

NEWS FROM AFRICAN PROTECTED AREAS

# NAPA 194

CONSERVING NATURE IN AFRICA



## THIS MONTH IN THE NAPA

**WHAT ABOUT  
GENEROSITY?**

### P.2 EDITORIAL

Many low-income countries in Africa are making great efforts in the field of nature conservation. With the withdrawal of the American aid, they'll have to do even more now...

**MOOC, TUTORIALS  
AND ESSENTIALS**

### P.3 & 4 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.5 TO 8 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

"Cameroon in the spotlight with testimonies from two of our volunteer tutors on site!"

**THIS MONTH  
IN THE NAPA**

### P. 9 TO 11 IUCN BRIEF: SUSTAINABLE USE OF WILD SPECIES

Wild species are used by billions of people who rely on them for many purposes including for food, medicine, income, and energy...



## EDITO

### WHAT ABOUT GENEROSITY?

By Geoffroy MAUVAIS

*Papaco coordinator*



In January of this year, some people found my editorial a little pessimistic. When I reread it and look at the state of the world two months later, I wonder whether I wasn't under the effect of a euphoric substance: I was envisaging the worst, but we're well past the worst!

What's happening today on the other side of the Atlantic is worrying for many reasons, but also for nature conservation in Africa.

USAID has long funded numerous conservation projects on the continent, including the protection of national parks, the fight against poaching and the preservation of endangered species. All these projects are now in jeopardy, with consequences that are difficult to predict.

Without the Agency's financial support, efforts to curb deforestation, particularly in the Congo Basin, will fall drastically. USAID also funds numerous sustainable development projects, helping to replace wild animal proteins with livestock, promote renewable energies and encourage more sustainable farming practices. Many activities are directly dependent on this funding, the suspension of which is already leading to job losses and an increase in poverty, which will affect conservation efforts. It's a vicious circle, the short- and medium-term impact of which nobody is yet able to measure.

Withdrawal from the Paris Agreement significantly weakens global efforts to combat climate change and will encourage countries on the continent to follow suit. Opening land to mining and oil exploitation in the US will have devastating impacts on local ecosystems, but also in Africa, as it opens up a boulevard for those who dream of doing the same in their own countries. Relaxing regulations on greenhouse gas emissions will lead to an increase in pollution levels, once again shifting the boundaries of what is and isn't acceptable. All this progress, so hard won over the last few decades, has gone up in smoke with the stroke of a pen.

Of course, everyone is free to do what they want with their money. As the world's largest provider of development aid, the USA has every right to take a break? Not if you think about it.

The most generous countries in terms of public aid for development are those that devote a significant proportion of their gross national product to it. The target set by the UN in 1970 was that every economically advanced country should devote 0.7% of its gross domestic product to this aid. Today, however, few countries meet or exceed this threshold: Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden, Denmark... These countries thus demonstrate a strong and real commitment to developing countries.

By 2024, USAID's budget was around \$44 billion, and American aid accounted for 20% of global development aid. Well done! Yet this amount represented only about 0.18% of the country's GDP, very little compared to the wealth of the USA.

Suspending this aid is a breach of international commitments and an abandonment of the global responsibilities of the USA - one of the world's most polluting countries per capita. It is selfish, especially considering the urgent needs in Africa for nature conservation, health and education. It's unfair because this suspension disproportionately affects vulnerable populations who depended on it for their survival, further widening inequalities between developed and developing countries.

It's also unfair because, let's not forget, the wealth of some often comes at the expense of others.

The quality of generosity is not measured by how much we give, but by how much it costs us to give. Many middle-income and even low-income countries, including in Africa, are making comparatively much greater efforts in the field of conservation... From now on, they'll have to do even more, so let's thank them and recognize their efforts!

