

NEWS FROM PROTECTED AREAS IN AFRICA

NAPA 190

Conserving nature in Africa



THIS MONTH IN THE NAPA

COP16 : BETWEEN HOPE AND DISAPPOINTMENT FOR NATURE PROTECTION

>>> P.2 - EDITO

COP16: Overview of Key Decisions, Challenges, and Weaknesses

P.3 & 4 - OUR ONLINE COURSES <<<

In November, we organize a new session of our Online Certificate. Don't miss it! And find more about all our courses (MOOCs, Essentials and Tutorials) open for free right now!.

MOOCs, TUTORIALS AND ESSENTIALS

YOUTH CONSERVATION

>>> P.5 TO 7 - ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Youth Conservation news and testimonials from dedicated field actors... particularly in DRC and Togo this month.

P.8 TO 10 - HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS <<<

Wildlife can threaten people's safety and livelihoods, which can lead to conflicts; experts call this 'human-wildlife conflicts'. Read more...

FEATURE OF THE MONTH

COP16 : BETWEEN HOPE AND DISAPPOINTMENT FOR NATURE PROTECTION

By *Hélène MAGDELAIN*,
Youth Conservation coordinator

»»» The COP16 on Biodiversity has just concluded in Cali, Colombia. Despite a record participation of 23,000 delegates and discussions on crucial issues, the results are mixed, leaving many unresolved concerns. Here's an overview of the main outcomes and issues that marked this conference:

- 1. Creation of the Cali Fund:** One of the most notable results is the establishment of a new fund for the equitable sharing of benefits derived from the use of digital sequence information (DSI) on genetic resources. This fund will encourage companies to contribute financially based on their profits from the use of these resources, with half of the funds allocated to the countries of origin of biodiversity and the other half to indigenous and local communities.
- 2. Recognition of Indigenous Peoples:** The conference saw the creation of a permanent body to represent indigenous peoples and local communities in negotiations. This decision marks a significant advancement by giving them a formal voice and decision-making power in the protection of the ecosystems they steward.
- 3. Commitment to the Global Biodiversity Framework:** Participants reaffirmed their commitment to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, with 44 countries submitting revised national strategies and action plans. However, there is still work to be done to finalize the necessary decisions for the complete implementation of this framework.
- 4. Progress on Marine Areas:** Procedures have been established to describe marine areas of ecological and biological importance, essential for protecting 30% of the oceans by 2030. This represents a significant step towards the conservation of marine ecosystems.

Despite these advances, several challenges remain:

- 1. Insufficient Funding:** One of the biggest obstacles is the lack of agreement on the financing needed to achieve biodiversity goals. Discussions have failed to establish a solid financial framework, and developed countries have not adequately committed to supporting the efforts of developing countries.

Although some commitments have been made, they are considered insufficient compared to the estimated needs, which amount to approximately \$200 billion per year!

- 2. Divergence Among Countries:** Tensions between developed and developing countries persist, particularly concerning the establishment of a new fund for biodiversity. Developing countries, such as those in the African group and Brazil, have expressed concerns about access to existing funding, deeming it inequitable and inaccessible. This division threatens to slow progress toward implementing the commitments made at the COP.
- 3. Lack of Ambitious Rules:** COP16 failed to adopt ambitious rules or reliable indicators to evaluate conservation efforts. The absence of clear mechanisms to track progress makes it difficult to assess the effectiveness of the actions taken by countries.
- 4. Implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework:** Although some countries have submitted revised national action plans, many others have yet to take concrete steps to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The slow progress in this area raises concerns about the collective capacity of nations to achieve the set goals by 2030.
- 5. Lack of Political Leadership:** The lack of political will and increasing geopolitical instability further complicates negotiations. Leaders must prioritize biodiversity on their political agendas to ensure that the promises made at COP will be fulfilled.
- 6. Increased Risks to Biodiversity:** New research indicates a more severe decline in biodiversity than previously anticipated, with a growing risk of extinction for many species. This context underscores the urgency to act swiftly and effectively to reverse these alarming trends.

