

NEWS FROM AFRICAN PROTECTED AREAS

# NAPA 193

CONSERVING NATURE IN AFRICA



## THIS MONTH IN THE NAPA

**RURAL WOMEN ON  
THE FRONTLINE**

### P.2 & 3 EDITORIAL

Preserving the environment is everyone's business, of course, but it's much more the business of women, as they can have a positive influence on the family and the community.

**MOOC, TUTORIALS  
AND ESSENTIALS**

### P.4 & 5 OUR ONLINE COURSES

Find out all the latest news about our MOOCs, Tutorials and Essentials and join the mooc-conservation.org platform.

**YOUTH  
CONSERVATION**

### P.6 TO 8 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

From a scientific day on biodiversity in the DRC to the creation of a Nature Club in Benin, our tutors are mobilizing and taking action in the field!

**NEW THIS MONTH  
FRENCH ONLY**

### P. 9 PODCAST: LES RDV DE LA CONSERVATION

Discover the top 10 most listened-to episodes of 2024.

## EDITO 1/2



## RURAL WOMEN ON THE FRONTLINE

By Lieutenant-Colonel Amandine Gnido  
Assogba Deleke

They are often described as illiterate. And yet, the women living in the areas bordering the classified forests of Benin are just as aware as they are committed to combating the factors that degrade natural resources. In the hills of southern Benin, rural women carry out agro-forestry activities that demonstrate their level of involvement in the conservation and promotion of biological diversity. They are also willing to form a local group to preserve the pangolin.

Benin's forests in Dassa-Zoumè, Savè, Ouèssè, Glazoué and Bantè Savalou are home to a number of threatened and protected species of flora and fauna. Several forestry projects and programmes have had an impact on these regions. These include the Programme de Gestion des Forêts et Terroirs Riverains (PGFTR), the Programme de Reboisement Intensif (PRI), the Projet d'Appui à la Gestion des Forêts Communales (PAGEFCOM) and the Projet Forêts Classées Bénin (PFCB) financed by the World Bank and the African Development Bank.

Because of the scope of their actions, these programmes have awakened the eco-citizenship of rural women, who have formed cooperatives to carry out income-generating activities (IGAs) and create nurseries for reforestation to replenish the dying forest.

This is the case, for example, of Mrs Marcelline ATIIOGBE's FIFONSI nurserywomen's group in Savè, which runs a two-hectare gmelina and acacia nursery, as well as a number of native species, producing over five hundred thousand plants of all species every year. In their rallying cry for work, these women sing the praises of endangered species and urge people to use most of the classified forest sites in the Collines department and to work especially to protect biodiversity in the Ouémé Boukou forest in Savè.

In forestry, radio is a powerful tool for raising awareness and communicating. The Department of Wildlife, Biodiversity and Nature Conservation, which I currently head, takes part in radio and television broadcasts with women from all walks of life, to remind them of the duties of women in nature conservation.

Women are an essential part of daily life. They are the ones who cook and contribute to the well-being of the home. To do this, they go into the forests to gather the resources the family needs. They also use them for petty trading. They have a significant influence on the prevailing opinion in households and in the villages. This is why the entire interpersonal awareness strategy is based on them. For example, in regions with a tradition of hunting by beating, such as Bantè, Dassa-Zoumé and Savè, women are also used in sketches to raise awareness of endangered species such as red-bellied monkeys (*Cercopithecus erythrogaster*) and snakes such as the python.

# EDITO 2/2

Rural women are increasingly at the forefront of nature conservation through their presence in the national nature protection system. For example, the forestry administration is recruiting more and more women to its staff. This is perhaps a factor of great concern to the local population. Similarly, non-governmental organisations such as Nature Tropicale ONG are working actively to protect nature, with women very much involved in raising awareness among residents living along Benin's coasts of the urgent need not to collect eggs from marine turtles.

Preserving the environment is everyone's business, of course, but it is much more the business of women, as they can have a positive influence on the family and the community. That's why, at the Direction Générale des Eaux, Forêts et Chasse, the posters for the World Biodiversity Day highlight women. This is also the case with the posters for the national reforestation campaign, which kicks off with the celebration of National Tree Day on 1 June in Benin.