# OUR ONLINE COURSES: MOOCS, TUTORIALS AND ESSENTIALS

Our 7 MOOCs, 4 Essentials and 3 Tutorialsa 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  
BÉNÉFICIE DU SOUTIEN DU  
FONDS FRANÇAIS POUR  
L'ENVIRONNEMENT MONDIAL



## TESTIMONIALS:

## LEARNERS WHO COMPLETED OUR ONLINE COURSES



## ABOUT THE RANGER ESSENTIAL

Thanks for this unique opportunity. I have gained a lot of knowledge on conservation via this program. I can't wait to put this into practice! - Gordon

## ABOUT THE PA MANAGEMENT MOOC

Thank you for the course. I am really enjoying it. The content is clear and the case studies are interesting and challenging. Real world examples are so valuable. - Michele

## ABOUT THE MOOC LAW ENFORCEMENT

This Law enforcement course has been insightful as far conservation of nature in PAs is concerned. I have had great personal experience doing this MOOC. - Elvis

## ABOUT ALL MOOCS

It has been a great journey since I began undertaking these MOOCs last year and I have learned a lot concerning conservation to a point that I'm interested in working with an organisation that deals with conservation of nature mostly as a Ranger before I can climb the ladder and become Operations Manager. - Willy

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: Management  
plannign of PAs

**Goal:** This tutorial introduces a simple methodology for planning the management of protected areas,

drawing on best practices and international guidelines. It emphasizes the key steps of the process (13 in total) by guiding learners through the illustrated design of a plan for a fictional park. This interactive format helps learners grasp the principles of planning and adapt them to specific contexts for effective conservation of protected areas.

2025  
MOOC CONSERVATION  
CALENDAR

**18 March:** Q&A with the MOOC team.

**22 April:** Q&A with the MOOC team.

**20 May:** Q&A with the MOOC team.

**20 June:** Q&A 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

## AWARENESS AND COMMITMENT FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE: AN INSPIRING ACTION IN CAMEROON

BY **MOHAMED NGAJE MEFIRE**, *YOUTH CONSERVATION BENEVOLENT MENTOR IN CAMEROON*

On February 4, 2025, a significant awareness event on environmental conservation took place at the Lycée de Nkolbissong, located in the Yaoundé 7 municipality, Cameroon. Mohamed NGAJE MEFIRE, a volunteer tutor and passionate about environmental issues, had the opportunity to meet with students to discuss the crucial challenges of sustainable development.

### RAISE AWARENESS AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

The goal of this meeting was to raise awareness among young generations about the current environmental challenges.

While providing them with practical tools to take action. The program covered essential topics such as environmental protection, the rights of local communities, and especially the importance of the role of young people in safeguarding our planet.

### USE OF RESOURCES AND TOOLS FROM YOUTH CONSERVATION

Special attention was given to the initiatives of Youth Conservation, practical tools that enable young people to actively engage in biodiversity protection.

These tools offer opportunities for each young person to become an agent of change, acting both locally and globally for a greener future.

This type of action perfectly illustrates the importance of education for a sustainable future. Indeed, it is today's youth who will carry the solutions of tomorrow. By raising their awareness early on, we equip them to be the ecological leaders of tomorrow, thus creating a true virtuous circle for the planet.

**THE BEST IS YET TO COME**

Young people are indeed the key to preserving and protecting our environment, and every commitment, even on a small scale, has a profound and lasting impact. We look forward to seeing these young talents rise for the planet and take concrete actions for a future that is more respectful of our ecosystem.

Congratulations again to Mohamed for his volunteer commitment within the Youth Conservation mentor network!



*If you too want to get involved in environmental education, contact H el ene at [info@youth-conservation](mailto:info@youth-conservation) to get the steps on how to proceed!*

**THE AWARENESS MISSIONS FOR NATURE CONSERVATION: AN INSPIRING COMMITMENT BY NATHANEL IN CAMEROON**

BY **NATHANA EL ZHYEBBA**, BENEVOLENT MENTOR IN CAMEROON AND FOUNDER OF THE RADIP ASSOCIATION (NETWORK OF ACTORS FOR INTEGRATED AND PARTICIPATORY DEVELOPMENT)

Nathanel Z., our volunteer mentor passionate about environmental issues, continues his commitment in

Cameroon with concrete actions to raise awareness and train young people on the challenges of nature

conservation. From his field interventions to supporting online training, his initiatives are part of a long-term project aimed at training the future leaders of environmental preservation.