COP16 has highlighted advancements in certain areas, but it has primarily revealed persistent challenges that require immediate attention. For the commitments made to translate into concrete actions on the ground, it is more essential than ever for countries to collaborate closely and strengthen their financial and political efforts.

The road to effective biodiversity protection is fraught with obstacles, and time is running out to act before it's too late!

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OUR ONLINE COURSES: MOOCS, TUTOS AND ESSENTIALS



MOOC Conservation is the platform that hosts IUCN-Papaco's online training courses, developed in partnership with the Senghor University, in Alexandria.

Go [online](#) now!



Our 7 MOOCs, 4 Essentials, and 2 Tutorials are now open and accessible for free!

OUR MOOCS THEME-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.



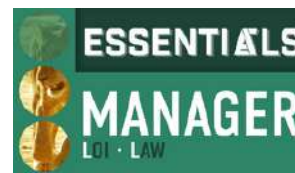
>>> MOOC New technologies
Goal: knowing the context of new technologies applied to conservation, existing techniques, prerequisites for their implementation, their opportunities and limitations, their uses in the field...



>>> 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.

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.

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ONLINE CERTIFICATE: JOIN THE SPRINT TO BE READY FOR THE D-DAY!



**MORE THAN 171
LAUREATES SINCE 2020**

➤➤➤ ONLINE CERTIFICATE IN PROTECTED AREA CONSERVATION

This university diploma in Protected Area Conservation is granted by Senghor University. A learner meeting certain eligibility criteria and technical conditions can take an additional exam, and upon successful completion, obtain this Certificate.

• What are the eligibility criteria?

Learner should have successfully completed the **7 following MOOCs**:

Protected area management, Ecological monitoring, Law enforcement, Species conservation, Valorisation of resources, New technologies and Marine protected areas.

• When are the upcoming exams dates?

English exams: 27 November 2024 at 8:00 UTC and 5 December 2024 at 13:00 UTC

French exams: 27 November 2024 at 13:00 UTC and 5 December 2024 at 8:00 UTC

➤➤➤ MOOC CONSERVATION SPRINT: FOR WHOM? WHY?

For one month (October 14 to November 13), we'll make sure you've understood all the MOOC concepts, and give you every chance of obtaining the online Certificate.



• Calendar:

Questions and Discussions from October 14 to November 14: send us all your questions related to the courses (MOOCs only). As we go along, we'll publish the questions so that the MOOC community can think together and propose answers, discuss...

Final webinar November 13, 2024: we'll summarize the discussions, and give you the opportunity to ask more questions to dig deeper.

Link for the webinar: <https://www.mooc-conservation.org/livesessions>

• Where to ask your questions?

• By e-mail to moocs@papaco.org.

• To your ambassador of reference, who will forward your questions to us (see below EN ambassadors' list link).

• Useful links:

• Ambassadors' list: [here](#)

• Online certificate infos: [here](#)

• [MOOC registration](https://www.mooc-conservation.org): [mooc-conservation.org](https://www.mooc-conservation.org)

IF YOU MEET THE CRITERIA AND WISH TO OBTAIN YOUR ONLINE CERTIFICATE IN PROTECTED AREA CONSERVATION, CLICK [HERE](#) TO ACCESS THE APPLICATION FORM.

NOTE: EACH CANDIDATE HAS ONLY ONE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE THE EXAM

TESTIMONIALS FROM THE FIELD (1/2)

»»» A LOOK BACK AT THE 2024 YOUTH4SDGS REGIONAL CAMP IN VOGAN, TOGO: AFRICAN YOUTH COMMITTED TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT!

