

NAPPA#167

NEWS FROM AFRICAN PROTECTED AREAS OCTOBER 2022



Banhine National Park Flood plain in Mozambique by Cadúto Baraca

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Editorial



GEOFFROY MAUVAIS
PAPACO COORDINATOR

SOME MATH...

On November 15, at 11:46 a.m., humanity will pass a threshold: 8 billion human beings on Earth. Well, it could also happen at 11:47 a.m. – after all, scientists are never 100% sure of their estimates.

Of these 8 billion people on our planet, nearly 18% live in Africa. Actually, chances are high that the 8 billionth human will be in Africa, since its demographic growth is almost 3 times higher than the rest of the world.

Therefore, in a couple weeks, there will be 1.4 billion Africans. The proportion of children or teenagers (let's say people under 18) on the continent is around 45%. Africa will thus be home to 630 million very young people in November!

We know from internet surveys that 46% of these youths are reasonably connected. Consequently, there should be around 290 million children who regularly browse the web, and, as everywhere else in the world, some of these children will spend most of their time online. Not to mention all those who may not have internet or connected devices at home but use it in school or with friends... Whom we will not include, for lack of a realistic estimate.

Let's be optimistic and assume that roughly 5% of those who access the Web are interested, in one way or another,

by nature and its conservation. That's already around 15 million young people who would like to find information on this topic online.

Well, this is our target: 15 million!

This is the number of children, teenagers, youths that we must reach in the next 3 years through youth-conservation, a new platform we are launching this month. I acknowledge that this target still leaves many people behind, but we have to be reasonable and leave some space for others!

Whether you are a kid, parent, grandparent, uncle or aunt, cousin, teacher, principal, inspector, counsellor, trainer, or minister of education... you know what you must do. Make advantage of this new tool, of its content, its methodology. Share our link, inform, raise awareness, wake your neighbours up and all the children in the neighbourhood! Gather opinions, collect good ideas, feed discussion groups, develop new challenges... Implement recommendations, create clubs to do more and better, set up a radio to let it be known... in a word, change the world, your world!

Not easy to do on your own, right? But with the energy of 15 million young people, it feels less out of reach. Let's get to work! ●

PAPACO ONLINE

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

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

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

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

Papaco.org

[IUCN Protected and Conserved Areas newsletter](#)



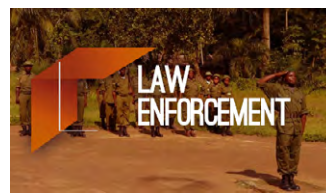
MOOC-CONSERVATION.ORG

MOOCS

Dates to remember. We held a first webinar at the end of October and, given the turnout (135 people) we had to make the decision to stick to French for the meeting and organise a subsequent meeting in English on 5 October 2022. At the time we are writing this, the webinar hasn't taken place, but if we have a good turnout, more webinars will be organised for our English-speaking students.

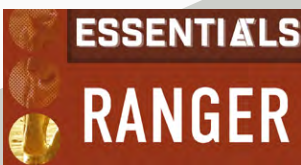
Ongoing session: 12 September to 11 December 2022.

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.

AMBASSADORS - NEWCOMERS

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

AMBASSADORS DEPARTING

We started the ambassador programme in 2019 and have come a long way with many of them. This month, three ambassadors are leaving their place to newcomers: Humbot (Comoros), Pascale (Yaoundé, Cameroon) and Oumarou (Niamey, Niger). They have to make time for new professional endeavours, including a job at UNDP in Geneva for Pascale and a PhD for Oumarou. All the best to them, until we meet again.

NEWCOMERS

Niger. Oumarou had already made sure there is an entire team at work in Niger: Seidou in Niamey, Ousseini in Tillabéry, Abdoulaye in Dosso and Omar in Diffa. This team works together to reach as many students as possible. If you are in Niger, go ahead and join a hub.

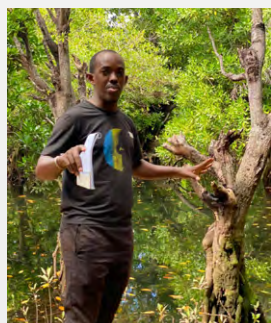


Cameroon. Mathias (Douala) and Frédéric (Ngaoundéré) are still present. Pascale will remain involved from a distance, but she has chosen Michelle (pictured) to become the new official MOOC Conservation ambassador in Yaoundé.

Comoros. Anrifiddine is replacing Humblot in the Comoros. He sent us a presentation of his work in Mitsamiouli-Ndroudé National Park which you will be able to read hereafter.

