

NEWS FROM PROTECTED AREAS IN AFRICA

NAPA 179

Conserving nature in Africa



THIS MONTH IN THE NAPA

CALLING ALL
RANGERS

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if we are serious about meeting the 30x30 goal of increasing coverage of protected and conserved areas to 30% of the earth by 2030, we'll soon be needing a lot more efficient rangers....

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News on our online training courses, MOOCs and Essentials as we currently move to another platform...

MOOC AND
ESSENTIALS

YOUTH CONSERVATION

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Teaching nature conservation via an online platform... it helps reach everyone, everywhere!

P.6 TO 10 - BUILDING TRUST: RANGERS AND COMMUNITIES <<<

How to build trusting relations by identifying the underlying basis for trusting or distrusting entities such as communities and rangers...

FEATURE OF
THE MONTH



CALLING ALL RANGERS

Nigel DUDLEY
Equilibrium Research

»» Protected and conserved area rangers often lead exciting but precarious lives. They get to work in some of the world's most spectacular landscapes and seascapes and see iconic wildlife in natural settings. But many are also chronically underpaid and under-equipped. Rangers are often too few and set in charge of unrealistically large areas (on land and sea) and are not infrequently under physical threat from armed poachers, illegal miners and others, including wildlife! Two rangers have died around the world in the line of duty every week since 2006.

Yet if we are serious about meeting the 30x30 goal of increasing coverage of protected and conserved areas to 30% of land, freshwater and marine by 2030, we'll soon be needing an awful lot more rangers. Recent research suggests another 1.5 million rangers will be required to manage the expanded conservation network effectively. Just as important, attitudes to rangers need to undergo a major recalibration, from them being seen as lowly and fairly insignificant workers to having a status as trained and important professionals, on a par with police, nurses and the fire service. Rangers manage much more than wildlife; they protect critical ecosystem services, provide recreational opportunities for local people and tourists and often play important roles in supplying basic support services like health and security in emergency situations. The idea of rangers as essential planetary health workers is gaining ground.

EDITO

Support is growing. The International Rangers Federation published the Chitwan Declaration in 2019, calling for an action plan to support rangers more effectively, and several NGOs set up the Universal Ranger Support Alliance (URSA) to draw up and implement this plan. URSA has published a range of documents, including an essential Code of Conduct for rangers available in many languages including English, Swahili and French.

Backing comes from a growing number of places. The Thin Green Line Foundation was set up to help support families of rangers who died on duty but has grown to cover many aspects of welfare and training as well. Conservation NGOs are seeing the importance of including rangers in the planning and implementation of projects and are investing in capacity for rangers in the field. Tools like SMART help rangers work more effectively and URSA is investigating ways to increase their social standing and job security.

A major survey of rangers identified better ranger-community relationships as their number one priority. Inside, Sue Stolton and co-authors describe steps to building trust and asks readers for lessons learned from the field; see the article for links. And the ranger survey is being repeated, to find out what is concerning rangers at the moment. If you are a protected area ranger reading this, please spend some minutes telling us what is on your mind. Finally, the 10th IRF World Ranger Conference is to be held in France in October 2024, giving rangers around the world a chance to meet, exchange experiences and plan next steps in building the ranger workforce worldwide.

I hope you enjoy this issue.

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

OUR ONLINE COURSES: MOOCS AND ESSENTIALS

MOOC Conservation is the platform that hosts IUCN-Papaco's online training courses, developed in partnership with the Senghor University, in Alexandria. As we all know, protected areas are an essential tool for protecting biodiversity, but to achieve their objectives, they need to be managed effectively. Training is therefore extremely important, to ensure that all the stakeholders involved are equipped with the necessary knowledge.

Often, onsite training requires time and resources that are not readily available to those working in the field. That's why we developed mooc-conservation.org. The courses are **online**, so there's no need to travel, they're **free**, and have been prepared by experts in their respective fields.

This makes them effective and popular: more than **108,000 people** have already registered for our MOOCs!



