

NEWS FROM PROTECTED AREAS IN AFRICA

NAPA 184

Conserving nature in Africa



THIS MONTH IN THE NAPA

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

>>> P.2 - EDITO

The need to involve communities and young people in environmental action!

P.3 - OUR ONLINE COURSES <<<

Our courses are available online... Sign up now!

MOOCS, TUTOS AND ESSENTIALS

YOUTH CONSERVATION

>>> P.4 TO 6 - ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Launch of the English version and launch of the brand new website. Visit the platform now! Look also for fascinating testimonials from people working in the field in this NAPA!

P.7 TO 9 - TUTORIAL ON NATURE CONSERVATION EDUCATION <<<

Launch of the new tutorial "Educating for nature conservation" on MOOC Conservation. Registration now open!

FEATURE OF THE MONTH



ENGAGING COMMUNITIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Roland KASSI

Teacher and volunteer for the NGO “Les Acteurs pour l’Environnement” (Cameroon)

»»» Dear readers committed to the conservation and preservation of our planet, welcome.

The current global environmental crisis demands an urgent and collective response. Hence the need to engage communities and young people/children in action. However, for a good, precise and targeted response, it is useful upstream for young people/children to be educated about the environment and for communities to be equipped with appropriate methods and strategies, and for the latter to be aware of the benefits of their actions in favour of the environment.

There are many ways (methods and techniques) of engaging communities and young people/children in action: awareness-raising, education, practical projects, the use of social media, the creation of environmental clubs or associations, the organisation of competitions and events, encouragement and recognition, etc. However, these methods are not always effective in all circumstances. It therefore appears that the most important thing is to choose and adapt them to the local context. This adaptation encourages a lasting commitment to the environment on the part of communities and young people/children. You also need to prepare your environmental education activity well in advance by asking yourself a number of questions, including: who is my audience? What are the objectives of my activity (in the short and long term, if necessary)? Where will my activity take place? What tools and materials are needed to ensure effective communication? So many questions which, if anticipated and answered in advance, promote the success of its environmental education activity.

EDITO

Community involvement is also decisive for the success of any educational action. Finally, children and young people must be agents of change; they must be made citizen ambassadors of the environment among their peers.

However, I believe, as L. R. Knost says, that: "Children learn much more by imitation than by intimidation." It's how we ask them to live that has the most impact on what children will become." This shows the importance of training tomorrow's generation of eco-citizens now, starting at school through practical and engaging activities: sowing and planting, composting, preserving seeds, mushrooms, medicinal plants, edible plants, filtering and conserving water, managing waste, recycling, etc.

Being aware of the fact that the education that a person has in relation to the environment determines in most cases their relationship with nature, Youth Conservation provides the tutorial "How to educate about nature conservation". This is in line with a local proverb which says: "if your plan is for 10 years, plant trees; If your plan is for 100 years, educate your children." It is therefore clear that the future of our planet will strongly depend on the seeds of eco-citizenship that we begin to sow and cultivate from today.

Environmental education is more essential than ever to preserve the riches of our beautiful planet. It is by committing ourselves collectively and by particularly engaging communities and young people/children, by sharing our knowledge and by acting together that we can make a difference.

I invite you to explore the new site and the new tutorial, to share them widely around you and to actively commit to a greener and more sustainable world. Together we can!

Find the PAPACO online

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

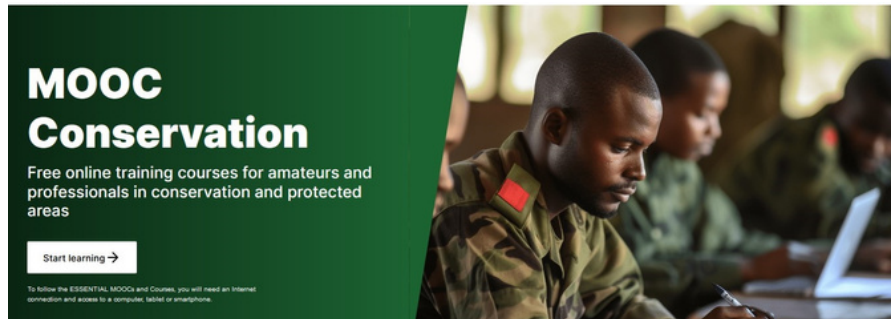
[Groupe FB MOOC \(English\)](https://www.facebook.com/mooconconservation)

