

NEWS FROM PROTECTED AREAS IN AFRICA

NAPA 185

Conserving nature in Africa



THIS MONTH IN THE NAPA

BY THE
NATIONAL
DIRECTOR OF
ISEC CHAD

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The crucial importance of improving access to information on climate change and sustainability to raise awareness and mobilise the population.

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

**MOOCS, TUTOS
AND ESSENTIALS**

YOUTH CONSERVATION

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Or how to reconcile environmental protection and the well-being of Sudanese refugees.

**FEATURE OF THE
MONTH**



THE CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY TO RAISE AWARENESS AND MOBILISE THE POPULATION.

By Sylvain Djérambété

National director, International Student Environmental Coalition-Chad

»»» The environmental situation in Chad is more critical than ever, marked by an alarming degradation of biodiversity, a devastating advance of the desert, persistent conflicts between herders and farmers over access to pasture and water, growing food insecurity, devastating floods and poor waste management. Chadian communities are plunged into environmental chaos, exacerbated by the fact that Chad is on the front line of the devastating effects of climate change, without the necessary resources to deal with it.

In Chad's arid desert, under the scorching sun, with parched rivers, withered crops and starving animals, increasingly frequent sandstorms have swept through villages in the north of the country, taking with them the meagre resources of the inhabitants. Prolonged periods of drought make daily life an insurmountable challenge. Our hungry little brothers and sisters cry every day as our parents look on helplessly, searching in vain for food and water.

It was in the midst of this silent chaos that I came face to face with the scale of the climate crisis in my community. Witnessing the growing misery of my people, I felt a profound call to action. Unfortunately, the lack of environmental knowledge and expertise among the population was obvious. The low level of education Chadian population is a major obstacle, fuelling an erroneous perception of climate change as commonplace. For many, the issue is perceived as a concept far removed from their reality, or even as a sophisticated invention designed to hinder the industrial progress of developing countries like Chad.

EDITO

However, integrating environmental education into school curricula and improving access to information on climate change and sustainability are crucial to raising awareness and mobilising the population.

It was in this precarious context that the ISEC Chad initiative came into being in 2022, the fruit of a joint reflection by like-minded young climate activists that led to the creation of this organisation, which is a national chapter of a global movement whose objectives include

Unite young people to take action against climate change on a global scale, with a particular focus on improving the lives of those on the front line and in the countries of the South.

Mobilise young people to attack the roots of the climate crisis, namely capitalism, colonialism, patriarchy and racism.

Challenge the companies, governments and institutions responsible for the climate crisis.

Promote holistic support for individuals and groups in their climate justice projects.

justice projects. In two years, ISEC Chad has made a tangible impact by building the capacity, creativity and awareness of young people and communities to take climate action. Thanks to a dynamic community of enthusiastic and determined volunteers, innovative educational projects have been deployed, producing measurable results at all levels of society.

Drawing on an extensive global network, including countries such as the USA, Italy, Brazil, Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria, Philippines, Togo, South Africa, Burundi, etc., ISEC's young leaders are actively helping to shape a sustainable future in their communities.

By taking part in global events, they make the voice of young people heard in order to influence policies at global and local level. ISEC Chad embodies the hope and concrete action needed to protect the environment, defend natural resources and build a sustainable future for all by involving future generations of leaders at all levels.

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

OUR ONLINE COURSES: MOOCS AND ESSENTIALS




MOOC Conservation

Free online training courses for amateurs and professionals in conservation and protected areas

Start learning →

To follow the ESSENTIAL MOOCs and Courses, you will need an internet connection and access to a computer, tablet or smartphone.



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

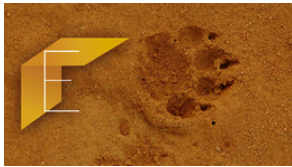
Registration will open mid-January

Registrations will open mid-January!

OUR ESSENTIALS PROFILE-BASED TRAINING



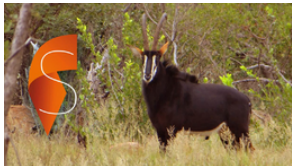
MOOC PA management
Goal: understand the essence and goals of protected areas. Through this MOOC, students will be able to grasp the importance of protected areas, their role and the different management aspects.



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.