OUR MOOCS THEME-BASED TRAINING

The current session of our MOOCs is closed. Next session: January 2024
Subscriptions open early January!

The Essentials are always open.
You can subscribe now!

OUR ESSENTIALS PROFILE-BASED TRAINING



MOOC PA management

Goal: understand the essence and goals of protected areas. Through this MOOC, students will be able to grasp the importance of protected areas, their role and the different management aspects.



MOOC Ecological monitoring

Goal: understand the different techniques used in protected areas to assess the impact of management by monitoring the ecosystem.



MOOC Law enforcement

Goal: understand the different legal contexts in Africa, their strengths and weaknesses as well as the techniques used to effectively enforce rules in parks.



MOOC Species conservation

Goal: understand the techniques developed to conserve species in PAs, in situ and ex situ. The MOOC covers the main threats, as well as solutions that can help face these threats.



MOOC Valorisation of resources

Goal: knowing how the valorisation of different protected area resources can take place, and understanding protected area valorisation through tourism.



MOOC New technologies

Goal: knowing the context of new technologies applied to conservation, existing techniques, prerequisites for their implementation, their opportunities and limitations, their uses in the field...



MOOC Marine protected areas

Goal: understanding as the design and creation of MPA networks, governance, ecological monitoring, but also surrounding economic activities, and how to include all this to MPA management.

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



MANAGER Essential

These two courses are 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 managers working in central management of parks or large NGOs, they elaborate national and regional policies, they proceed to cross-sectoral

coordination and manage complex plans and programmes. This course focuses on more general skills to enable a better understanding of the stakes of biodiversity conservation, all for better decision-making.



All our courses are available for free on

MOOC-CONSERVATION.ORG



**REGISTRATIONS REOPEN
IN JANUARY**

YOUTH CONSERVATION: **DISCOVER, UNDERSTAND AND ACT** FOR THE PLANET

IUCN-Papaco has developed in November 2022 online and free of charge educational resources to discover, understand and act for the survival of the planet. The youth-conservation.org platform thus provides young people aged 10 to 17 and their trainers with permanent, unlimited and free resources allowing them to understand and expose in a simple way:

1. The concept of nature;
2. Why it is important;
3. What to do to preserve it.

The themes covered for the moment are: **terrestrial biodiversity, marine biodiversity, climate change, threats to nature, the relationship between nature and our health** and finally **the future of nature conservation**. Other subjects will gradually enrich this set.

The subjects are treated in several stages and **interactively**: at the start of each module, a video presents the theme and serves as an introduction then the user follows a logical progression to discover what we are talking about, understand what is happening and finally think how to act. Designed primarily for smartphones, the site is fun and easy to use for young people.



Papaco has not forgotten the trainers; thus the youth-conservation.org platform offers additional resources for trainers (teacher, parent, environment club manager, NGO, etc.) to help them lead discussions with young people. Thus, for each module, a poster summarizing the key lessons is offered (it can be downloaded and printed), as well as a detailed guide with useful resources to go further in the lessons and facilitate learning. The guides also clearly present ideas for actions in favor of preserving the environment that the trainer can implement with the young people he/she supervises on the theme in question.

>>> OUR NEWS



- On **Tuesday 24th of October 2023**, a **webinar** was held with around fifteen participants. Co-hosted by our expert consultant Mr Firmin Tape and Laurent Ahongbonon, President of the Beninese NGO Nature Plurielle, the webinar generated some very interesting discussions on the topics of content, methodological approaches and relationships with schools. *Next webinar, Wednesday 22 November 2023 at 5pm UTC/GMT.*
- On **Wednesday 15th of November 2023**, the next session of the **examination for the Attestation d'Aptitude à l'éducation environnementale** will take place. There are two possible times, 8am UTC or 5pm UTC. Only for French-speaking candidates for now. To register: <https://bit.ly/3M4kSnM>.