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

[@Papaco IUCN \(X\)](https://www.x.com/Papaco_IUCN)

[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. **Our brand new platform is online. Subscribe now and join the courses!**



OUR MOOCS THEME-BASED TRAINING

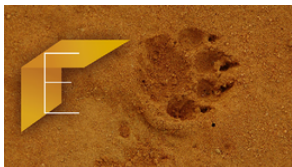
Registration will open mid-January

Registrations will open mid-January!

OUR ESSENTIALS PROFILE-BASED TRAINING



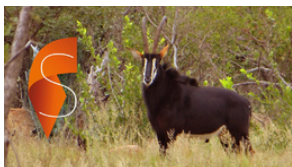
MOOC PA management
Goal: understand the essence and goals of protected areas. Through this MOOC, students will be able to grasp the importance of protected areas, their role and the different management aspects.



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 ARE OPEN

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.

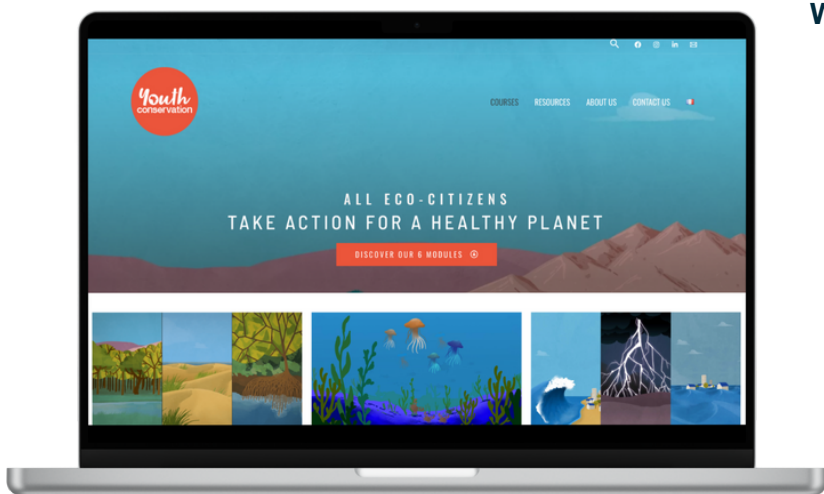
The subjects are treated in several stages and **interactively**: at the start of each module, a video presents the theme and serves as an introduction then the user follows a logical progression to discover what we are talking about, understand what is happening and finally think how to act. Designed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



>>> NEW : NEW BILINGUAL WEBISTE!

To reach out to the other half of the continent, we launched a **new website** at the beginning of March, translating **all our educational resources into English**. We took the opportunity to refresh the site's design and simplify navigation to meet the needs of our users, both young and senior. The homepage has been redesigned, as well as the Resources page.



What will you find on the site?

- Direct access to the 6 modules, each focusing on a key environmental theme: biodiversity on land and at sea, climate change, etc.
- A Resources page with dedicated documents for educators that can be downloaded free of charge (posters, activity guides, etc.)
- A Contact page so that you don't miss out on any of our news, thanks in particular to the quarterly newsletter
- A blog with testimonials and views from our partners in the field.

It's a site worth (re)discovering and sharing with others!

TESTIMONIALS FROM THE FIELD (1/2)

»»» **NGO THE GREEN HANDS (MALI) - BY CHEICK AT GUINDO, INITIATOR AND COORDINATOR OF THE GREEN HANDS MOVEMENT IN BAMAKO**

The Green Hands Movement is a club of young volunteers and children committed to becoming eco-citizens. The movement was launched in 2019.

