

NEWS FROM PROTECTED AREAS IN AFRICA

NAPA 191

Conserving nature in Africa



THIS MONTH IN THE NAPA

ONE NATURE, ONE HEALTH

>>> P.2 - EDITO

The importance of raising awareness about the “One Health” approach by Frédéric Mbida Mbida, coordinator of Health And Conservation (HAC)

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

3, 2, 1... A new tutorial is coming in January 2025! Planning a protected area will no longer be a mystery to you! So, let's plan!

MOOCS, TUTOS AND ESSENTIALS

YOUTH CONSERVATION

>>> P.5 TO 7 - ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Youth Conservation news... Two inspiring testimonies in DRC and Chad.

P.8 TO 11 - WILDLIFE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE <<<

Surveillance of free-ranging wild animals is essential to understanding the risks and impacts of diseases, pathogens and toxins, as part of a One Health approach...

FEATURE OF THE MONTH



EDITORIAL

ONE NATURE, ONE HEALTH

*By Frédéric Mbida Mbida,
Health And Conservation
coordinator*

»» We don't have two, we only have one: our Nature is unique! This is the most obvious fact when we look at life as a whole. From the point of view of health, this obvious fact has been amply demonstrated by numerous scientists since the mid-1800s, and culminated in the international community's adoption of the "One Health" concept in 2007.

So what is this concept, which in the space of a decade has taken on global proportions and become the indispensable approach to achieving better results in global and worldwide health?

Although, for millennia, Man has withdrawn from Nature and set himself up as a being apart, above Nature's laws, pushing him to reshape it as he pleases, the fact remains that Nature is the whole in which Man is only one element. Interactions between animals, the environment and man are evolving daily, increasing the possibilities for both beneficial and harmful exchanges. It is therefore no longer possible to consider one entity of nature without considering the others, or to seek human well-being without associating it with animal and environmental well-being. A holistic approach is essential to guarantee Nature's health.

Presented in this way, the concept might still seem abstract and far removed from our reality. Despite WHO figures warning of the urgency of the situation, given that over 60% of known human infectious diseases, and 75% of emerging human diseases, originate in animals, appropriation of the principle is still lagging behind in the field. People still want to believe in segmented, autarkic specialization.

This makes collaboration, communication and coordination difficult, if not impossible, on a sub-national scale in many countries. Nevertheless, the lessons learned during the dark hours of the COVID19 pandemic, the re-emergence of monkeypox, cholera and Ebola are to be welcomed, as they enable us to put the "One Health" concept to better use in the service of global health.

While everything is clear at the strategic international level, the same cannot be said at local level. It is therefore crucial that actions taken in the field reflect the pillars of this concept: Collaboration, Coordination, Communication and Capacity Building. Awareness-raising, training, simulations and practical applications are the key to making this concept a reality.

It would therefore be important to arouse particular interest in the "One Health" approach among those who will be tomorrow's specialists and decision-makers, i.e. pupils and students.

This is the aim of HAC's ReCa project in Cameroon. For those working in the field (health, conservation, etc.), training and capacity-building are essential for changing action models. And for communities, inclusion in decision-making and education that does not exclude local practices and knowledge are important to stimulate sustainable behavior change and achieve global health objectives.

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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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NEW

A NEW TUTO TO COME IN JANUARY 2025!

>>> TUTO MANAGEMENT PLANNING OF PROTECTED AREAS

After the release of the 'Educating on Nature Conservation' tutorial in April 2024 and the 'Words of Conservation' tutorial in September 2024, a new course will be added to the tutorial catalog in January.

We are offering a tutorial specifically designed to simplify the planning and management of protected areas, based on best practices and international guidelines.



This interactive course highlights:

- **The key steps in the planning process,**
- **An approach illustrated through the design of a management plan for a fictional park,**
- **Practical advice for adapting the methodology to different specific contexts.**

This educational tool provides a clear understanding of planning principles, enabling managers and conservation actors to maximize the effectiveness of their actions. An essential resource to support the sustainable preservation of protected areas in Africa!

A certificate of completion will be automatically issued and available for download upon passing the exams.

Join us on **January 15, 2025**, on MOOC Conservation!



>>> CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CANDIDATES OF THE LAST ONLINE CERTIFICATE ON PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT!

End of November, 25 candidates took our Online Certificate on Protected Areas Management (both French-speaking and English-speaking candidates).

Congratulations to all for their perseverance, and best wishes for continued success in their professional journeys!