- **Podcasts**: to facilitate access and learning, we will adapt all of our 6 modules in the form of audio episodes. It will thus be easier to consider translation into English but also ultimately into other local languages. *Scheduled for: January 2024*
- **Online tutorial**: like the online training courses on the <https://mooc-conservation.org/> website, we aim to put a specific tutorial online on the subject of Environmental Education to meet the needs of trainers and thus work towards capacity building. It will also be easier for us to assess teaching skills and issue certificates of Aptitude for Environmental Education. *Scheduled for: 1st quarter 2024*
- **Translation of all of our 6 modules into English**: with half of the African continent speaking English, it seems essential to us to have an English version of our modules! *Scheduled for: January 2024*

PROJECTS 2024

HOW TO JOIN US?

- Do you want to participate in the dissemination and popularization of youth-conservation.org and benefit in return from the network and visibility of IUCN-Papaco? Please contact us at info@youth-conservation.org with a short presentation of your project (school, club, NGO, etc.).
- A question? A comment? Contact us: info@youth-conservation.org or FB private group: click [here](#).
- If you are interested in receiving our quarterly newsletter please subscribe [here](#).

TESTIMONIALS FROM THE FIELD - BY OUR NGO PARTNERS

NGO SAVE OUR PLANET (BENIN) -

BY ALFREDA CHRISTIANE FIFAMÉ AKOTEGNON - INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT & CLIMATE ACTIVIST

We are delighted to tell you about this wonderful initiative by one of our environmental education winners (September session), Alfreda Christiane Fifamé Akotegnon in Benin: on the 5th of October, the **PRE-REMISE project was launched at the Didier le Bihan centre for intellectually disabled children, in the commune of Adjohoun**. The children were first made aware of the importance of preserving the environment and biodiversity, using Youth Conservation resources, then they were able to put the lessons into practice during an activity on water and hygiene. The children were very interested and delighted with their day!

This is a great way for the NGO SAVE OUR PLANET to involve all sections of society in this environmental education project, particularly children with disabilities.

Well done to **Alfreda** and to all the volunteers who are committed to an inclusive approach to the environment and disability.

If you would like to find out more and/or support the NGO, please contact Alfreda Christiane AKOTEGNON directly: aktchristol@gmail.com.



NGO SENTINELLE DE LA NATURE (BURKINA FASO) -

PBY FIRMIN TAPE, EXPERT-CONSULTANT IN GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS AND BIODIVERSITY AND MEMBER OF THE NGO

On Saturday 23 September 2023, the NGO Association Sentinelle de la Nature in Burkina Faso launched an operation entitled "**l'arbre de la ménagère**" (the housewife's tree) to combat the significant reduction in forest cover, in this country. Once the harmful consequences of deforestation have been presented and explained, the solutions are discussed, and reforestation is presented as one of the solutions in the fight against climate change. **This operation is both theoretical and practical, with the selected households receiving training and then a tree planting plan.**

The activity took place in 2 stages:

- Households were **made aware of the key messages on safeguarding the environment** using Youth Conservation resources and were given the 6 printed posters, available on the platform.
- A tree was then planted in the courtyard of each household selected.** Each family is now responsible for the care and growth of its tree.

It's a great way to put theory into practice, get communities involved and get children and parents involved in a noble cause!

Well done to the NGO Sentinelle de la Nature and good luck to the team!

Sentinelle de la Nature is an NGO that works to improve people's living conditions. Created in 2019 in Burkina Faso, it aims at contributing to the sustainable management of natural resources, the conservation and improvement of biodiversity, the promotion of hygiene and waste management, environmental education through the creation of botanical gardens and wildlife breeding...

If you too would like to carry out operations of this type, you can contact the NGO Sentinelle de la Nature directly to find out more (procedures, costs, etc.): office.sentina@gmail.com.



BUILDING TRUST WITH RANGERS AND COMMUNITIES

A scoping report for URSA

by Sue Stolton, Hannah L. Timmins and Nigel Dudley

THIS MONTH IN THE NAPA

>>> What do we mean by trust?

