmanuel organised a meeting as soon as he was back in DRC, at the Gombe Pedagogical Institute (ISP Gombe):

Saturday 6 August 2022, in collaboration with the department of geography and environmental science of ISP Gombe, we organised an information session on Papaco's MOOCs. Over 60 students from the department took part. So many questions were asked, and there was a real interest from all participants.



(AAA), the NGO in charge of the sanctuary. This was the opportunity for us to learn more about ex-situ conservation of primates. We then had several talks on the following topics: the importance of wildlife health in conservation by Frédéric (ambassador), the importance of environmental health by Darelle SAMBA BATONDA (vice coordinator of HAC), conservation and climate change by Dr IL-Mataï BAÏYABE (research coordinator of HAC), MOOC Conservation by Pascale (ambassador).

This was a good opportunity to flirt with nature and to connect our theoretical knowledge with daily activities that impact biodiversity Frédéric M. MBIDA, MOOC Conservation Ambassador ●

VISIT OF THE PRIMATE SANCTUARY AT MÉFOU PARK, CAMEROON



On Saturday 20 August 2022, Cameroon's ambassadors (Pascale, Frédéric and Mathias) collaborated with Health and Conservation (HAC) to organise an outing to the primate sanctuary of Mefou, around 45 km outside of Yaoundé. Twenty people participated, including veterinary students, environmentalists and conservation aficionados.



The visit started with a guided tour of the sanctuary by Ape Action Africa

YOUTH-CONSERVATION.ORG

Youth conservation REMINDER: WHAT IS YOUTH CONSERVATION?

The goal of youth-conservation.org is to spark an interest in the environment and in nature conservation among young people from 10 to 17 years old. 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.

TEST PHASE: HELP US!

In June 2022 we launched the test phase of youth-conservation.org. The final platform will be online by the end of the year (the English version is planned for 2023). In the meantime, do send us your feedback so we can complete what is possibly missing, adapt what can be improved and develop new topics. Is the content relevant? What information would you like to see in the Guides? The Guide for module 1 is online, but it is only a beta version. We'd like to hear from you to know how we can adapt it and create the missing ones based on the same model. Send us an email at info@youth-conservation.org with any comment you may have. ●



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

MANAGER, FIELD COMMUNICATIONS, STORYTELLING & PRODUCTION @ AWF

Where? Nairobi, Kenya

Application deadline: end September 2022

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

PROGRAM SPECIALIST @ WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

Where? Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Application deadline: 23 September 2022

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

IF YOU'D LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO A NAPA (ARTICLE OR PUBLICATION ON AFRICAN PROTECTED AREAS, COVER PHOTO, JOB OFFER ETC.), CONTACT US.

CONTACTS - PAPACO

geoffroy.mauvais@iucn.org

// Coordinator - PAPACO

youssofph.diedhiou@iucn.org

// Programme officer - World Heritage and Green List

madeleine.coetzer@iucn.org

// Programme officer - Communications

beatricechataigner@gmail.com

// Green List