The Bamako neighbourhoods of the city centre, Dravela, Bolibana etc. know us well for promoting environmental education; little by little we have planted trees in the outdoor spaces of the Boulevard de l'Indépendance, which links these neighbourhoods in Commune 3. **Our flagship project for 2023 was the creation of a vegetable garden** in the Dravela second cycle community school, in collaboration with the school management committee (CGS) and with financial support from the NGO Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN).

The 2 classes in years 7 and 8 planted local and foreign fruit trees and vegetable beds. Each team is responsible for one vegetable bed. **Every day, in rotation, the children come to water. Other children come spontaneously to help in the evenings and at weekends.**

The overall aim of this project is **to connect pupils and children with nature, to create a new generation of environmental stewards, while having fun at the same time. By playing gardener with water and soil, and turning seedlings into vegetables, they will discover for themselves respect for the cycle of life.**

The expected result is that market garden production will help to clean up the school's environment. Everyone will become aware of what is important and vital and distinguish it from what is dangerous (plastic waste).

Our ambition is not to carry out this project in a single year and in a single school, but throughout the school year and beyond to encourage other schools to do the same.



Thank you for this testimonial and congratulations to all of you for your commitment in the field. If you would like to find out more about this project and support them, please contact Cheick AT Guindo directly, cheickatig@gmail.com, initiator of the movement.

TESTIMONIALS FROM THE FIELD (2/2)

►►► ZOOM ON THE NGO RENATURA (CONGO), BY ANTOINE SZADZKI, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF RENATURA CONGO

Renatura is a Congolese association founded in 2005 with the aim of preserving marine biodiversity and promoting sustainable development. Historically focused on protecting sea turtles, it has gradually extended its activities to the marine environment in general. For many years, Renatura has accompanied its action in the field with a strong approach to environmental education and awareness-raising among the various players in society, particularly children.

With a dedicated team of 5 people, the association has developed a wide range of approaches to reach out to both those involved in the sea (coastal communities, fishermen, etc.) and the general public:

- **Activities for schoolchildren:** during the school year, the team's 4 educators visit schools in Pointe-Noire and along the Kouilou coast to provide a variety of educational activities on sea turtles, cetaceans, ecology, waste, mangroves and bushmeat consumption.
- **Nature excursions:** there's nothing like going outdoors to get a close-up view of nature and its riches! These excursions to the seaside, mangrove swamps, forests or savannahs help to make the message of environmental conservation more tangible.
- **Holiday clubs:** during the school holidays, the team travels to all the coastal villages for a week of educational and entertaining activities. A much-anticipated annual event!
- **TV and radio programmes:** Renatura hosts a TV programme highlighting environmental initiatives in the Congo, as well as radio features providing answers to scientific questions about the environment.
- **Events:** two annual festivals are organised, as well as other one-off activities such as litter picks and team-building events to raise awareness among a variety of audiences. The Festival de la Biodiversité (Biodiversity Festival) brings together one or more schools and other cultural players around a specific location and innovative activities. The Festival de la Mer builds bridges between conservation teams in the field and leaders in coastal villages, around the theme of ocean conservation.
- **Reinforcing teachers' knowledge** of ecology and the environment: via its documentary resources on the environment and ecology, the association works with education inspectorates to train several dozen teachers a year on these subjects, which are included in the curriculum but often neglected.

In total, 40,000 children and several thousand adults are educated each year! In 2024, Renatura's activities and team are set to expand even further, with the launch of a major environmental education and awareness-raising project, this time on a national scale. Working together to preserve our natural heritage!

Thank you for this testimonial and congratulations to all of you for your commitment in the field.

If you would like to find out more about the projects and support them, please contact the NGO RENATURA directly, direction.adj@renatura.org.