Trust has been defined as: the firm belief in the reliability, truth or ability of someone or something. This definition has been expanded for the conservation domain to define four different types of trust (see *table 1*) illustrating the complexity of building trusting relations by identifying the underlying basis for trusting or distrusting entities.

Table 1: Definitions and antecedents of the four types of trust (1)

Type	Definition/basis	Antecedents
Dispositional	The general tendency or predisposition of an individual to trust or distrust another entity in a particular context.	Can be based on innate tendencies, personal history, received cultural norms, and/or contextual cues from one's current environment.
Rational	Trust in an entity is based primarily on a calculation of the perceived utility of the expected outcome of placing one's trust in that entity.	Evaluations of information about the prior performance of an entity and the subsequent predictability and assessment of likely outcomes.
Affinitive	Trust in an entity based primarily on the emotions and associated judgements resulting from either cognitive or subconscious assessments of the qualities of the potential trustee.	Cognitive or emotional assessment of the integrity and/or benevolence of the trustee, resulting from any of the following: (a) assumptions of shared values or concerns; (b) feelings of social connectedness; (c) shared positive experiences; (d) subconscious or emotional response to charisma or perceived shared identity.
Procedural	Trust in procedures or other systems that decrease vulnerability, enabling trust in the absence of other forms of trusting relationship.	Perceptions of legitimate, transparent and/or binding procedures that enable confident predictions of the behaviours of others.

Having trusting relationships between rangers, local communities and Indigenous peoples is acknowledged as fundamental to conservation success. But it is not a given. The complexity of the concept makes trust hard to quantify and measure; communities (whether of rangers or of local people) do not trust as a block, rather trust is a very individual concept linked to past experiences and future expectations, personal qualities and so on. Trust is also mutual: it requires actions with and by communities and actions with and by rangers to build effectively.

Trust relationships can thus be viewed as rational (e.g., based purely on performance and outcomes, which in the case of protected areas should be informed by rigorous monitoring and reporting); or can be more emotive based on affinity with the perceptions of others rather than dispassionately evaluated; or trust can be built through effective processes and procedures, including safeguards, which build confidence in a relationship.(2)