From October 17 to 20, the city of Vogan in Togo came alive with the 2024 edition of the Youth4SDGs Regional Camp, a major event that brought together over 100 young leaders, activists, and development actors from across West Africa and beyond. With the powerful theme "African Youth at the Heart of the 2030 (UN) & 2063 (AU) Agendas", this essential gathering served as a platform for exchange and concrete action.

The Youth4SDGs Camp highlighted key topics such as sustainable development, innovation, experience-sharing, and the creation of inclusive networks for collective action. Through collaborative workshops, inspiring conferences, and moments of group reflection, participants were encouraged to mobilize further around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—a critical issue for the future of our planet.

Burkina Djigui's Commitment: At the Forefront of Action for the SDGs

Among the standout participants, a strong delegation of 28 people from Burkina Djigui NGO made a significant impact. With innovative proposals and concrete initiatives, the NGO demonstrated its commitment to actively contributing to achieving the SDGs at the national level. Burkina Djigui members shared their experiences and actions implemented on the ground to turn the challenges of sustainable development into tangible opportunities for local communities.

Youth Conservation: Raising Awareness and Taking Action for the Environment

Another highlight of the camp was a workshop led by our dedicated volunteer tutor in Togo, Kokouvi Tona Adandogou, who captivated young participants with a session on the importance of Youth Conservation, water, and sanitation.

His presentation not only deepened understanding of these critical issues but also sparked a genuine awareness and willingness to act among the young leaders in attendance.

A big thank you to Kokouvi for his commitment, and to the camp organizers for creating this platform for dialogue and action towards a more resilient and sustainable Africa. We are proud to have been represented at this event and to have contributed, together, to building a better future.



If you want to know more about this initiative, please contact the organization directly by email campregionalyouth4odd@gmail.com or follow them on [Facebook](#).

TESTIMONIALS FROM THE FIELD (2/2)

»»» **NGO SAVE FOREST (DRC) - BY THE COORDINATOR IR. ARUBU KANGALE TRÉSOR.**

Awareness-Raising on Forest Landscape Restoration: The Commitment of the Mpande Community in the DRC

As part of a project aimed at restoring degraded forest landscapes and promoting agroforestry in the fallow lands of the Mpande Local Community Forest Concession, located in the Wasongola sector of the Kailo territory (Maniema Province, Democratic Republic of Congo), the NGO Save Forest organized an important awareness-raising session on environmental education.



This initiative aimed to strengthen the capacities of the Mpande community in the **conservation of community forests**, a crucial issue for the preservation of local ecosystems. To concretely illustrate this commitment, **50 children from the community were mobilized to contribute to the planting of one hectare of trees**. Among the species planted, *Acacia auriculiformis*, known for its rapid growth, was favored.

This activity, which is part of a Payment for Environmental Services (PES) approach, **aimed not only to raise awareness among the new generation about environmental issues but also to motivate them by providing school supplies as a reward for their participation**. Each child received a box of notebooks, symbolizing Save Forest's commitment to educating and empowering young people in the preservation of their environment.

The action was successfully carried out **after consulting the environmental education course offered by Youth Conservation**. This pedagogical support was invaluable in guiding and structuring our educational interventions.

We warmly thank our partners who made this initiative possible: CAFI, FONAREDD, PIREDD-Maniema, GIZ, and Youth Conservation.



Thank you to all the volunteers of the NGO Save Forest for this inspiring testimony!

If you would like to learn more about their projects, you can contact them directly by phone at +243811277873 or by email at saveforestong@gmail.com. You can also follow their [Facebook page](#). The complete article can be read on our [Youth Conservation blog](#).

ISSUES BRIEF HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

Published in June 2022 – see on www.iucn.org/issues-briefs

**FEATURE OF
THE MONTH**

Wildlife can threaten people’s safety and livelihoods, which can lead to conflicts between groups of people over how to resolve the situation; experts call this ‘human-wildlife conflict’. These human-wildlife conflicts are becoming more frequent, serious and widespread as human populations grow, and habitats are lost. Effectively managing human-wildlife conflicts protects communities, stops conflicts escalating, builds trust in conservation and avoids retaliation against wildlife. They have unique ecological, cultural, social, historical, physical, economic and political characteristics which strategies to manage conflicts must consider.