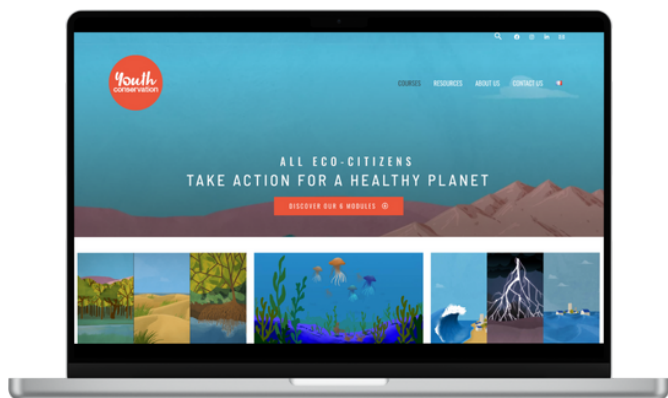
All our courses are available for free on

MOOC-CONSERVATION.ORG



REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN

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



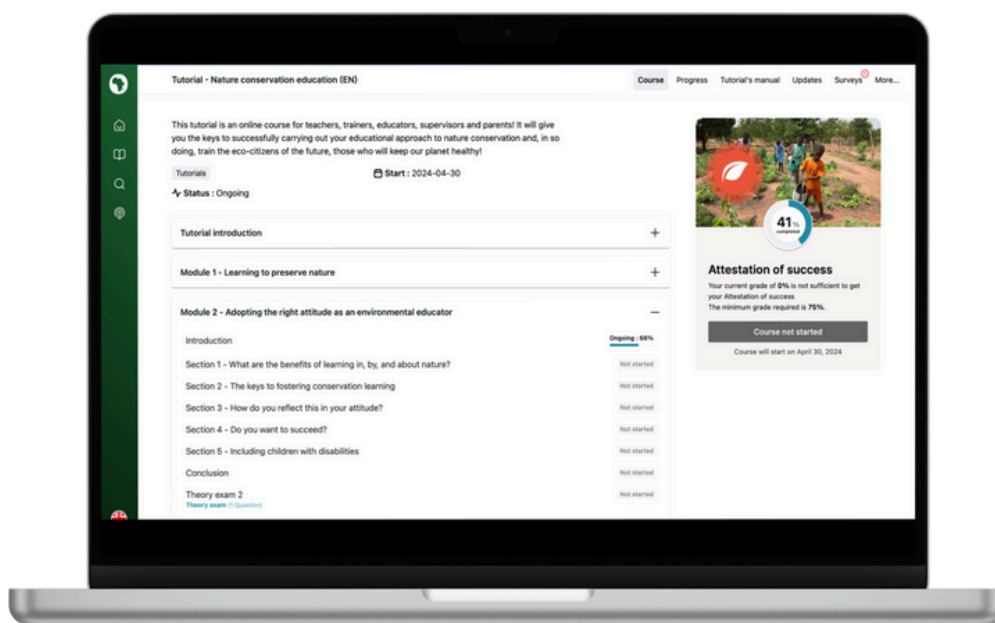
THE online platform, 100% free of charge, brings together dedicated resources:

- For **children and young people**: 6 didactic and interactive courses on the major themes of nature conservation: terrestrial and marine biodiversity, climate change, nature and health, etc.
- For **educators**: downloadable teaching resources to facilitate learning and the running of educational sessions (posters, guides, etc.).

Visit www.youth-conservation.org!

➤➤➤ **NEW ONLINE COURSE: 'NATURE CONSERVATION EDUCATION' TUTORIAL**

The aim of this tutorial is to give educators in the broadest sense (teachers, parents, trainers, supervisors, etc.) **the keys to transforming children and young people** in their care and **encouraging them to take action**. It's not an easy task, and this tutorial gathers practical advice, a suitable methodology, key resources, ideas for action, etc. so that everyone can successfully complete their educational process and train the eco-citizens of the future, those who will keep our planet in good health. So go to [MOOC Conservation](#) to start learning and get your certificate of achievement for this tutorial, so you can work towards a successful ecological transition!



TESTIMONIALS FROM THE FIELD (1/2)

»»» NGO BURKINA DJIGUI (BURKINA FASO) - BY MOUSTAPHA KAONFO, NATIONAL COORDINATOR

Instilling environmental values in children: the environmental education project.

The Burkina Djigui association is proud to share its members' commitment to the environment and nature with the entire Youth Conservation community through its "citizen mobilisation" programme, which includes its environmental education project. The objectives of this project are multi-faceted and revolve around raising environmental awareness among the very young.