Haiti. Shneider strengthens the MOOC Conservation team in Haiti where we know we have many learners.

ANRIFIDDINE OUSSINI: COMMUNITY MOBILISER AT MITSAMILOULI-NDROUDÉ NATIONAL PARK / RESPONSIBLE FOR MARINE MISSIONS



I am passionate about nature and have been involved in Comoros' protected areas since 2019. In 2020, I became the mobiliser of Mitsamiouli-Ndroudé National Park where I have strengthened ties with the local communities, institutions and environment professionals. I've been following Papaco's MOOCs since 2019 to increase my knowledge in the field of protected areas. Everything I have been

learning through these courses have qualified me to carry out daily park activities. I am also involved in marine missions at Mitsamiouli-Ndroudé where I plan surveillance activities and carry out monitoring of park conservation targets.

Mitsamiouli-Ndroudé National Park is located in the northern parts of Ngazidja island. It covers a surface area of 2314 Ha including the coastline from Ndzaouzé to Hantsindzi. It is the smallest MPA in the Comoros and stands out because of its beautiful landscapes, its rich biodiversity, its ecological, socioeconomic and cultural values. Thanks to the park's geographic location, it is visited by local visitors, the diaspora and international tourists.



Mitsamiouli-Ndroudé National Park's strong point is the involvement of local communities, village groups, local and national institutions and private operators in the park's co-management.

Mitsamiouli-Ndroudé National park raises awareness among the younger generations to preserve and restore ecosystems through its environmental education programme (school presentations, cleaning initiatives, ecosystem restoration days).



WHO IS SHNEIDER LAURENT RICARD, NEW AMBASSADOR IN HAITI?



I am the national coordinator of a national association. It was founded in 2020 and focuses on environmental protection, climate change, biodiversity conservation, promotion of sustainable development and sustainable farming. I did a thesis in Agricultural science with a specialisation in Natural Resources and Environment.

My passion for a better world has allowed me to obtain over 30 course attestations in the fields of climate change, conservation, sustainable development, protected areas etc. I just joined MOOC Conservation's ambassador network in order to contribute to nature conservation in Haiti and to create a closer network among protected area practitioners in my country.

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: LET'S GO



A new adventure is starting with the launch of youth-conservation.org. The main goal of this website is to raise conservation awareness among the youth (10 to 17 years old). We want to let them know it is important to act for the environment and that we all have a role to play in the planet's survival.

As we are entering this field we know very little of, our vision is to see the African youth take ownership of this tool and to see action stemming from it: creation of nature clubs, park and beach clean-ups, choosing studies or jobs that can have an impact on protecting the planet. A crucial step in this process is to make sure our target demographic understands why it is important to take action.

Below you will be able to read more about some of the modules covered in this first version of youth-conservation.org.

This platform is only in French at the moment, we hope to translate it in 2023.

MODULE 1 NATURE ON EARTH

We are immersed in nature. We depend on it for survival, we like to contemplate it, we use and transform its resources to the point of mishandling it, but we also protect it. Despite this, we still have so much to learn from it, to discover, to understand and to love.

In this module which looks at the terrestrial realm, we will observe, study and break down how it works, and try to understand what we can do to preserve it.

MODULE 2 MARINE BIODIVERSITY

The ocean is our planet's other lung. It is key to our survival and despite this, it is increasingly polluted and emptied from its resources. Life within it is disappearing, little by little.

What is going on? How did we get this far? Is it too late to save our seas and oceans? What can we do about it? These are the questions covered in this module.

MODULE 3 CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change, what is it? Is the planet really heating up? Why is this happening now? What are the causes? What are the consequences today and in the future for biodiversity and for us?

A hot and crucial topic, which surprisingly leaves us cold. Can we not do anything? What will be the price to pay if we

don't wake up? And if we decide to take action, what can we do now?

MODULE 4 THREATS TO THE EARTH

Everything we do has an impact on our earth. Our ways of life leave marks: we pollute the air and rivers, we destroy forests and use up resources in the soil. All this to produce too much because we want the latest phone, we want to eat everything at any time, because we over-package and transport products across the globe.

This impact is our ecological footprint, what we are leaving behind. What are the consequences? How to measure it? How can we limit it? This module will help us understand all this.

MODULE 5 NATURE AND HEALTH

Our impact on the planet is such that it is impossible for our health not to be affected. If nature is not ok, how can we be ok? What if we told you many diseases were linked to the way we manage the planet?

What is the link between nature and our health? What role do we play in this? How can we change the world to make it better?