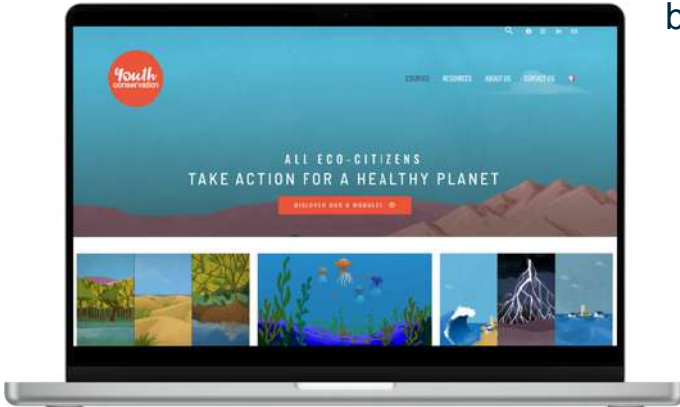
We will review the achievements of the 2024 laureates in the next NAPA.



The next session of the CEL will take place in June 2025. You will be informed via social media and this newsletter!

Happy learning to all!

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

THANKS! TO OUR **200 VOLUNTEER MENTORS** COMMITTED TO THE EDUCATION OF THE YOUTH

In total, there are now **nearly 200 volunteer mentors** working across the African continent, Haiti, and Madagascar to disseminate our educational resources, conduct awareness-raising activities, and apply theoretical teachings in practice with children.



Teachers, researchers, specialized educators in environmental education, and volunteers in an environmental protection association, these women and men all share a passion for education and a sense of commitment. We thank them for their dedication on the ground alongside the Youth Conservation teams. Wishing everyone a successful mission!

Thanks to:



TESTIMONIALS FROM THE FIELD (1/2)

ECO-CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM AT SCHOOL BY GREEN TEAM CHAD NGO (CHAD) - BY OUR VOLUNTEER MENTOR, E OLIVIER BERE

Raising Youth Awareness on Eco-Citizenship: A Program for a Greener and Healthier Future

We are excited to announce the launch of our awareness program: 'Eco-Citizenship at School for a Healthy Mind in a Healthy Environment.' Starting in October, this program aims to initiate a series of meetings with school administrators – including primary schools, middle schools, high schools, and institutes – with the goal of establishing agreements for our future activities.

A program committed to the future of children

Our initiative aims to establish environmental clubs in schools to promote:

- Environmental education and awareness among young people
- Cleanliness within schools
- Waste collection and sorting
- Promotion of sustainable practices through concrete actions

We firmly believe that to build a future where young people are both responsible and aware of the impact of their actions on the environment, it is essential to start in schools. This program goes beyond environmental education. It offers diverse activities that also contribute to the physical and mental well-being of students, creating an environment conducive to harmonious development. A healthy mind thrives in a healthy environment.

Concrete actions for lasting impact

To achieve these goals, we will organize:

- Awareness campaigns and interactive workshops
- Cleanliness days and waste sorting training
- Sessions on healthy living practices, such as responsible consumption and plastic pollution reduction

The involvement of students in these activities will not only help them better understand the importance of their actions, but also empower them to become engaged citizens, ready to protect and improve their environment while being agents of change in their communities.

Towards a greener future

We hope that this program will help prepare a future generation that is not only aware of environmental issues but also determined to be part of the solution. Through eco-citizenship, we provide young people with the tools to shape a greener, cleaner, and healthier future for all. 🌍❤️ **Let's stay committed together for a better world!**



If you would like to learn more about this NGO, you can contact Olivier Bere directly via email at greenteamtchad23@gmail.com or follow their updates on their [Facebook](#) page. An article is also available on our [Youth Conservation blog](#).

TESTIMONIALS FROM THE FIELD (2/2)

»»» **ECOPEACEPROJECT BY RENEWED HOPE IN FUTURE NGO (DRC) - BY SYLVAIN MOISE BUMBA**

EcoPeaceProject : A Bridge Between Environment and Peace for Future Generations"



We are excited to introduce EcoPeaceProject, an initiative by Renewed Hope In Future (RHF), which combines environmental protection, peacebuilding, and commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This innovative program is inspired by educational modules developed by our partner Youth Conservation and aims to train children to become agents of change in their communities and beyond.

A comprehensive and interactive program

As part of the EcoPeaceProject, young participants are introduced to essential concepts such as environmental protection, peacebuilding, and the importance of the SDGs through interactive clubs. These clubs provide a practical framework for children to acquire tangible skills while fostering their commitment to sustainability and peace.