The women of the Collines region have enormous potential for conserving biological resources. This potential deserves to be harnessed for the benefit of humanity and biological diversity. That's why we think it's important to inspire women volunteers to form networks to protect specific species. The experience of grants from the Mohamed Bin Zayed Conservation Fund is a textbook case. The Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund (MBZ Fund) is a fund designed to combat the extinction of species. To protect the pangolin, women in the Collines region, particularly in Dassa-Zoumé, Savalou and Bantè, could take inspiration from Purnima Devi Barman, who founded the Hargila Army, an all-female local volunteer group that protects the great Indian stork, or Rachel Ikemeh, who leads conservation efforts for the red colobus monkey (*Piliocolobus badius*) in the Niger delta.

## FIND THE PAPACO ONLINE

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

[Groupe FB MOOC](https://www.facebook.com/GroupeFBMOOC)

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

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

**Note: the Papaco has left the X platform**



# OUR ONLINE COURSES: MOOCs, TUTORIALS AND ESSENTIALS

Our 7 MOOCs, 4 Essentials and 3 Tutorials are open and available right now!



## 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.

See you on:

[www.mooc-conservation.org](http://www.mooc-conservation.org)

## THE MOOCs THEME-BASED TRAINING



### MOOC PA management

**Goal:** understand the essence and goals of PAs. Students will be able to grasp the importance of PAs, their role and the different management aspects.



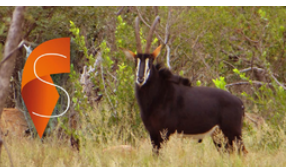
### MOOC Ecological monitoring

**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:** 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

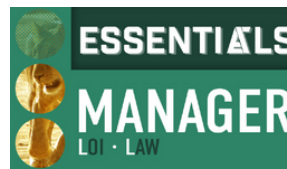
**Goal:** understanding as the design and creation of MPA networks, governance, ecological monitoring, but also surrounding economic activities, and how to include all this to MPA management.

## 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 bio-diversity conservation, all for better decision-making.

MOOC CONSERVATION IS FUNDED BY THE FONDS FRANÇAIS POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT MONDIAL



ANNOUNCEMENT:

**A NEW TUTORIAL IS ONLINE**



**TUTORIAL MANAGEMENT PLANNING OF PROTECTED AREAS**

The tutorial has been online since January 15, and at the time of writing, over 700 students have been able to take the plunge, with around 30 already having obtained their certificate of achievement.



This **interactive course** highlights :

- the **key stages** in the planning process,
- an **illustrated approach** through the design of a management plan for a fictitious park,
- **practical tips** for adapting the methodology to different contexts.

This educational tool offers a clear explanation of planning principles, enabling managers and conservation stakeholders to maximize the effectiveness of their actions. A must-have resource to support the sustainable preservation of protected areas in Africa!

To register, go to [MOOC Conservation!](#)

**THE TUTORIALS**  
SPECIALISED COURSES

**What is a tutorial?** A short, specialized training course designed to answer a specific question. For example, the tutorial Planning PA management answers the question: *how do I create a PA management plan?*



**Tutorial: Nature conservation education**

**Goal:** This tutorial is an online course for teachers, trainers, educators, supervisors and parents! It will give you the keys to successfully carrying out your educational approach to nature conservation and, in so doing, train the eco-citizens of the future, those who will keep our planet healthy!



**Tutorial: Words of conservation**

**Goal:** This tutorial explains the 100 most important words in nature conservation, the ones we often use without always knowing their exact meaning! 100 words or expressions explained and illustrated to help you better understand their meaning and usage, and strengthen your work to protect the environment.

**2025**  
MOOC CONSERVATION  
CALENDAR

**18 February:** webinar with the MOOC team.

**18 March :** webinar with the MOOC team.

**22 April:** webinar with the MOOC team.

**20 May:** webinar with the MOOC team.

**20 June:** webinar with the MOOC team.

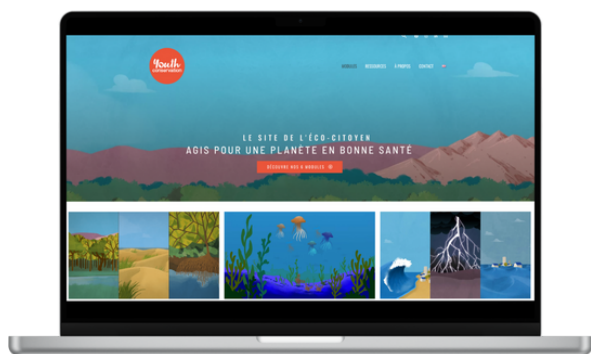
**24 June:** exam for the Online Certificate in PA Conservation - *French-speakers*

**25 June:** exam for the Online Certificate in PA Conservation - *English-speakers*

*The registrations link to the webinars will be available on MOOC Conservation under [Live Sessions](#).*

## YOUTH CONSERVATION

## DISCOVER, UNDERSTAND AND ACT FOR THE PLANET



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](http://WWW.YOUTH-CONSERVATION.ORG)!