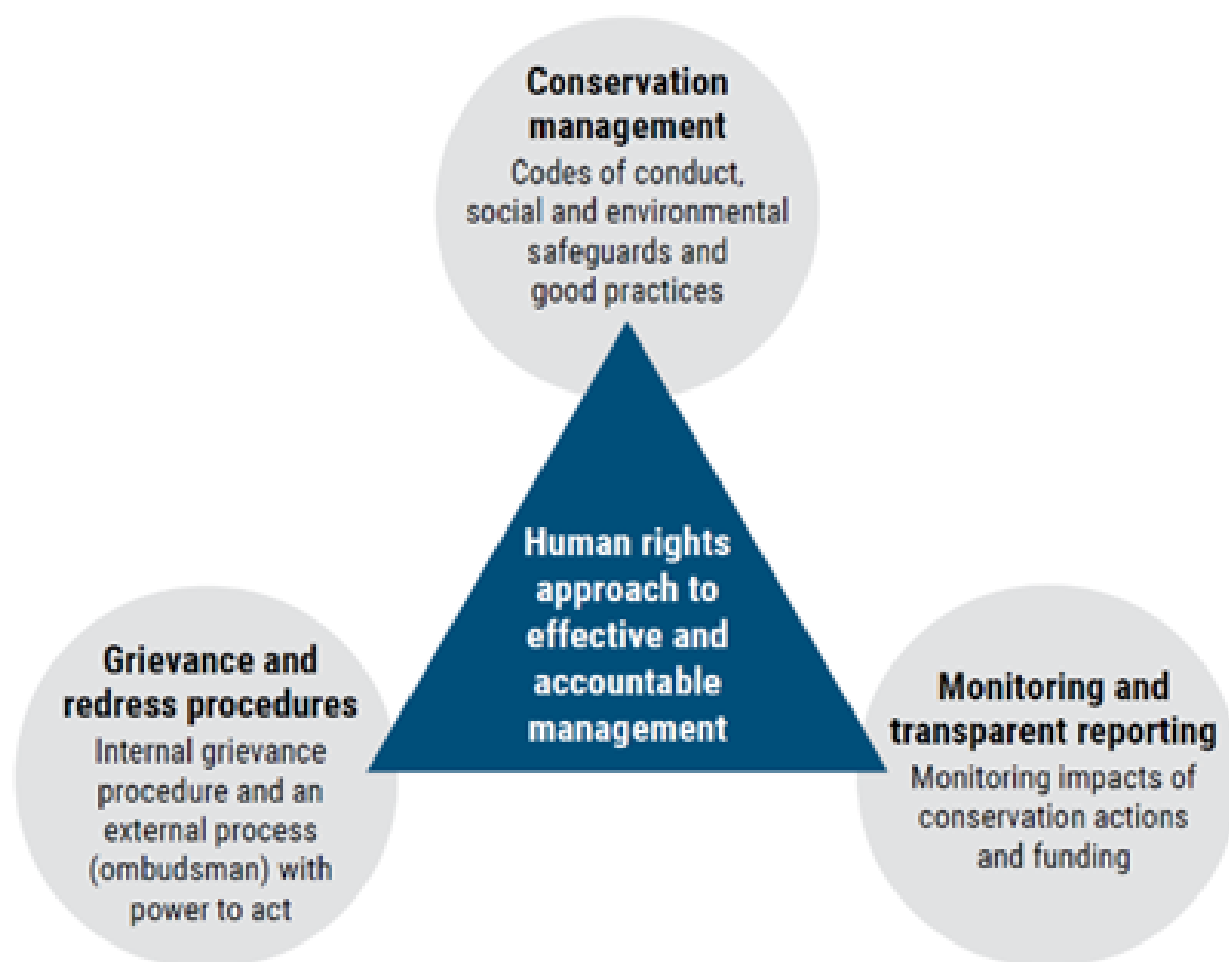
Building Trust with Rangers and Communities

A scoping report for URSA by Sue Stolton,
Hannah L. Timmins and Nigel Dudley
VOLUME 1: Scoping Report and Initial Findings



Building on these underlying concepts, *figure 1* outlines the management tools needed to support effective and accountable management in conservation. The figure outlines three elements which form the foundation of trust in this context: Conservation management, which needs to respect human rights and follow agreed processes and procedures to avoid conflict; monitoring and transparent reporting, to ensure that management is successful in this context; and grievance and redress procedures, which are vital to establish truth and/or reconciliation through access to justice and remedy in case conflict has occurred. All of which are, together, important to build and maintain trust between communities and rangers – the focus of the work reported here.

Figure 1: Management tools needed to support building trusting relationships between protected area management staff, including rangers, and Indigenous peoples and local communities through effective and accountable protected areas management



In 2022, Equilibrium Research began a long-term project with Universal Ranger Support Alliance (URSA) to support the implementation of the International Ranger Federation's (IRF) [Chitwan Declaration](#) through the [URSA action plan](#) to explore one specific sub-objective: URSA, IRF and ranger associations are actively engaged in building trust between rangers and communities, by establishing meaningful participation and respect for human rights.

Rangers as defined by the IRF are individuals or group of individuals that play a critical role in conservation. Rangers are responsible for safeguarding nature, and cultural and historical heritage, and protecting the rights and well-being of present and future generations. As representatives of their authority, organization or community, they work, often for extended periods, in protected and conserved areas and wider land- and seascapes, whether state, regional, communal, Indigenous or private, in line with legal and institutional frameworks.(3)

Building and keeping trust is no small task. Trust is built by two or more parties being clear and constant in their approach to an issue, when equity and equality are present, and through the innumerable small acts of kindness and thoughtfulness which help build a relationship. The breakdown of trust can happen in a moment, or over decades, when expectations are not realized or when inequalities are so entrenched that trust is virtually impossible.