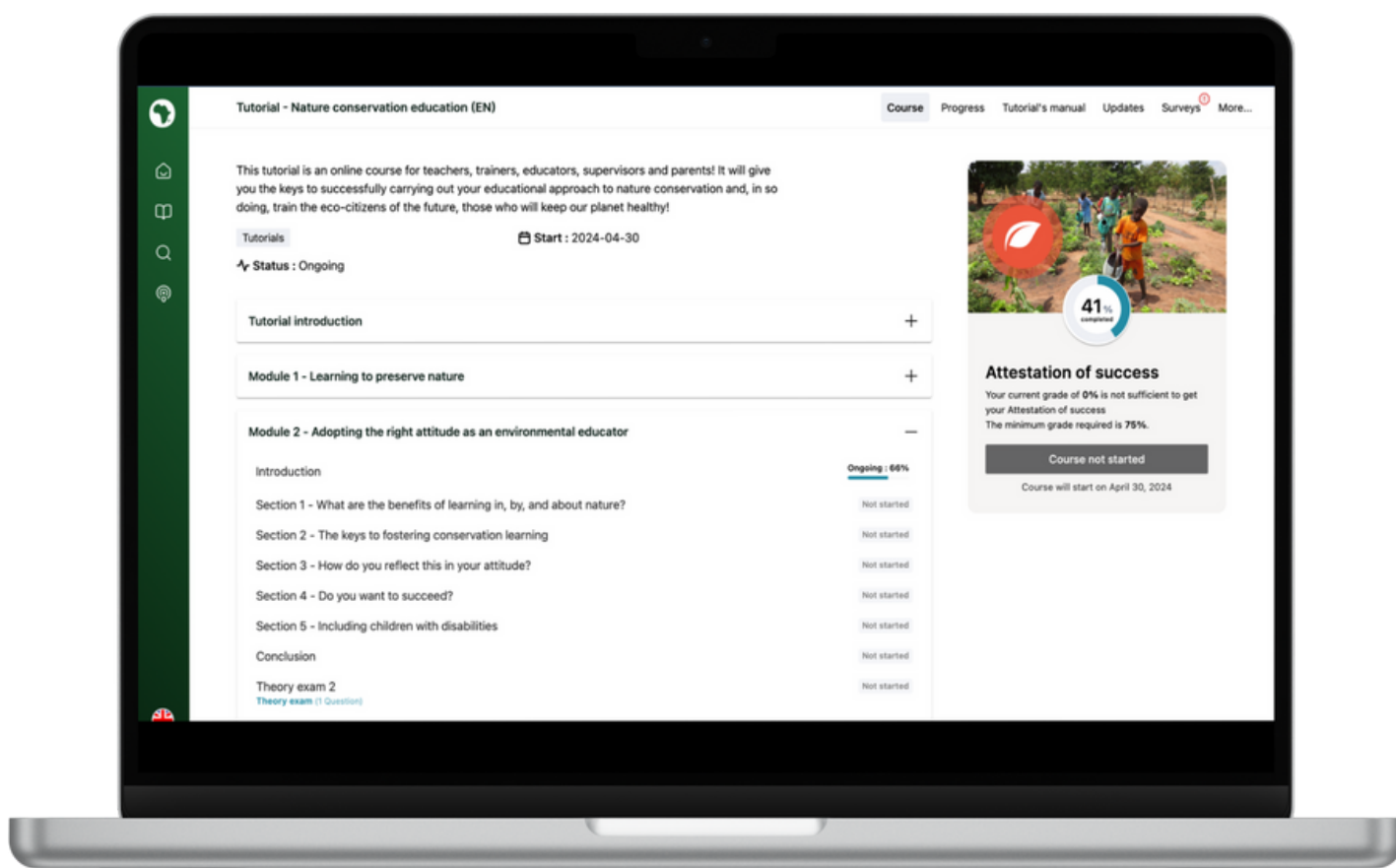


TUTORIAL ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

➤➤➤ The "Nature conservation education" tutorial is now online on the MOOC Conservation training platform!