## AND ON THE FIELD? STORIES FROM PASSIONATE PLAYERS

**SCIENTIFIC DAY ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECO-ACTIONS IN WALUNGU,**

BY **SYLVAIN MOISE BUMBA**, COORDINATOR OF THE **NGO RENEWED HOPE FOR THE FUTURE** AND **YOUTH CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER TUTOR**

On Wednesday 18 December 2024, a day like no other brought together students and teachers at the ITAV-MAKA Catholic Conventuated School in Walungu territory, in South Kivu (DRC). Organised by the NGO Renewed Hope in Future, through its EcoPeaceProjet programme, this scientific day marked a first in the region by raising awareness among young people of the challenges of biodiversity and eco-actions.

**AN EDUCATIONAL APPROACH ROOTED IN THE SDGS**

Based on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

and educational tools provided by Youth Conservation, this initiative offered students a unique opportunity to discover the crucial role they can play in preserving their environment. Through interactive discussions, they explored concrete actions to become responsible players, including adopting everyday eco-actions and developing local conservation initiatives.

**INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL INVOLVEMENT**

The event had an international dimension, with the participation of



Ambassador Paul Babin from France, who shared his experiences of the challenges and solutions to preserving the environment in Europe. His perspective inspired the students to consider their commitment from a global perspective.

At the local level, Mr Sylvain, expert and main presenter, captivated the audience with an interactive and dynamic approach, enabling constructive exchanges with the students. These discussions led to a promising initiative: the creation of an environmental club within the school, strengthening young people's commitment to sustainable action.

## A STEP TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

This science day is an important milestone in environmental education for the young people of Walungu. It provided them with practical knowledge and essential tools for preserving their living environment. The initiative illustrates the impact of local and international collaboration in building a sustainable future, while highlighting the central role of African youth in conserving biodiversity.

Congratulations to all the participants, partners and organisers who helped make this event a success.



*If you would like to find out more, you can contact the NGO Renewed Hope in Future directly by email [renewedhopeinfuture@gmail.com](mailto:renewedhopeinfuture@gmail.com) and follow their news on [Facebook](#).*

## CREATION OF A CPN CLUB AT CEG HOUÈGBO: AN INITIATIVE FOR THE FUTURE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

BY **ELTSINE MARAT CLAUZELS SAHGUI**, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NGO AND VOLUNTEER YC MENTOR

On December 4, 2024, a significant milestone was reached in Houègbo, Toffo municipality (Benin),

with the launch of a CPN Club (Learn About and Protect Nature) at CEG Houègbo.

This initiative, led by the team of the Network of Young Solidarity for Environmental Protection (RJSPE-ONG) and supported by the Departmental Directorate for Secondary Education and Vocational Training, aims to raise environmental awareness among young people by providing them with a unique space for learning and action.

### TRAINING TOMORROW'S GREEN AMBASSADORS

As part of the "Green Ambassadors" program designed by RJSPE, over 125 students were engaged during this first session. Through captivating discussions, they explored key topics such as biodiversity, climate change, and sustainable development. The goal? To train committed leaders ready to protect nature and inspire their communities.

### A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR DEEP AWARENESS

In the Coming Months, CPN Club Members Will Explore Key Topics:

- The importance of the environment and its vital role for the planet.
- Agroecology as a sustainable solution for preserving ecosystems.
- Climate change, its challenges, and the actions needed.



- Sustainable development to inspire concrete action.
- Biodiversity loss and the preservation of natural habitats.
- The crucial role of forests in maintaining ecological balance.
- Waste sorting, an essential gesture for the environment.

These lessons will be enriched by practical activities, such as creating a vegetable garden and a nursery on the school grounds. These projects will allow students to apply their knowledge while actively contributing to the preservation of their environment.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

This project could not have come to life without the support of the administration of CEG Houégbo, the Ministry of Secondary Education and Vocational Training, and all the students who demonstrated genuine commitment.