MODULE 6 THE FUTURE OF THE PLANET

The world is changing rapidly. Mobile applications,

electrical cars, smart cities, renewable energies... this is no longer science fiction. We also use new technologies a lot more to save the planet.

We are the main actors of this future. All of us. What does the future hold for us? What solutions do we have so we do not to lose our beautiful planet?

HELP US MAKE YOUTH CONSERVATION KNOWN

As you can see, these are hot topics and crucial to our planet's survival. The earlier we people realise the

importance of preserving natural resources and of limiting our impact on the planet, the better. It is much easier to install good habits in a child than it is in an adult.

We hope to translate these important materials into English in 2023 to reach even more people.

We hope to see the youth take ownership of this tool, to see them coming up with their own creative ideas to make a difference.

We hope to this generation changes the future.

YOUTH-CONSERVATION.ORG AS PART OF OFFICIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION TOOLS IN BELGIUM, BY ANNABELLE DU PARC



FROM PROTECTING SEA TURTLES IN SEYCHELLES TO JOINING THE GOVERNMENT OF WALLONIA IN BELGIUM

From protecting turtles in Seychelles to becoming parliamentary attaché in the Wallonia Parliament in Belgium. The common thread has always been nature conservation. I have been interested in conservation for a very long time, even before I moved to the Seychelles where I lived from 2015 to 2020. But two events contributed to making that interest even stronger.

The first event was after my arrival in the Seychelles where I joined a turtle protection organisation. There I was, on a beach in Poivre, a small island that's part of the Amirantes archipelago, next to a hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) that was busy laying eggs! There, on that beach on the other side of the world, I came to the realisation: wow, sea turtles are from the dinosaur era. They survived thousands of years and are witnesses of our evolution. They are the reflection of our humanity and are now about to become extinct, mostly because of human activity. It is up to us humans to protect them and help them survive, because after all, it's our fault they're in danger.

The second event was the launch of papaco's MOOC on Protected area management which I completed in 2016. It gave me so much perspective. Other MOOCs came after that and have helped me move from practice to theory, but also to dig deeper as I had worked for a different organisation on the classification of two islands in marine protected areas.

I returned to Belgium in 2020, determined to be a force for change. I wanted to remain in the field of conservation, but of course, there are no turtles to protect or desert islands to classify as MPAs in Belgium! However my wish came true in way I hadn't imagined: politics! Here I am, parliamentary attaché of a regional representative who is responsible for Environment and Education at the Parliament of Wallonia. These fields seem unrelated, but it is crucial today to develop a separate learning process that would allow students to have a strong bond with the environment and everything related to it. One of the routes we could follow would be to provide teachers the tools they need in terms of environmental education.

THE YOUTH CONSERVATION PLATFORM

As such, when I read [June's NAPA](#), which I always enjoy reading (thank you Geoffroy!), the article about the [Youth Conservation platform](#) struck me. Here was an initiative that I could show the government! During parliamentary questions, we informed ministers about the [youth-conservation.org](#) website developed by IUCN. How surprised was I not when the Minister of education announced her decision to include this IUCN tool, the Youth Conservation platform, to the set of Environmental Education tools used by teachers!

A small step forward and great satisfaction! Especially being able to link environment, education, training, field experience, life across the world and being a vector for change!

By working in this field, I realised that for some people to take action (in this case, ministers), they must first be aware. Hence my initiative. The lesson here is that every try counts, even if it seems far from the target!

I still dream of working in a protected area in Africa, but for now my place is here, another way to make a difference. ●

CITES REPORT ON POACHING

RHINO POACHING AND ILLEGAL TRADE DECLINE BUT REMAIN CRITICAL THREATS – [NEW REPORT](#)

Overall rhino poaching rates have declined since 2018, and trade data suggests the lowest annual estimate of rhino horns entering illegal trade markets since 2013, according to a new report by the IUCN SSC African and Asian Rhino Specialist Groups and TRAFFIC for the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which will be held in Panama in November this year.

“The overall decline in poaching of rhinos is encouraging, yet this remains an acute threat to the survival of these iconic animals,” said Sam Ferreira, Scientific Officer with the IUCN SSC African Rhino Specialist Group. “To support the growth of rhino numbers, it is essential to continue active population management and anti-poaching activities for all subspecies across different range states.”