1. Combating desertification

Desertification is a worrying phenomenon that threatens the ecological balance in many regions of the world, particularly in the Sahel. Burkina Faso has been hard hit by land degradation due to the effects of climate change. Faced with this major challenge, Burkina Djigui is implementing an environmental education project aimed at significantly combating this scourge. We came up with the idea of introducing the youngest children, who are the guardians of future generations, to environmental issues. Volunteers throughout the country, trained by Burkina Djigui with logistical support from Youth Conservation, visit primary schools to run awareness-raising sessions to teach children aged 9-14 about environmental protection and nature conservation. In addition to the theoretical awareness-raising sessions, plants are planted in the schools on each occasion and entrusted to the schoolchildren in groups of five, with two teachers from the school in charge of follow-up. In addition to the work done by the volunteers, training modules are given to the authorities to continue raising awareness during off-peak hours. As well as the educational aspect, the project is also designed to raise environmental awareness. The aim is for children to grow up adopting responsible and sustainable behaviour. The aim is also to inform them about the issues involved in preserving biodiversity, managing natural resources, combating climate change and so on, so that they become eco-responsible citizens committed to a sustainable future.

2. Ecological awareness

Burkina Djigui's environmental education project aims **to raise environmental awareness not only among the youngest members of society, but also among the population as a whole**. We are working with all sectors of society, especially the public, customary and religious authorities and the parents of schoolchildren, to support these young people after they have been made aware of the issue, so that they become eco-responsible on a daily basis. This is how, together, we will win the battle against climate change and the fight for nature conservation. Without forgetting that the ecological question is a global issue, we are disseminating our knowledge, know-how and environmental know-how on our facebook, linkedin and X pages in order to facilitate interaction with all the other players in the world, accepting criticism and support and encouraging the replication of our actions in other localities. We are very happy to be with Youth Conservation on this trip and look forward to sharing the successes of the Environmental Education project, which is currently going very well in the field.

Thank you for this testimonial and congratulations to all of you for your commitment!

If you'd like to find out more about this project, please contact the Burkina Djigui NGO directly: djiguiburkina@gmail.com



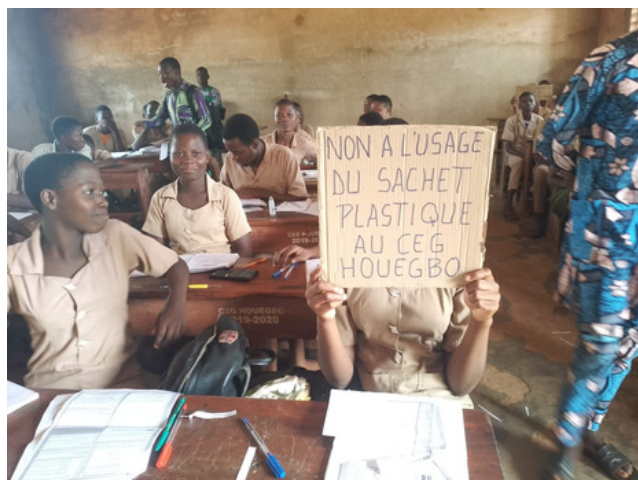
TESTIMONIALS FROM THE FIELD (2/2)

»» ZERO WASTE PROJECT TOFFO (BENIN) - BY ULRICH DANHAHOUNDE, HEAD OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SANITATION DEPARTMENT AT TOFFO YOUTH COUNCIL

Benin, like many other African countries, is faced with the growing problem of plastic pollution, which is threatening the ecological balance and public health of its people. Aware of the urgent need to take action to protect the environment, the Toffo Youth Council (MJT) has launched the "Zero Plastic Bags in Toffo" project. The aim of the project is **to raise awareness, train and mobilise pupils aged between 12 and 18 in the fight against plastic pollution and the preservation of their environment.** Divided into two phases, the pilot phase, launched in February 2024, has already involved more than 700 pupils from CEG Houègbo and CEG Colli secondary schools. These activities have laid the foundations for future awareness-raising initiatives. At the beginning of May, CEG Toffo pupils will be made aware of plastic pollution, followed by CEG Sey pupils towards the end of May. The roll-out phase, scheduled to begin in September 2024, will start with the selection and training of environmental ambassadors in each CEG class. **These ambassadors will be responsible for carrying out eco-citizen actions within their schools and the community. Activities will include organising cleanliness campaigns in the CEGs, making cardboard bags to replace plastic bags, and other initiatives to reduce the use of single-use plastics and promote sustainable practices.** Finally, a competition between the ambassadors will be organised to test their knowledge and encourage their commitment, offering rewards to the most involved and creative as well as to the most successful schools in reducing the use of plastic bags.