Why this tutorial?

As we have said on many occasions, education in nature conservation is an essential task. We won't be able to change the way we use our environment sustainably - what we call the ecological transition - without learning about the ecological transition!



The aim of this tutorial is to give educators in the broadest sense (teachers, parents, trainers, supervisors, etc.) the keys to transforming the children and young people in their care and encouraging them to take action. It's not an easy task, and this tutorial brings together practical advice, a suitable methodology, key resources, ideas for action, etc. so that everyone can successfully carry out their educational approach and train the eco-citizens of the future, those who will keep our planet healthy. We hope that this tutorial will be useful to as many people as possible!

»»» TUTO (CONT'D)

What will you find there?

The tutorial, available in English and French, covers different aspects of environmental education in 7 modules:

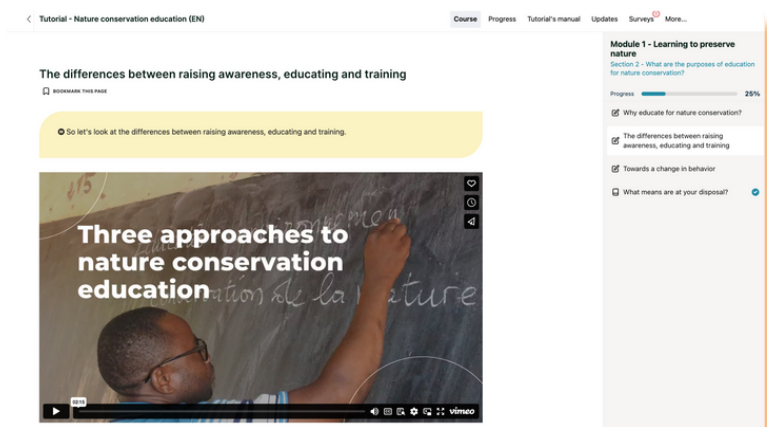
1. Learning to conserve nature
2. Adopting the right attitude as an educator
3. Alternating different teaching approaches
4. Project-based learning
5. Assessing the impact of educational action
6. Making good use of Youth Conservation resources
7. Cultivating the eco-citizen of tomorrow



How do I access the tutorial?

This tutorial is available on the MOOC Conservation platform in the "Our tutorials" section. It is freely accessible and all you need to do is register on the platform beforehand.

The course is available immediately and without time limit.



»»» TUTO (CONT'D)

Does this tutorial entitle you to a certificate?

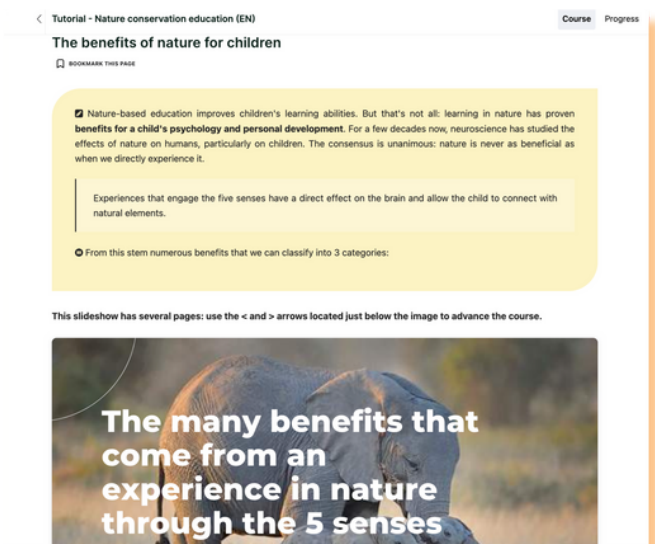
Throughout the modules, you will find short questions relating directly to the content of the section; these questions are there to check that the key concepts have been assimilated. At the end of each of the 7 modules, there is an exam with ten theoretical questions on the key lessons of the module and a practical case with six questions (except for modules 1 and 7, which do not have a practical case).

