

NEWS FROM PROTECTED AREAS IN AFRICA

NAPA 180

Conserving nature in Africa



THIS MONTH IN THE NAPA

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H/W conflicts are common in West and Central Africa but limited research aims to better understand the issue in all its dimensions... Read more in this NAPA!

FEATURE OF
THE MONTH



TIME TO REACT!

Geoffroy MAUVAIS
Papaco Coordinator

»» COP 28 is organized in Dubai, a city that cannot be suspected of any exaggerated commitment to the transition to a more sensible way of consuming. Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia are not yet champions on the football pitch, but they are definitely the biggest emitters, per capita, because of their hyper-dependence on fossil fuels for energy production and all their economic activities, which are rarely sober!

However, we should not be too quick to condemn; we must remember that responsibility for greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions cannot be assessed solely based on current emissions, but also because of cumulative historical emissions. In this respect, the industrialised countries have historically made a significant contribution to accumulated emissions because of their early industrialisation. They are also still major users of resources extracted from the Gulf States, a form of displaced emissions...

As we know, mitigating climate change requires global cooperation, with a particular focus on per capita GHG emissions and equity in the distribution of responsibilities. This equity must be both geographical and historical.

One thing is clear today: the vast majority of scientists agree that recent climate change is largely man-driven. Our activities have increased concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, contributing to global warming. The main sources of these gases are the use of fossil fuels for energy, transport and industrial activities.

EDITO

The impacts are well known and we see them: rising temperatures, melting glaciers and polar ice caps, rising sea levels, extreme weather events, ocean acidification, an explosion in animal and plant invasions, the disappearance of certain ecosystems, etc. No place and no life on earth are spared.

The transition away from fossil fuels is therefore crucial to mitigating climate change. We can no longer continue to depend on them, unless we want to continue down a blind alley.

However, the solutions have been known for quite a long time. Accelerating the transition to renewable energies, such as solar, wind, hydro and biomass, is a matter of urgency. This goes hand in hand with a major drive for energy efficiency to reduce our ecological footprint. We could also consider developing carbon capture and storage technologies to reduce its concentration in the atmosphere. Of course, we need to promote sustainable modes of transport - public transport, car-sharing, electric vehicles and active modes of transport (walking, cycling). At the same time, we need to inform the public and raise awareness of the problems involved and the advantages of clean energy to encourage a change in behaviour. More generally, we need to review all our modes of consumption, everywhere, including in countries with the lowest impact, although of course we need to ensure a fair and equitable transition away from fossil fuels, by asking more of those who emit more!

In short, we cannot save the climate by continuing to use fossil fuels as we are doing. It requires a rapid transition to clean, sustainable energy solutions, accompanied by significant policies, investments and individual or collective efforts. Until today, we have not been able to act even though we know the situation. Will we now be able to react, as we understand the consequences?

I hope you enjoy this issue.

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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!



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.



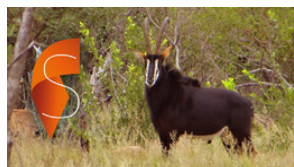
MOOC Ecological monitoring

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.

The Essentials are currently closed.
Back in January!

OUR ESSENTIALS PROFILE-BASED TRAINING

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 6 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



- Well done to the **14 laureates** who brilliantly passed their Attestation of Aptitude for Environmental Education with Youth Conservation in November. Since the exam was introduced in early 2023, we have now issued **59 certificates**. We wish them all the best of luck in the future, and hope they will pass on their knowledge to the children!
- On Wednesday 22 November 2023, our now traditional monthly **webinar** was held, bringing together **15 participants**. Co-hosted by our expert consultant Mr Firmin Tape and the Burkinabe NGO Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement, this webinar generated some very interesting exchanges on the subject of the best teaching approaches for talking to children about nature conservation.

- **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 RENEWED HOPE FOR THE FUTURE (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO) - BY MOISE BUMBA SYLVAIN, COORDINATOR

On 31 October, teachers and pupils from the Youth Club for Nature and Peace were trained at the MITI Kabare institute. The aim of this activity was to train participants in the methodology of intervention, from theory to practice, on the importance of preserving the environment and building a culture of peace within the community.

The teachers were trained on **how to integrate themes linked to nature and peace into their school curriculum, and how to use the guides and posters provided by Youth Conservation in terms of environmental education**. They learned how to incorporate these essential values into their teaching and pass them on to their pupils. At the same time, the pupils took part in practical workshops on environmental protection and peaceful conflict resolution (Guided Focus Group). As student representatives of our youth club for nature and peace, we trained them on **how to become ambassadors for nature and peace in their community**.

This new prospect of a better future motivates us to continue our efforts and work towards a world that is more respectful of nature and at peace. We are convinced that every little action counts and that, through our determination and commitment, we can make a real difference.