With this initiative, RJSPE-ONG continues to pursue its ambition: *"Act today to preserve tomorrow."*



*If you would like to learn more, you can contact the NGO directly via email at [contact@rjspe-ong.org](mailto:contact@rjspe-ong.org) and follow their updates on [Facebook](#).*



GET INSPIRED WITH OUR PODCAST **LES RENDEZ-VOUS DE LA CONSERVATION !**

FRENCH ONLY

Launched in July 2024, the “Les rendez-vous de la conservation” podcast channel will soon have around 30 episodes, based on interviews with conservation experts and environmental enthusiasts.



These episodes are designed to inform, raise awareness and educate all nature-lovers on general conservation topics, or by presenting the views of experts on targeted subjects. Here are the top 10 episodes of 2024, available on [Spotify](#) or [Youtube](#):

**. FIGHTING WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING**

By Adams Cassinga, committed ecologist, wildlife activist and criminal investigator specializing in the fight against species trafficking in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

**. FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

By Cédric Dubois Muliri, a young wildlife biologist and field conservationist from the Democratic Republic of Congo and founder of the environmental organization Artemis Africa.

**. ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN THE DRC**

By Didier Amuli, researcher in environmental, energy and natural resources law, and member of the NGO Eden World Foundation.

**. THE VIRTUES OF AGROECOLOGY**

By Malick Sow, a committed agroecologist in Senegal.

**. YOUNG ECO-CITIZENS IN CHAD**

By Olivier Bere, national coordinator of Green Team Chad.

**. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN MAIKO NATIONAL PARK**

By Alain Mukiranya, Assistant to the Park Director and Education and Communication Officer at the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN).

**. POUMONS VERT, THE ECO-CITIZEN FACTORY**

By Mouhamadou Hawa Sall, national coordinator of the Senegalese Club Environnement Poumons Vert.

**. EDUCATING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION AND PEACE**

By Moïse Bumba Sylvain, coordinator of the NGO Renewed Hope for the Future and volunteer Youth conservation tutor.

**. ZOOMUSICOTHERAPY**

By Frédéric Mbida Mbida, veterinary doctor and coordinator of Health and Conservation in Cameroon.

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Ecology is also, and above all, a cultural problem. Respect for the environment requires a large number of behavioral changes."

Nicolas Hulot, *journalists and environmental activist*

## GOOD READ THIS MONTH

## VERS LE SOCIALISME ÉCOLOGIQUE (TOWARDS ECOLOGICAL SOCIALISM), THOMAS PIKETTY



"The 20th century was the century of social democracy. The 21st century will be the century of ecological, democratic and participatory socialism. This statement may come as a surprise at a time when a worrying mix of identity-based withdrawal and resigned neoliberalism seems to be gaining ground everywhere. And yet I remain optimistic. Equality is a battle that can be won, has been won in the past and will be won again in the future. Provided we fully appreciate all the institutional transformations this implies, draw all the lessons from the political strategies that follow, and above all, never leave social and economic issues and reflections on alternative socio-economic systems to others. These are eminently political issues, on which all citizens must have an opinion and be involved. It is by reversing the relations of knowledge and power, and by resuming the course of social and collective mobilization, that the march towards equality and dignity can regain its rights, and that the national-liberal parenthesis can be closed." - Excerpt from "Vers le socialisme écologique" (Towards Ecological Socialism in English) by Thomas Piketty

## CLIMATE CHANGE

## 2024 BEATS HEAT RECORDS EVEN IN THE OCEANS

A study published on January 10, 2025 in *Advances in Atmospheric Sciences* reveals new heat records at and below the ocean surface in 2024. Using data from the Argo network and various global instruments, the researchers note:

- Record surface temperature: +0.61°C above the 1981-2010 average, reaching 20.87°C.
- El Niño effect: The exceptional intensity of this episode between June 2023 and May 2024 amplified the warming.
- Record thermal accumulation: The oceans, which absorb 90% of the planet's excess heat, saw their heat content increase by 16 zettajoules in 2024, well above the annual average (6.4 ZJ since 1958).
- Zones most affected : Atlantic, Mediterranean, Indian Ocean and North Pacific.
- Potential climate impact: These accumulations threaten essential currents such as the AMOC, disrupting weather cycles.
- The oceans remain the main indicators and regulators of global warming, the researchers warn.

Read the full report [HERE](#)

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To contribute to a NAPA (article or publication on protected areas, cover photo, job offer, etc.), contact us at [moocs@papaco.org](mailto:moocs@papaco.org).

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