A tangible impact in Kavumu-Kabare

In Kavumu-Kabare, 50 children from 10 local schools will have the opportunity to actively engage in the program. These young participants will develop practical skills, such as creating ecological gardens, while raising awareness in their communities through awareness skits. They will play a key role in promoting good environmental practices and contribute to building peaceful relationships within their community.

Changemakers for the future

This program aims not only to train these young people in sustainable practices but also to prepare them to become the leaders of tomorrow, capable of upholding the values of environmental respect and peace. By equipping them with the necessary tools to take action, EcoPeaceProject is preparing children to be agents of change, champions of a greener, more peaceful, and more responsible future.

Together, we are sowing the seeds of a better world for future generations. 🌍🌱



If you would like to learn more about this NGO, you can contact them directly via email at renewedhopeinfuture@gmail.com or follow their updates on their [Facebook](#) page. An article is also available on our [Youth Conservation blog](#).

ISSUES BRIEF
WILDLIFE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE
 Published in October 2024 – see on www.iucn.org/issues-briefs

**FEATURE OF
THE MONTH**

In a nutshell:

Wildlife health is foundational to the outcomes of the Global Biodiversity Framework.

Surveillance of free-ranging wild animals is essential to understand the risks and impacts of diseases, pathogens and toxins, as part of a One Health approach.

A clearly defined purpose and process is beneficial to the design, implementation and evaluation of a surveillance programme.

Surveillance programmes should be context-specific to ensure that sampling approaches are safe and appropriate to the environmental, economic and cultural context.

It is essential to follow ethical best practices regarding local communities, rightsholders, and animal welfare.



What is the issue?

Like humans and domestic animals, wild animals can experience disease, may carry or be infected by pathogens, or suffer from toxic exposures. The effects can be detrimental to wildlife health and biodiversity; the IUCN Red List of Threatened SpeciesTM recognises disease and toxins as threats to species survival. For example, H5N1 high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) has caused unparalleled mortality of wild birds and mammals worldwide, with threats to population levels for some species.

Disease, pathogens, and toxins in wildlife may also threaten human health. Human activities are increasingly leading to habitat loss and degradation, which along with climate change and unsafe wildlife use and trade are increasing the risks of pathogen spillover from wildlife to humans. Over 60% of emerging pathogens are zoonotic (they have an animal origin), many from wildlife. The most cost-effective way of addressing impacts from zoonotic pathogens is through prevention and preparedness measures, which includes the surveillance of wildlife diseases and their causes.

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) defines surveillance as the systematic and ongoing collection, collation and analysis of information related to animal health, with the timely dissemination of information so that action can be taken.

Information collected through surveillance can:

- Provide a baseline understanding of wildlife health and reveal any changes.
- Detect immediate or potential threats and impacts, including emerging diseases.
- Support species conservation assessments and the development of action plans.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of disease management and risk reduction initiatives and guide refinements as needed.
- Demonstrate the absence of a disease or pathogen.
- Inform risk and impact assessments for human, animal and environmental health.

Why is this important?