The report finds that rhino poaching rates in Africa have continued to decline from a peak of 5.3% of the total population in 2015 to 2.3% in 2021. At least 2,707 rhinos were poached across Africa between 2018 and 2021, accounting for both the white rhino

(*Ceratotherium simum*), which is Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, and the rarer Critically Endangered black rhino (*Diceros bicornis*). South Africa accounted for 90% of all reported cases, predominantly affecting white rhinos in Kruger National Park, home to the world's largest white rhino population. As a result, overall white rhino numbers on the continent have declined by almost 12% (from 18,067 to 15,942 individuals) during this period, while populations of black rhino increased by just over 12% (from 5,495 to 6,195 individuals). Overall, Africa's rhino population declined around 1.6% per year, from an estimated 23,562 individuals in 2018 to 22,137 at the end of 2021.

According to the report, global lockdowns and restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic saw several African countries experience dramatically reduced poaching rates in 2020 compared to previous years. South Africa lost 394 rhinos to poaching in 2020, while Kenya recorded no rhino poaching that year. However, as COVID-19 travel restrictions lifted, some range states reported new increases in poaching activities – for example,

South Africa reported 451 and Kenya six poached rhinos in 2021. However, these numbers are still significantly lower than during the peak in 2015, when South Africa alone lost 1,175 rhinos to poaching.

Alongside the decline in poaching, data analysed for range and consumer states suggests that, on average, between 575 and 923 African rhino horns entered illegal trade markets each year between 2018 and 2020, compared to approximately

2,378 per year between 2016 and 2017. However, in 2019, before the COVID-19 outbreak, the reported seized weight of illegal rhino specimens reached its highest point of the decade, perhaps due to increased regulations and law enforcement efforts. While range and consumer countries most affected by illegal trade remained the same as in previous reports, the lack of consistent reporting by some countries still limits the ability to better understand patterns of illegal trade in rhino horns. ●

PAPBIO ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME REGIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEM (ECRIS) IN WEST AFRICA: A SMART DECISION-MAKING TOOL TO FIGHT CRIMINALITY IN WILDLIFE AND BIODIVERSITY

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<https://www.iucn.org/our-work/region/west-and-central-africa>

CONTEXT

The Environmental Crime Regional Information System (ECRIS) in West Africa was created by the West Africa Regional Governance of Protected Areas project as part of the *Programme Indicatif Regional* (PIR) 11th FED of the European Union. It is part of the Biodiversity Observatory of West African Protected Areas (BOWAPA). The role of ECRIS is essentially to follow all spatio-temporal dynamics of environmental crime, including those linked to biodiversity, protected areas and other components of the environment. It mobilises data of environmental offences recorded by law enforcement authorities in Member countries of the CEDEAO and Mauritania. These offences include poaching, illegal forest exploitation, illegal wildlife trafficking, illegal grazing, illegal fishing, air pollution etc. The types of data to mobilise in ECRIS are information on the perpetrators, the type of offence, species concerned, the date, location, products seized, quantity, judicial decision etc.

WHY IS ECRIS IMPORTANT?

- To produce periodical reports on characterisation of environmental crimes at the local, national and

regional levels,

- Produce useful information to improve strategies of species conservation efforts,
- Provide information for national indicators of threats to biodiversity, to report to international conventions such as the CBD, as well as international instruments such as IPBES reports etc.

WHO IS CONCERNED?

- Administrations of water and forestry,
- Administrations responsible for wildlife, national parks and reserves,
- Administrations responsible for marine protected areas and coastal ecosystems,
- Administrations responsible for fishing and fishing resources,
- Customs,
- Police,
- Specialised units such as anti-trafficking cells in

- airports, INTERPOL,
- Other law enforcement agencies.

WHAT STRATEGIES TO MOBILISE DATA FOR ECRIS?

- Collaboration and data sharing protocols,
- A data supply and exploitation blueprint was created,
- Meetings to exchange information with actors involved: they aim at informing and raising awareness among administrations in charge of protected areas and of environmental management in order to increase engagement in the mobilisation process to inform ECRIS. Meetings are about the environmental crime data sharing collaboration protocole between national administrations and IUCN-PACO.
 - An information session with Niger’s Water and Forestry department on 26 May 2022,
 - An information session with Water, Forests, Hunting and soil Conservation Ministry on 23 June 2022,
 - An information session with Senegal’s National Parks Management on 20 June 2022,
 - An information session with Liberia’s Forestry Department Authority (FDA) on 13 May 2022.
- Next steps:
 - Signature of protocole between IUCN-PACO and law enforcement authorities,
 - Development of the English version of ECRIS,
 - Training law enforcement agents involved in the process,
 - Launching data collection.

ECRIS link: <https://sice.obapao.org> •

Awareness raising and information session on ECRIS and the data sharing protocole with Senegal’s Water, Forests, Hunting and soil Conservation Ministry



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