What is the issue?

Wildlife can pose a direct threat to the safety, livelihoods and wellbeing of people. For example, when elephants forage on crops, seals damage fishing nets or jaguars kill livestock, people can lose their livelihoods. Retaliation against the species blamed often ensues. The term human-wildlife conflict has traditionally been applied only to these negative interactions between people and wildlife, but this implies deliberate action by wildlife species and ignores the conflicts between groups of people about what should be done to resolve the situation. The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Human-Wildlife Conflict & Coexistence Specialist Group defines human-wildlife conflict as:

“Struggles that emerge when the presence or behaviour of wildlife poses an actual or perceived, direct and recurring threat to human interests or needs, leading to disagreements between groups of people and negative impacts on people and/or wildlife.”

Human-wildlife conflicts are becoming more frequent, serious and widespread because of human population growth, agricultural expansion, infrastructure development, climate change and other drivers of habitat loss. They can occur wherever wildlife and human populations overlap, so any factor that forces wildlife and people into closer contact makes conflicts more likely. Much work to date has focussed on interventions to reduce impacts on people and retaliation against wildlife such as creating barriers, deploying deterrents or moving wildlife. In the absence of consultative, collaborative processes with stakeholders, these measures often have limited success.



Why is this important?

Healthy ecosystems and the vital services they provide to people depend on wildlife. Managing human-wildlife conflicts is therefore crucial to achieve the UN Vision for Biodiversity 2050 in which 'humanity lives in harmony with nature and in which wildlife and other living species are protected'. Human-wildlife conflicts have severe implications for communities' livelihoods, safety and wellbeing, and risk undermining conservation efforts by eroding support for protected areas, wildlife and biodiversity. Retaliation against wildlife can pose a serious threat to a species' survival, and reverse previous conservation progress.

For example, wolves, bears and other large carnivores are recovering across Europe, leading to tensions over how to manage their presence, which is welcomed by some and perceived as a risk to safety and livelihoods by others.

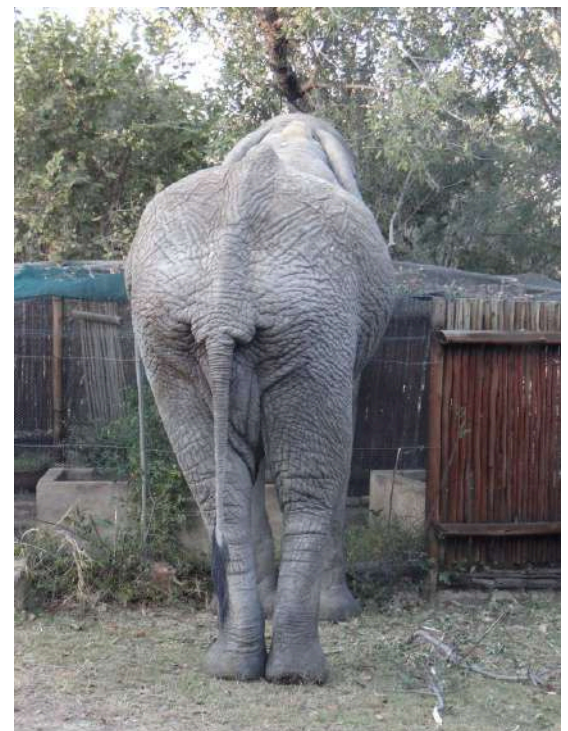
What can be done?