If you obtain an overall average of at least 75/100 at the end of the last exam, a certificate of successful completion of this tutorial, which can be downloaded, will automatically be issued at the end of the course.

Please note that this tutorial is not one of the courses eligible for the online Certificate in Conservation of Protected Areas exam.

Can I access the tutorial with a bad internet connection?

This tutorial has been designed above all to be followed online, whether on a PC or a smartphone. It includes a lot of animations and videos. However, if you have connection problems, you can download 1/ a summary for each module covering the key points of the module 2/ the tutorial manual, which contains all the "raw" content.



What if I want to take my learning further?

Pour chaque module, vous trouverez une liste de lectures recommandées pour parfaire et approfondir la thématique traitée. Ces ressources sont aussi bien des articles, des guides que des vidéos en ligne. Nous vous conseillons vivement de les consulter.

So, go to MOOC Conservation to start learning and get your certificate of completion for this tutorial, so you can contribute to the ecological transition successfully!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Education is not limited to childhood and adolescence. Education is not limited to school. Our life, our environment is our education, and an educator that is both severe and dangerous."

Paul Valéry

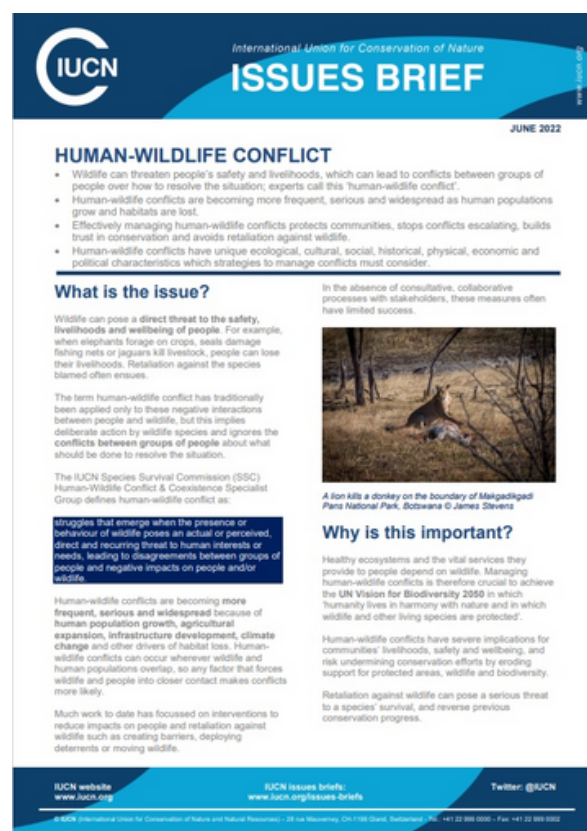
Some reading

»»» CONFLICTS BETWEEN MAN AND WILDLIFE

- Wildlife can threaten people's security and livelihoods, which can lead to conflict between groups of people over how to resolve the situation; experts call this "human-wildlife conflict".
- Conflicts between humans and wildlife are becoming increasingly frequent, severe and widespread as human populations grow and habitats disappear.
- Effective management of human-wildlife conflicts protects communities, prevents conflicts from escalating, builds confidence in conservation and avoids retaliation against wildlife.
- Human-wildlife conflicts have unique ecological, cultural, social, historical, physical, economic and political characteristics that conflict management strategies must take into account.

To be read [here](#)

Find the PAPACO online
[facebook/IUCNpapaco](https://www.facebook.com/IUCNpapaco)
 Groupe FB MOOC (English)
[@mooconconservation](https://www.instagram.com/mooconconservation) (Instagram)
[@Papaco_IUCN](https://www.instagram.com/Papaco_IUCN) (X)
[Website of the Papaco](https://www.papaco.org)



CONTACTS - PAPACO

geoffroy.mauvais@iucn.org

madeleine.coetzer@iucn.org

info@youth-conservation.org

Program on African Protected Areas & Conservation - PAPACO

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