### **1. AWARENESS AT THE EFSDC OF GUIDER: A STEP TOWARD ENGAGEMENT**

On January 10, 2025, Nathanaël led a nature conservation awareness session for 50 students at the EFSDC (School for Training and Awareness in Community Development) in Guider, in the North of Cameroon. This intervention highlighted both local and global environmental issues, while emphasizing the important role of young people in protecting biodiversity.

Following this meeting, a significant number of students enrolled in the online course "Educating for Nature Conservation" offered by Youth Conservation and MOOC Conservation. To date, half of these participants have already completed their certification, which demonstrates their seriousness and commitment to becoming active contributors to environmental preservation.

### **2. MOOC TRAINING AT IFPAK: A COLLECTIVE SUCCESS**

Another significant moment of Nathanaël's commitment took place on December 18, 2024, at the Agricultural Vocational Training Institute of Kaélé (IFPAK),

in the Far North region of Cameroon. Nathanaël led an awareness session to present the "Educating for Nature Conservation" tutorial. This online training was attended by 24 participants, including 22 learners and 2 staff members from IFPAK.

The results are remarkable: 100% of the participants completed their certification, proving their dedication to learning about biodiversity issues, sustainable agriculture, and climate change mitigation. In addition to gaining technical skills, the learners expressed a strong desire to continue raising awareness and sharing their knowledge within their communities. Several of them even expressed their willingness to become tutors for Youth Conservation and to create a conservation club at IFPAK to further educate their peers.

### **3. A LASTING AND COLLABORATIVE COMMITMENT**

The training sessions provided by Nathanaël go beyond simply transmitting knowledge. They foster a spirit of collaboration and mutual support among the participants. Indeed, a WhatsApp group was set up to encourage communication and allow participants to ask questions, discuss the concepts covered, and support each other throughout their learning journey.

The participants' commitment extends well beyond the completion of their training. Numerous initiatives have arisen from these sessions, such as community awareness projects and concrete actions to promote nature conservation. These actions reflect a shared determination to build a sustainable future and create a positive impact within their communities.



## **CONCLUSION : TRAINING TO ACT, ACTING TO PRESERVE**

The initiatives led by Nathanaël through these training sessions are a great example of the impact of education and awareness on younger generations. Thanks to his efforts and the motivation of the participants, the conservation cause is taking root in Cameroon. By training and inspiring young people, Nathanaël plays a key role in creating a local dynamic for environmental protection.

These young people are becoming ambassadors for the environmental cause, ready to take concrete actions in their communities and fully commit to a more sustainable future.

*If you would like to learn more, you can contact Nathanaël directly through the [Facebook page](#) of his association.*



# THIS MONTH IN THE NAPA

## UCN BRIEF - SUSTAINABLE USE OF WILD SPECIES - JANUARY 2025 1/3

### Intro

Wild species are used by billions of people who rely on them for many purposes including for food, medicine, income, and energy. Of course, to conserve biodiversity and to maintain the many benefits it provides to people, the use of wild species must be sustainable. Sustainable use is considered as a critical tool for both conservation and development.

Action is needed at local, national, and international levels to realise the potential of sustainable use for achieving conservation and development goals. Most important is the need for wider recognition of the role that use of wild species plays in all our lives and careful consideration to the implications of this use.