We would like to thank Youth Conservation for providing us with these environmental education tools, which inspired us to create this training course.

Let's Act together for our future!

Well done to Renewed Hope for the Future for their commitment and outstanding energy on the ground.

If you would like to find out more and/or support the NGO, please contact them directly: renewedhopeinfuture@gmail.com



NGO PAULY AFRIQUE BIO (NORTH BENIN) - BY YAROU TAMOU CHARAF, GEOGRAPHER, PHYSICIST, CARTOGRAPHER, ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE CAMPAIGNER

Passionate about the environment, Tamou Charaf works tirelessly to educate the young generation. He is convinced that education is a **"means of adapting to the effects of climate change"**. That's why he runs awareness-raising campaigns in schools, in both rural and urban areas.

He is very involved with the NGO Pauly Afrique Bio.

Here are a few examples of recent activities around the theme of environmental education:

- **Awareness-raising activities** with children
- **Collecting rubbish** with children
- **Cleaning up public markets** with children
- **Environmental talk around a tree on eco-responsible actions**
- **Tree planting** with the children
- **Games with children** to explain the impact of our actions on nature
- A few videos with teenage children denouncing the disrespectful actions of humans towards Mother Nature.

He also took part in a clean-up day, which consisted of destroying rubbish dumps in the middle of a town and around schools in both rural and urban areas. To preserve biodiversity and combat climate change, he has helped restore wetlands by planting mangroves and 1,000 coconut trees.

Tamou has many plans for 2024 and is looking for partners to help him bring them to fruition, with the aim of having an impact on his community. He would also like to be able to travel to meet other people, gain inspiration and forge partnerships across borders to accelerate the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

We wish Tamou and the NGO Pauly Afrique Bio all the best for the future!

If you would like to find out more and/or support the NGO, please contact Tamou directly: koratamoucharaf@gmail.com



Human-wildlife conflicts in Central and West Africa: case studies

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THIS MONTH IN THE NAPA

»» Human-wildlife interactions, often referred to as human-wildlife conflicts, have always existed. These conflicts, present on all continents (Conover & Conover 2022; Minin et al. 2021; Sharma et al. 2021) can take several forms. Humans suffer from damage to their agricultural activities (destruction of fields, granaries, fishing nets and livestock predation) with economic consequences that can be devastating, direct attacks that can lead to death as well as the fear associated with the possibility of such attacks. Wildlife faces retaliatory killings, destruction of its habitat or increased hunting pressure on certain species. Human-wildlife conflicts are among the main threats to wildlife conservation and affect the well-being of human populations.

Although conflicts are common in West and Central Africa, limited research, compared to other parts of the continent, aims to better understand the issue in all its dimensions to better address it. It is therefore important in the region to better understand all aspects related to human-wildlife conflicts to ensure an improved cohabitation between wildlife and human and wildlife conservation. The studies summarized below were conducted in May and September 2023 in various protected areas in Central and West Africa.

Human-wildlife conflicts around Taï national park, Côte d'Ivoire By Zakari Moudjibatou

Human-wildlife conflicts are observed in Taï National Park (PNT) in Côte d'Ivoire. These conflicts have been characterized and the effectiveness of management measures assessed based on a questionnaire survey of 384 people in 39 camps surrounding Taï national park.

The most frequent conflicts with wildlife around the park are crop damage (86%) and livestock predation (14%). Primates (30%), forest buffalo *Syncerus caffer nanus* (26%) and forest elephant *Loxodonta africana cyclotis* (14%) are the species most responsible for crop damage. Regarding livestock predation, the most reported species are: red mongoose (*Herpestes sanguinea*) (38%), African civet *Civettictis civetta* (32%) and honey badger *Mellivora capensis* (25%). Crop depredation is more frequent in the rainy season (56%). Thus, species responsible for the highest number of intrusions in plantations at this period are the forest buffalo (61%), the elephant (30%) and the red river hog *Potamochoerus porcus* (9%). On the other hand, primates (52%), bushbuck *Tragelaphus scriptus* (32%) and duikers (6%) cause damage throughout the year.

About 60% of respondents use deterrent or repellent methods. Of the nine methods listed, scarecrow (21%), barriers with ropes (16%) specifically used for the forest buffalo and hanging plastic bags (8%) are the most common. These methods are not so efficient since there is no statistically significant difference between the damage of those who use conflict reduction methods and those who do not ($p = 0.07$).

It is important to improve the methods used and test others to reduce human-wildlife conflicts. Therefore, it would be beneficial to increase local communities' acceptance to wildlife and protected areas.