Together, we can give this generation a valuable legacy for a sustainable future.

Join us in this mission to make a positive impact on the future of our planet!



Thank you for this testimonial and congratulations to the Toffo Youth Council for these various activities. If you would like to find out more about this project, please contact: virgiledguy@gmail.com

NaturEmploi : Refugees in the heart of nature in Chad

By the coordinating team of the NGO ISEC-TCHAD, including Ngaba Waye Taroum Caleb (ISEC CHAD Project Manager)

**FEATURE OF
THE MONTH**

»»» The humanitarian crisis in Chad, which is currently hosting the largest number of refugees fleeing the conflict in Sudan, has reached a critical juncture. The humanitarian needs of refugees, returnees and host communities are increasing daily against a backdrop of lack of global attention and financial support. Of the more than 542,000 refugees in Chad, 87% are women and children. Explaining what prompted her to flee, a Sudanese refugee said: "Our village was burnt down and our possessions looted. She described a long three-week journey to Chad, during which she was refused accommodation and one of her daughters was shot. "When I arrived in Adré, I was given clothes and even shoes, because I had walked barefoot. One of my daughters died of illness in the camp. We started building a shelter using local materials [grass] and buying small portions of sorghum to eat. We urgently need better shelter. She added: "We have nothing. All help is needed and welcomed" (CARE).



They describe losing family members and fleeing with only their children and clothes on their backs. As the number of Sudanese arriving in Chad increases, refugees are settling in spontaneous locations. As the number of refugees increases every day, the camps become overcrowded, forcing families to endure disastrous and dangerous living conditions marked by very limited access to drinking water, food and sanitary facilities. Nevertheless, despite their limited resources, the host communities generously shared what little they had. This situation is of particular concern to Chadian youth and some CSOs. ISEC CHAD is also concerned about the increased risk of exploitation that women and girls face as desperation grows.

ISEC-CHAD, aware of the environmental and humanitarian emergency in Chad, has decided to launch a revolutionary project to train young Sudanese refugees in recycling and nursery gardening. The aim of this initiative is to raise awareness and educate these young people, aged between 18 and 35, in recycling and gardening techniques to combat the growing pollution of waste in Chad. Recycling is defined as all the processes used to give a second life to non-hazardous domestic waste.

Given the extent of the growing pollution linked to the proliferation of waste (hazardous, non-hazardous, organic and inorganic) in Chad and throughout the world, ISEC-CHAD intends to position itself as a pioneering CSO in introducing young people and young adults to the recycling professions in Chad.

The programme includes specialist workshops, such as training young people and women nurserymen to create community nurseries and public green spaces, as well as sessions on making decorative accessories from recycled waste. In collaboration with specialist partners, ISEC-CHAD is working to provide high-quality training that is relevant to the beneficiaries. This project aims to raise participants' awareness of the consequences of pollution on human health and the environment. By encouraging the selective sorting of waste through initiatives such as green bins and collection centres, the programme seeks to promote a sustainable and responsible lifestyle. What's more, transforming waste into environmentally-friendly products offers not only environmental benefits but also economic opportunities for refugees.

As part of a double impact approach, this revolutionary project seeks to create economic opportunities for refugees while preserving and restoring nature. It aims to nurture a passion for recycling among the young beneficiaries, a fast-growing sector with promising future prospects. ISEC-CHAD aims to create a virtuous circle in which environmental protection and the well-being of vulnerable populations are mutually reinforcing.



The specific environmental and social challenges that ISEC CHAD seeks to address:

The "NaturEmploi: Refugees in the heart of Nature in Chad" project represents an innovative and essential approach to meeting Chad's specific environmental and social challenges. In a context where the degradation of nature, waste pollution, endemic youth unemployment and the worrying situation of Sudanese refugees are worrying realities, this project offers tangible and sustainable solutions.

• Protecting the environment

By training young refugees and displaced persons in recycling, ISEC CHAD is tackling the pressing issue of waste pollution. In Chad, waste management is a major problem, with devastating consequences for the environment and public health.

According to available statistics, Chad produces around 20,000 tonnes of waste a year. N'Djaména alone produces 19,764 tonnes annually, of which only 06% is properly treated (Ministry of the Environment). This situation is leading to a degradation of the ecosystem and worsening the living conditions of the local populations, who are already very poor.