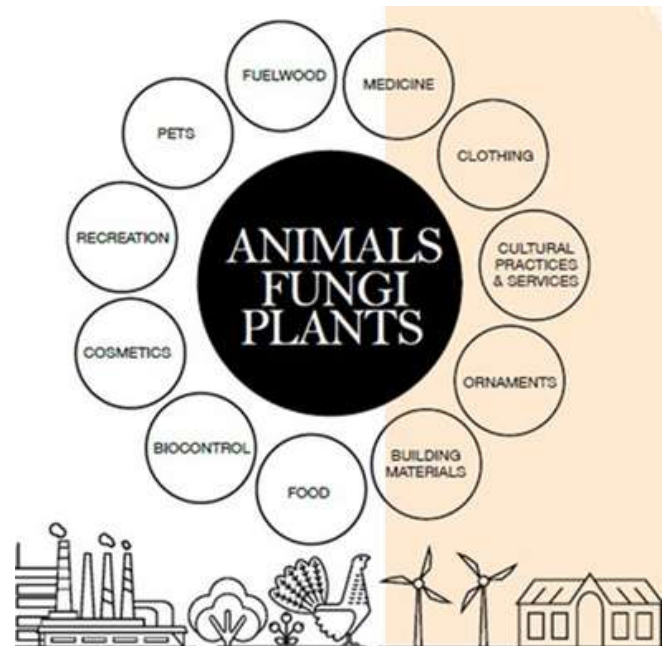
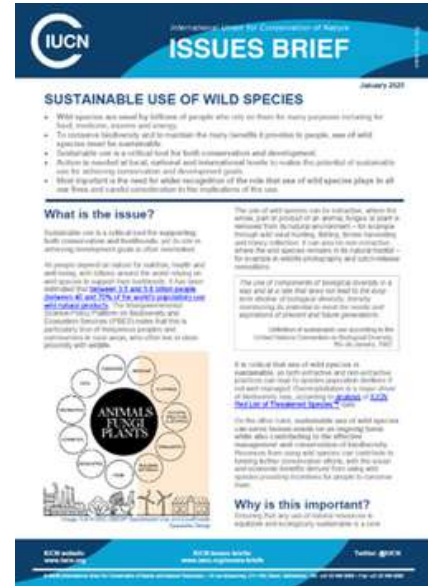
### What is the issue?

Sustainable use is a critical tool for supporting both conservation and livelihoods, yet its role in achieving development goals is often overlooked.

All people depend on nature for nutrition, health, and well-being, with billions around the world relying on wild species to support their livelihoods. It has been estimated that between 3.5 and 5.8 billion people (between 40 and 70% of the world's population) use wild natural products. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) notes that this is particularly true of Indigenous Peoples and communities in rural areas, who often live in proximity with wildlife.

The use of wild species can be extractive, where the whole, part, or product of an animal, fungus, or plant is removed from its natural environment – for example through wild meat hunting, fishing, timber harvesting, and honey collection.

It can also be non-extractive, where the wild species remains in its natural habitat – for example in wildlife photography and catch-release recreations.



## THIS MONTH IN THE NAPA

## IUCN BRIEF - SUSTAINABLE USE OF WILD SPECIES - JANUARY 2025 2/3

**What is sustainable use?**

The definition of sustainable use according to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, Rio de Janeiro, 1992, is:

“The use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations.”

It is critical that use of wild species is sustainable, as both extractive and non-extractive practices can lead to species population declines if not well-managed. Overexploitation is a major driver of biodiversity loss, according to analysis of IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ data.

On the other hand, sustainable use of wild species can serve human needs on an ongoing basis while also contributing to the effective management and conservation of biodiversity. Revenues from using wild species can contribute to funding further conservation efforts, with the social and economic benefits derived from using wild species providing incentives for people to conserve them.

**Why is this important?**

Ensuring that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable is a core objective of IUCN, as outlined in Part II of the IUCN Statutes and Regulations. Sustainable use is recognised by IUCN as an important tool because of the incentives it generates for conservation.

It is one of the three main objectives of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), alongside conservation and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits that come from utilising genetic resources. The role of sustainable use in contributing to both conservation and development goals is recognised in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, signed by 196 countries in 2022. Target 5 aims to “ensure sustainable, safe and legal harvesting and trade of wild species”, while Target 9 aims to “manage wild species sustainably to benefit people”. Target 9 emphasises that this is key to “providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, especially those in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity.”

Sustainable use of wild species is also key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Goal 15 for Life on Land aims to “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”, while Goal 14 for Life Below Water aims to “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”.

These aims further support other SDGs such as Goal 1 for No Poverty and Goal 2 for Zero Hunger, through enhancing the capacity of ecosystems to support sustainable food production and livelihoods. Overall, sustainable use has significant potential to contribute more towards all the SDGs.