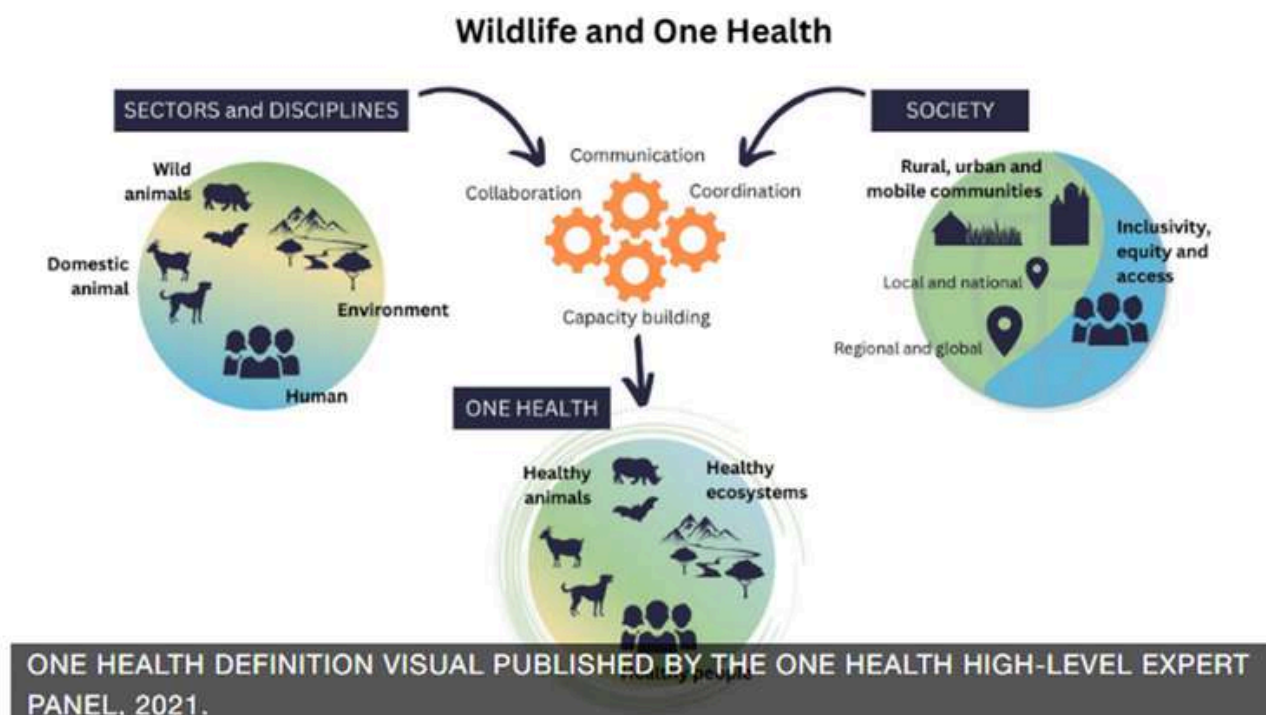
Surveillance of free-ranging wild animals can contribute to conservation, public health, and socio-economic resilience.

Wildlife health is foundational to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework's outcomes and the success of specific targets that address disease, health, species extinctions and ecosystem services. It is particularly relevant to Target 4, "**Halt species extinction**"; Target 5, "**Ensure sustainable, safe and legal harvesting and trade of wild species**"; and Target 11, "**Restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people**".

Surveillance is a key tool to contribute towards achieving these targets for wildlife health in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. At the same time, it generates benefits by supporting early detection, promoting healthy wildlife populations, and informing conservation assessment and planning.

One Health

Wildlife health needs to be considered across all sectors and civil society as part of a One Health approach. Surveillance is a critical element of this, to inform action to protect wildlife, domestic animal and human health.



What can be done?

The implementation of surveillance programmes is key to ensure that each country manages its wildlife health risks. Programmes can vary significantly in their breadth and specificity, as well as in the resources required to meet their goals. For example, surveillance may focus on visual identification of disease or involve the collection of biological samples.

Several aspects should be considered:

National coordination. A national surveillance system collects information from multiple programmes across the country, and should include:

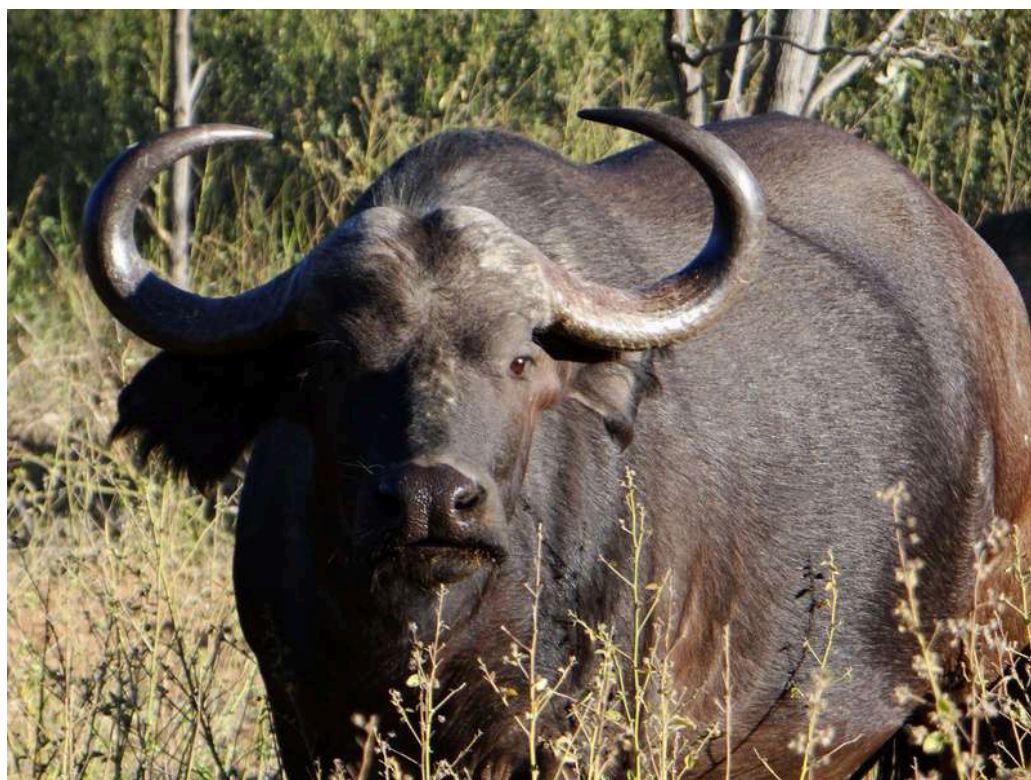
- The detection and identification of diseases, pathogens and toxic agents.
- Analysis and communication.
- Information management.