Scarecrows to protect farms from wildlife in Tai national park in Côte d'Ivoire (© Zakari M, 2023)

Human-wildlife conflict mitigation: the study case of Odzala-Kokoua National Park in Congo Republic of Congo *By Berri G. Ornella*



In Congo, human-wildlife conflicts are a worrying problem in many protected areas. Located in the heart of the Congo Basin, Odzala-Kokoua National Park is one of the oldest and richest national parks in Africa, covering a vast area of around 1,354,600 hectares. The park's rich biodiversity is coveted by neighboring populations, resulting in an enormous pressure on the park and a difficult coexistence between local people and wildlife. In such a situation, both local people and protected area managers are implementing mitigation measures to address the problem.

This study used questionnaire surveys and field observations to analyze the effectiveness of conservation measures initiated by the local people themselves or by the park managers. Damages to crops in the area are mainly caused by elephants (over 70% of damages) and to a lesser extent by buffalo. Predation of livestock by hyenas has also been reported. Wildlife damage is more frequent during the short rainy season (54%).

Of the 47 people interviewed in 8 villages around the park, only 18% use conflicts' mitigation methods. Traditional methods used were torches, noise with pots and pans and fields' guarding. The park has developed the use of 2m deep wide trenches around fields, fences made of chili pepper cloth and scarecrows.

Trenches are relatively effective, especially in an environment where the soil is clay, whereas the effectiveness of the chili-impregnated fabric barriers is limited by the fact that the chili does not last more than 2 weeks and disappears after a rain. As for the scarecrows, they were unable to deter chimpanzees from entering the fields. Results suggest that the measures effectiveness depends on the species and their behaviour, as well as the geological and geographical characteristics of the environment.



Trenches as human-wildlife conflicts mitigation method around Odzala-Kokoua national park, Congo (© Berri O.G., 2023)

Human-wildlife conflict in Dzanga-Sangha protected areas of the Central African Republic *By Kadetwa Kayanga Esther*

Dzanga-Sangha protected areas in southwestern Central African Republic are not immune to human-wildlife conflict. A total of 400 people from seven villages bordering the Dzanga-Sangha Protected Areas were interviewed to assess the severity of the conflicts and the vulnerability of gender to these conflicts.

Conflicts in and around Dzanga-Sangha are manifested mainly by the destruction of crops (29% of respondents), human attacks (25% of respondents), and damages to properties (21%). Livestock predation also occurred. Elephant, buffalo and hippopotamus are the species most blamed by populations.



The perception of conflicts differs between men and women. Most respondents (83%) believe that women are more vulnerable than men to conflicts because they suffer directly from the effects and through their husbands and children.

Conflict mitigation methods are not much used. Traditional methods such as the use of scarecrows, fire, noise, and guarding, which were once used, are being neglected because of their limited efficiency. Nearly half of respondents (43%) suggest that managers install an electric fence around the protected area.

There is a need to better understand the causes of human-wildlife conflicts and to develop strategies for reducing these conflicts in the Dzanga-Sangha protected areas, taking into account the specific needs of men and women.

Conclusion

These various studies in Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, and the Central African Republic confirm the importance of paying more attention to human-wildlife conflicts which can take different forms from one area to another. Although conflicts will exist as long as humans and wildlife share the same environment, it is important that this cohabitation takes place in a more peaceful way. The protected areas managers and States must increase efforts to significantly reduce the cost borne by the surrounding populations due to their proximity to protected areas, especially in a context where climate change and the fragile security context aggravate the vulnerability of these populations.

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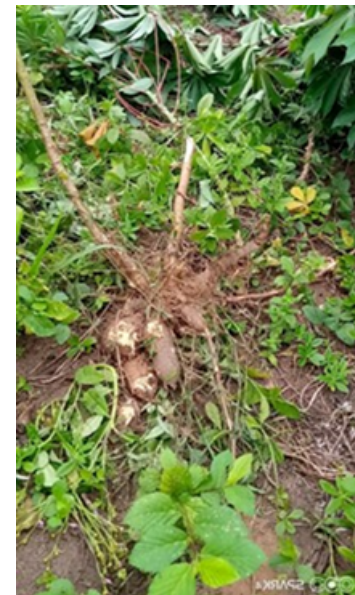
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*House and farm damaged by elephant around Dzanga-Sangha protected areas, Central Africa Republic
(© Kadetwa KE, 2023)*

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Bureaucracy is the death of any achievement"
Albert Einstein

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>>> Read: What can communities teach us? Indigenous and local knowledge for mountain conservation

Indigenous and Local communities are keepers of valuable environmental knowledge accumulated over generations. This knowledge is held individually and collectively, often orally transmitted and embodied. At least 25% of the world's land area is owned, managed, used or inhabited by these groups, and such areas are degrading less quickly than others. Yet, despite abundant empirical evidence, Indigenous and Local communities struggle to have their voices meaningfully included in environmental governance. Much more work remains to be done on the integration of Indigenous and local knowledge within nature conservation. What can communities teach us? responds to this gap and the growing calls for decolonising the conservation movement.

[Read more](#)



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

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