The aim of the work is to develop simple, practical guidance for rangers and their managers working all over the world to strengthen ranger and community relationships drawing on actual experience worldwide. This started with an initial scoping study which collected nearly 100 good practices broken down into actions taken primarily by managers and those taken primarily by rangers. The report and associated case studies can be downloaded on the [URSA website](#).


Over the next 10 months we are collecting more ideas of good practices from rangers, communities, site managers etc. These will be published in an IUCN WCPA Good Practice Guideline and launched at the next [IRF Congress](#) in France in 2024. We are looking for ideas from the whole conservation community. So please share your experiences by sending us an email (rangers.building.trust@gmail.com) or filling out our really [short survey](#).

The actions and good practices which have been collected so far have been drawn from a wide range of sources: from conservation literature, literature from associated disciplines such as criminal justice, and, most importantly, by speaking with rangers and other protected areas practitioners and communities around the world (primarily through an online multi-lingual questionnaire) focussing on collecting good practices rather than extensive metadata.

The results are a list of practical local actions, and thus it does not repeat the wide range of guidance and tools for community participation in conservation.

We have illustrated a few of these good practices here, and far more can be found in our initial [scoping study](#) (available in English and French).

05



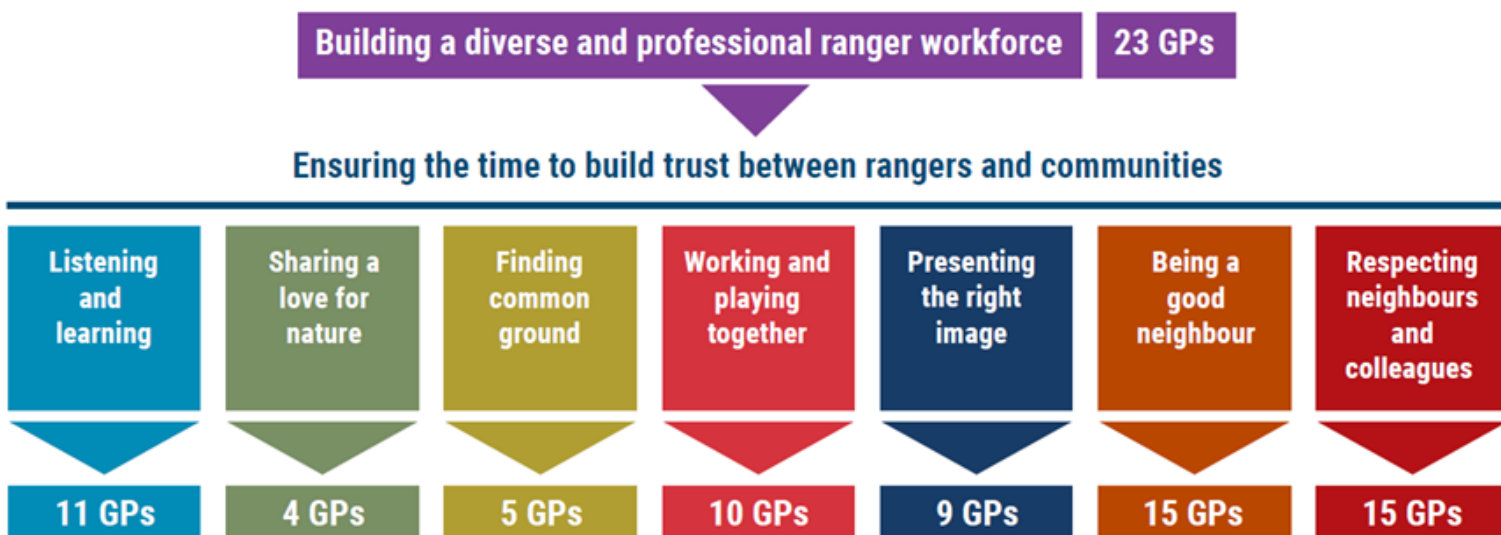
© Xia Stevens, Panthera

Train and effectively equip local people as volunteer rangers

PRINCIPLE: Building a diverse and professional workforce

Starting with some overarching good practices for building a diverse and professional ranger workforce, these are then broken down into a series of headings (see *figure 2*) that group the good practices together into pillars. From this it is clear that there is much that protected area managers and their staff can do to prevent, avoid and reduce conflict. Even the smallest actions can help build trust. And perhaps, just perhaps, each small building block of trust can over time help achieve more equitable collaboration, more meaningful dialogue and true transparency in the relationship between rangers, Indigenous people and local communities.