Job creation and social integration

By creating training and employment opportunities in the field of recycling and nursery practices, the ISEC CHAD project is helping to combat endemic youth unemployment in Chad. These initiatives offer a tangible solution for strengthening the local economy, thereby helping to reinforce the efforts of the Chadian government and its partners. The aim is to absorb youth unemployment, stem the challenges linked to the integration of Sudanese refugees, fight poverty and improve the living conditions of vulnerable populations.

- Support for Sudanese refugees

By raising awareness and training Sudanese refugees in Chad in sustainable practices, ISEC-CHAD is responding proactively to their precarious situation. Refugees face multiple challenges, including limited access to employment and resources. Involving them in ecological and economically viable projects provides them with a sustainable livelihood and contributes to their social integration.

- Restoring biodiversity

By creating community tree nurseries and developing public green spaces to enrich the urban environment and provide leisure areas for local residents, while contributing to the beauty of Chad's urban and rural centres, ISEC-CHAD is also tackling the degradation of local biodiversity. With the alarming loss of biodiversity in recent decades, these actions are crucial to preserving Chad's fragile ecosystems and providing a safe habitat for threatened species.

In order to implement this project, the NGO is currently seeking financial support, in particular for :

- setting up specialised training workshops. This would include the cost of trainers, teaching materials, tools and equipment needed to provide quality training to young refugees.
- purchasing specialised waste recycling equipment. This would include recycling machines, safety equipment, selective sorting containers and motorbike tricycles for transporting waste. The setting up of collection centres for recyclable waste would also be financed by this envelope.
- creating community nurseries and public green spaces. This would involve the purchase of plants, trees, soil and organic fertilisers, as well as the labour costs of creating and maintaining these green spaces. Raising awareness of environmental issues among beneficiaries would also be a priority, requiring resources for the design and distribution of educational materials and awareness campaigns on social networks and radio.
- promoting recycled products made by the young people trained. This would include costs related to communication, marketing, distribution, the creation of points of sale, as well as raising awareness among the general public about the importance of buying recycled products to support the circular economy.
- monitoring and evaluating the programme, in order to measure the effectiveness of the actions undertaken, make adjustments if necessary and ensure the sustainability of the initiatives put in place.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.'

Nelson Mandela

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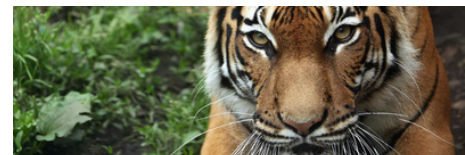
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Event to diarise

The United Nations is organising the International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May.



Some reading

➤➤➤ A LIFE ON OUR PLANET: MY WITNESS STATEMENT AND A VISION FOR THE FUTURE BY DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

'Read this book to learn, but also to honour the man. We shall never see his like again.' - *Sunday Times*

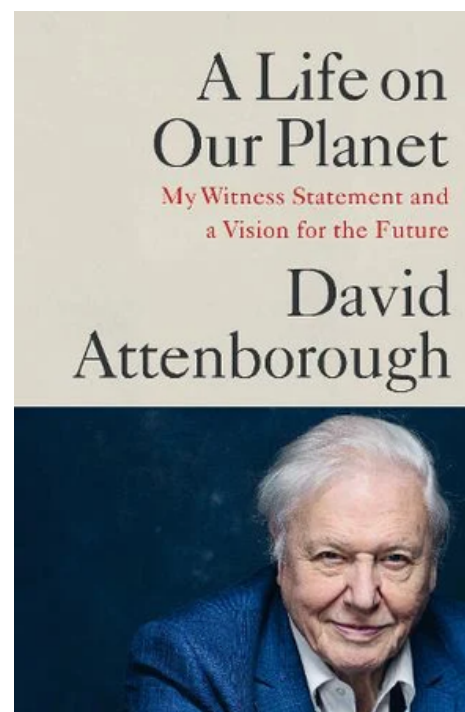
'I am 94. I've had an extraordinary life. It's only now that I appreciate how extraordinary.'

As a young man, I felt I was out there in the wild, experiencing the untouched natural world - but it was an illusion. The tragedy of our time has been happening all around us, barely noticeable from day to day - the loss of our planet's wild places, its biodiversity.

I have been witness to this decline. *A Life on Our Planet* is my witness statement, and my vision for the future. It is the story of how we came to make this, our greatest mistake - and how, if we act now, we can yet put it right.

We have one final chance to create the perfect home for ourselves and restore the wonderful world we inherited.'

All we need is the will to do so.'



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