Human-wildlife conflict is recognised as a global concern in the UN Convention on Biological Diversity's post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Related to this, many governments are beginning to include the management of human-wildlife conflict in national policies and strategies to ensure resources are made available to manage them. There are numerous approaches and measures that can be taken to reduce the damage or impacts, de-escalate tensions, address risks to income and poverty, and develop sustainable solutions. These sometimes include barriers (fences, nets, trenches), guarding and early-warning systems, deterrents and repellents (sirens, lights, beehives), translocation (moving wildlife), compensation or insurance, providing risk-reducing alternatives, as well as managing tensions between stakeholders involved in these situations. Effective planning and implementation of such measures requires consideration of good principles in community led conservation, in collaboration with the communities affected.

Research has shown that conflicts are complex, and each situation has unique ecological, cultural, social, historical, physical, economic and political characteristics.

Although it is tempting to transfer approaches for damage reduction (e.g. fences, barriers) that appear helpful in one area directly to another, these only succeed if achieved through consultative, collaborative processes with stakeholders.

There can be pressure for 'quick fixes' to human-wildlife conflicts, but actions that do not consider the wider social and local contexts can lead to unintended consequences and increase tensions.



These can escalate into deeper divisions in which stakeholders perceive the conflict over wildlife to threaten their values or identity. Such situations become extremely difficult to resolve. In tensions over wolves in parts of North America for example, the relationship between stakeholders has deteriorated to deeply polarised conflict. In such cases, professional mediation and reconciliation processes (as used in peacebuilding) are needed.

Efforts to assess and manage complex human-wildlife conflicts require collaboration across disciplines and sectors. For example, collaborations could involve conservation practitioners, community leaders, governments, researchers, businesses and other stakeholders; and need expertise in ecology, social psychology, economics, peacebuilding and environmental law.

Where can I get more information?

IUCN SSC Human-Wildlife Conflict & Coexistence Specialist Group:

www.hwctf.org, www.hwctf.org/document-library - resource library

www.hwctf.org/policies - briefing papers

www.hwctf.org/guidelines - guidance

IUCN Resolution WCC-2020-Res-101 Addressing human-wildlife conflict: fostering a safe and beneficial coexistence of people and wildlife www.iucncongress2020.org/motion/117

IUCN (2020) IUCN SSC Position Statement on the Management of Human-Wildlife Conflict: www.iucn.org/theme/species/publications/policies-and-position-statements



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"If you don't take change by the hand, it will take you by the throat."

Winston Churchill, English politician

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Event of the month:

The **29th Conference of the Parties on Climate, or COP29**, will take place in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 11 to 22, 2024."



This conference will take place against a backdrop of an escalating climate crisis, and one of the key issues will be to reach an agreement on a new global financial goal (NCQG). This goal will update the one set in 2009, when developed countries committed to mobilizing \$100 billion (91.4 billion euros) per year by 2020 to help developing countries mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. A promise they only managed to fulfill in 2022. **The actual amount of climate financing that developing countries would need today is estimated to be between \$500 billion and over \$1 trillion per year.**

November 18 will be dedicated to issues related to children and youth, health, and education.

In the news

WWF sounds the alarm on the decline of wild animal populations.

A landmark report from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), published on Thursday, October 10, shows that various populations of wild animals have lost **an average of 73% of their individuals over the past fifty years.**



This conclusion from the Living Planet report does not mean that more than two-thirds of the world's wild animal population has disappeared, but rather that the size of various populations (groups of animals of the same species sharing a common habitat) has decreased by an average of 73% over the past fifty years (1970-2020). In total, approximately 5,500 vertebrates (mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians) across around 35,000 populations worldwide are now recorded by this 'Living Planet Index,' established and updated every two years by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) since 1998.

'This is not just about wildlife; it is about the essential ecosystems that support human life,' warned Daudi Sumba, chief curator of WWF, during an online presentation.

The new edition of the report reiterates the need to **jointly confront the 'interconnected' crises of climate change and nature destruction and emphasizes the growing threat of 'tipping points' in certain ecosystems.**

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

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