Figure 2: A framework for building trust with rangers and communities related to the good practices



Mini case study: Lessons learned from Murchison Falls National Park, Uganda

Ranger workforce actions taken to build community and ranger trust focused on the following:

- Rangers' ability to foster trust and collaboration largely depends on their professionalism, ability to empathize with the specific local situation, and their ability to choose and implement conflict management strategies.(4)
- Training of rangers in issues such as conflict resolution and community engagement helps build their social skills and sense of pride and professionalism and improve their interactions with local communities.
- Taking community members to different areas of the park and surrounding area widened their understanding of conservation.(5)

In addition, community volunteers (known as wildlife scouts) were engaged to help protect farms from crop raiding by wild animals, the lessons learned included:

- Wildlife scouts' training taught members skills in controlling wild animals that stray from the park using different interventions. This has helped to improve community relations with the management authority.
- Wildlife scouts were taught the behaviours of wild animals with knowledge transferred to the community members. This has helped improve the tactics of communities in chasing away the animals without causing them harm, thus decreasing conflicts and accidents.
- First aid training equipped wildlife scouts with knowledge to handle problems such as fractures and sprains, which then provided a community-wide resource.(6)

See [case study volume](#) for the full story

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© Jonathan Caramanus, WWF

Make sharing a meal or social activity with local people part of regular community interaction

PRINCIPLE: Listening and Learning

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© Hannah Timmins

Rangers trained in treating injured wild animals can assist with community animal husbandry emergencies

PRINCIPLE: Being a Good Neighbour

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© Rohit Singh

Understand the values that local people derive from the protected area

PRINCIPLE: Listening and Learning

Resources for this article

- 1 - Stern, M.J. and Coleman, K.J. 2015. The Multidimensionality of Trust: Applications in Collaborative Natural Resource Management, *Society & Natural Resources* 28(2): 117-132. DOI: 10.1080/08941920.2014.945062
- 2 - ibid
- 3 - International Ranger Federation. 2021. Ranger Code of Conduct. Version 1.0. International Ranger Federation, Victoria, Australia
- 4 - Anagnostou, M., Mwedde, G., Roe, D., Smith, R.J., Travers, H. and Baker, J. 2020. Ranger perceptions of the role of local communities in providing actionable information on wildlife crime. *Conservation Science and Practice*. 2:e202. doi.org/10.1111/csp2.202
- 5 - Village Enterprise. 2022. The Murchison Falls Coordination Forum 2021 – Forum Notes. IIED, London. <https://pubs.iied.org/20716g>
- 6 - Mwedde, G. 2021. Community Wildlife Scouts and Enterprise Groups Forum Report. IIED, London. <https://pubs.iied.org/g04457>

Read the full guide



Building Trust with Rangers and Communities

A scoping report for URSA by Sue Stolton, Hannah L. Timmins and Nigel Dudley
VOLUME 1: Scoping Report and Initial Findings



PARKS AND NATURE

re:wild



PANTHERA



IUCN



WCPA



ZSL



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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"To speak of man *in* nature today is almost to speak of man *against* nature".

Théodore Monod

➤➤➤ Read more: [IUCN position paper for UNFCCC COP28 \(United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change\)](#)

30 November – 12 December 2023, Dubai, UAE

The synthesis report of the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC AR6), released in March this year, has brought into sharp focus the irreversible losses and damages that are presently accruing from climate change, as well as the cascading and compounding risks of overshooting the 1.5°C warming level – with the most vulnerable people and ecosystems being the hardest hit.