Cross-sectoral collaboration. Surveillance requires the combined expertise of people who can respond to observations and detections, carry out investigations, and interpret and communicate findings and implement identified action.

Rangers, hunters, local communities, and Indigenous peoples play a key role in the detection of diseases in wildlife. They are often the first people at the scene, interact regularly with wildlife, and have important understanding of what may be unusual in relation to wildlife health.

Veterinarians, environmental and land-use authorities, ecologists, social scientists, information managers, and public health professionals are also important to the process, as well as Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) representatives where applicable.

WOAH National Wildlife Focal Points are also an important resource to include in coordination efforts.



Defining stakeholder roles and responsibilities and establishing a process for communication between actors on the ground and authorities is important to create trust and encourage adoption of recommendations from the findings.

Safety. Managing biological risks, such as exposure to pathogens or toxins, is critical throughout surveillance. This can include use of personal protective equipment to protect human and animal health, disinfecting equipment, and appropriate storage of samples.

Only veterinary and other qualified and trained professionals should conduct procedures involving wildlife handling and sampling.

Ethical best practices. Surveillance programmes should be context-specific to ensure that sampling approaches are safe and appropriate to the environmental, species conservation (including animal welfare), and cultural context and objectives.

Surveillance programmes should be co-developed and co-managed through **direct participation of Indigenous peoples** in activities that affect their lands and territories and the species they utilise and depend upon.

Read more:

[General Guidelines for Surveillance of Diseases, Pathogens and Toxic Agents in Free-ranging Wildlife \(2024\).](#)



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Nature does nothing in vain.”
Aristote, *Greek philosopher*

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Reading of the month

»»» "The Protected Planet Report 2024 (UNEP-WCMC and IUCN)"

The Protected Planet Report 2024, released at COP16 in Cali, assesses progress towards achieving **Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which aims to protect 30% of land and sea by 2030.**



Although **global coverage of protected areas has increased** (17.6% for land and 8.4% for oceans), the report highlights that **a significant gap remains to be bridged, particularly for marine areas in the high seas.** It also notes that coverage of key biodiversity areas is improving, but one-third of these areas remain unprotected.

The report also addresses issues such as **the connectivity of protected areas**, which remains insufficient, and **equitable governance**, emphasizing the need to recognize the rights of Indigenous communities. It concludes that while progress has been made, it is crucial to accelerate efforts to achieve the 30% target by 2030, particularly through increased international funding and more effective management of protected areas.



Feedback on the COP29

COP29 and Specific Commitments for Protected Areas

During COP29, held from November 11 to November 22 in Baku, Azerbaijan, several countries made specific commitments to strengthen the protection of protected areas and promote climate finance. Here are some notable examples:

- **Bhutan:** The country called for recognition of its carbon-neutral status, emphasizing the vital role its ecosystems play in combating climate change. The Bhutanese Prime Minister highlighted the sacrifices made by his nation to maintain this ecological balance.
- **Panama and Madagascar:** Alongside Bhutan, these countries advocated for international recognition of their role in carbon absorption, underscoring their contributions to biodiversity and conservation efforts.
- **Malawi:** Representing the "Least Developed Countries," Malawi stressed the importance of increased funding for climate adaptation strategies, which include protecting natural areas against the impacts of climate change.
- **Global Solidarity Contributions Working Group:** Comprising countries like Barbados, France, and Kenya, this group proposed taxes on fossil fuels to finance environmental protection initiatives, including those related to protected areas.

These initiatives reflect a growing commitment to ecosystem preservation and a determination to integrate environmental considerations into climate finance strategies.

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