## THIS MONTH IN THE NAPA

## / IUCN BRIEF - SUSTAINABLE USE OF WILD SPECIES - JANUARY 2025 3/3

**What can be done?**

Action is needed at all levels to tackle unsustainable use of wild species and to maximise the potential of sustainable use. At the international level, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) aims to ensure that international trade in wild animal and plant specimens does not threaten the survival of species.

It is also important that sustainable use practices are recognised in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), as countries update their approaches to align with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Countries can include practices such as sustainable wildlife tourism, sustainable hunting, and wild product trade amongst the activities for delivering their NBSAPs. Some countries are increasingly recognising the importance of a diverse “wildlife economy” or “biodiversity economy” as a key driver of local and national economic growth as well contributing to conservation and climate resilience.

At the local level, there are numerous good examples demonstrating how sustainable use schemes have helped with species conservation and supported livelihoods. For example, in the Amazon community management and sustainable harvest of the giant pirarucu fish (*Arapaima gigas*) has resulted in dramatic population recoveries and significant income for communities who sell the fish leather for luxury handbags and boots.

There is no one-size-fits-all model for ensuring that people use wild species sustainably, as many social, economic, and ecological contextual factors must be taken into account. Evidence shows that interventions are most effective when tailored to the social and ecological contexts in which wild species are used and when they support fairness, rights, and equity for local people. Broader recognition of the role that wild species play in all our lives and careful consideration to the implications of this use is imperative if more balanced perspectives are to be brought into conversations on the use of wild species and its value for conservation and development worldwide.

**Where can I get more information?**

[IUCN Sustainable Use of Wild Living Resources Policy Statement \(IUCN, 2000\)](#)

[Assessment report on the sustainable use of wild species | IPBES secretariat](#)

Find the brief [here](#).



## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The species that survive are not the strongest nor the smartest, but those that adapt best to changes."

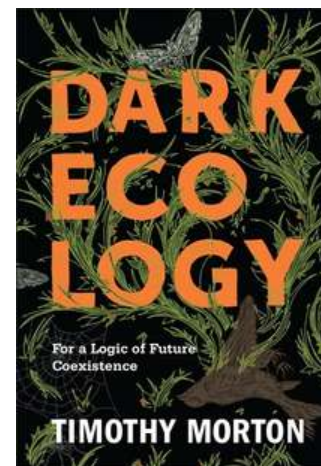
*Charles Darwin, british naturalist*

## READING OF THE MONTH

»»» **DARK ECOLOGY**

BY TIMOTHY MORTON

Timothy Morton argues that ecological awareness in the Anthropocene takes the form of a "strange loop" or Möbius strip, with a single twisted side. In *Blade Runner* (1982), Deckard faces this loop when he realizes he might be the very enemy he was sent to eliminate. Ecological phenomena mirror this loop, reflecting the fundamental structure of existence. Morton claims that the logistics of agricultural society have led to global warming and ingrained dangerous ideas about life into human thinking. Dark ecology brings us to a place of radical self-awareness, revealing our place within the biosphere and the complexity of our belonging to other species.



The ecological crisis, according to Morton, is both melancholic and negative, yet it evolves into something more playful and anarchic as we explore its loop form. His work blends philosophy, anthropology, literature, ecology, biology, and physics, aiming to reconnect us with nonhuman beings and rediscover the joy that can illuminate our strange ecological journey.

## »»» DIGITAL POLLUTION

»»» **15TH OF MARCH 2025: DIGITAL CLEANUP DAY**

While digital technology is the source of great progress, its acceleration is concerning. 3.2% of global greenhouse gas emissions are linked to Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). The impacts must be considered at every stage of a device's lifecycle (from the extraction of raw materials to the end-of-life of equipment). The massive storage of data on our digital devices contributes to reducing their lifespan, leading to the production of more and more new devices.

Digital Cleanup Day focuses on two major actions: first, **data cleaning**, and second, **giving a second life to devices**. Taking care of our digital equipment helps limit the rate of renewal, thus reducing the amount of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE). Furthermore, becoming aware of the number of files stored on our computers, smartphones, or servers helps us understand the importance of learning to sort and organize our data.

To learn more and see how to concretely reduce your digital footprint:

<https://www.digitalcleanupday.org/>

## CONTACTS - PAPACO

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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