Given that 2023 marks the year of the First Global Stocktake of the Paris Agreement, this offers the international community a vital opportunity to assess the collective progress made to date towards achieving the goals of the agreement, and to course correct.

In this context, IUCN would like to highlight 10 key messages in the lead up to UNFCCC COP28.

[Read more](#)

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[Website of the Papaco](#)



IUCN position paper for UNFCCC COP28

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
Twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28)
30 November – 12 December 2023, Dubai, UAE

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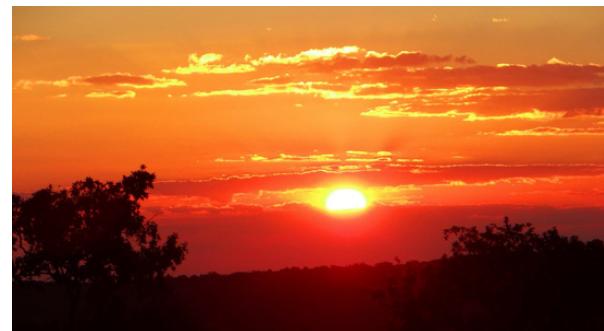
In this context, IUCN would like to highlight the following 10 key messages in the lead up to UNFCCC COP28:

- It is imperative to limit warming to 1.5°C to minimise climate-related losses and damages to people and nature. Meeting this goal is also essential for the continued provision of critical ecosystem services from natural systems that represent nature's contributions to people, such as climate regulation, carbon storage and adaptation. However, this requires – first and foremost – the rapid and equitable phase out of fossil fuels and fossil fuel subsidies without any further delay, and the accelerated and equitable deployment of sustainable clean energy systems worldwide. In this regard, IUCN urges all Parties to explicitly support, in COP28 decision text, the three-bound phase out of all fossil fuels, including oil and gas, within a framework that ensures a just transition.
- The IPCC Sixth Assessment Report estimates that limiting warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels requires global GHG emissions to be reduced by 45% by 2035 from 2019 levels and reach global net zero CO₂ emissions in the early 2050s. Yet the latest UNFCCC synthesis report, taking into account the implementation of all the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) submitted under the Paris Agreement as of September 2022, estimates that GHG emissions will reduce by only 0.3% below the 2019 level by 2035 (UNFCCC 2022). This underscores the major ambition gap that needs to be urgently bridged.
- Noting the critical function of the Global Stocktake in the architecture of the Paris Agreement, its outcomes this year must result in more ambitious climate action. IUCN urges Parties to agree on strong and clear outputs of the 2023 Global Stocktake and to reflect those in relevant decisions at COP28, in accordance with Decision 1/CP.26, L, para 36, also taking into account the key findings of the technical dialogue. Furthermore, IUCN urges Parties to be informed by the outcomes of the Global Stocktake when updating and enhancing, in a nationally determined manner, their actions and support, in particular when preparing their successive NDCs to be communicated in 2025, and in enhancing international cooperation for climate action in accordance with Articles 4.9 and 14.3 of the Paris Agreement.
- Combating the climate crisis effectively demands simultaneously addressing the biodiversity loss crisis in an integrated and synergistic manner. IUCN urges Parties to strongly reinforce the interlinkages between the climate and biodiversity crises in COP28 decisions, including those related to the Global Stocktake, the Shuangchi Wetland Initiative and Implementation Work Programme (SWIIP) and the Glasgow-Shuangchi Wetland Work Programme of the Global Goal on Adaptation (GSA-GWAP). These should clearly recognise, support and provide

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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE September 2023



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Program Officer PAPACO - Communication
Hélène Magdelain - Youth Conservation coordinator

Consider publishing in the NAPA (article, stories, pictures on protected areas in Africa, job offers, etc.),
contact us at moocs@papaco.org.

THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS NEWSLETTER DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THOSE OF IUCN