

NEWS FROM AFRICAN PROTECTED AREAS

NAPA 198

CONSERVING NATURE IN AFRICA



THIS MONTH IN THE NAPA

ECO-GUARDS IN BURKINA FASO

P.2 **EDITO**

The testimony of Benjamin Bassono, Executive Director of AGN, Burkina Faso.

MOOC, TUTOS AND ESSENTIALS

P.3 & 4 **OUR ONLINE COURSES**

Stay up to date with all the latest from our MOOCs, Tutorials, and Essentials, and join the platform at mooc-conservation.org.

YOUTH CONSERVATION

P.5 TO 7 **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

New inspiring stories from dedicated actors committed to passing on knowledge to the younger generation, in DRC and Benin!

THIS MONTH IN THE NAPA

P.8 TO 13 **CONSERVING RHINOS**

African rhino conservation 2025–2035 - A contemporary strategic framework...



Burkina Faso's Eco-guardians: Guardians of Biodiversity and Cornerstones of Peace

Benjamin Bassono, Executive Director, AGN - Guardian Angels of Nature (Burkina Faso)

In the contrasting landscapes of Burkina Faso — rich in biodiversity yet weakened by security tensions — a discreet yet vital figure emerges: the eco-guard. Far more than a surveillance officer, the eco-guard represents a key force in community-based conservation, local security, and social cohesion.

"Les Anges Gardiens de la Nature" (AGN) — or "The Guardian Angels of Nature" — is a community-based Burkinabe NGO born from the communities, for the communities. Founded by young leaders from villages near protected areas, AGN is a response to the environmental degradation and growing insecurity they faced. These youth chose to unite in defense of their natural heritage while building a sustainable model for local development.

AGN puts communities at the heart of its mission:

- Active participation in protected area management,
- Community-based anti-poaching efforts,
- Development of sustainable income-generating activities to boost community resilience,
- Strengthening climate resilience,
- Preventing conflicts related to natural resource use.

The eco-guard is a key actor on the ground.

Trained by AGN, the young eco-guardians of Burkina Faso play a multifaceted role: surveillance, mediation, data collection, support for livestock herders and non-timber forest product (NTFP) harvesters, village outreach, and assistance with non-formal education. These activities serve as alternative learning and integration pathways for young people excluded from

the formal education system, without training or employment, offering them the chance to reclaim a dignified place in society.

They serve as a living bridge between local communities and protected areas, embodying a locally rooted, human-centered, and effective model of eco-guarding that delivers concrete results and measurable impact.

In just five years of action, AGN has proven its effectiveness:

- 2,500 eco-guardians and security forces trained in anti-poaching intervention techniques
- 1,000 km of tracks developed within the protected areas of the Pô-Nazinga-Sissili (PoNaSi) complex
- 355,000 hectares restored and protected within the PoNaSi complex

Conservation grounded in local knowledge

Far from top-down approaches, AGN develops solutions rooted in on-the-ground realities:

- Community-based ecotourism
- Processing of non-timber forest products (NTFPs)
- Ecological agriculture
- Development of green value chains (including the semi-industrial processing of cassava into attiéké, gari, tapioca, and cassava flour)
- Shared governance

These community-led environmental projects help protect ecosystems while supporting livelihoods by creating alternative sources of income and promoting the development of a circular economy — an economic model aimed at reducing resource waste through reuse, repair, recycling, and waste recovery, creating a sustainable and environmentally friendly production cycle.

Investing in peace, nature, and the future.

Supporting the eco-guardians of Burkina Faso means backing an inclusive, sustainable, and resilient African model that serves biodiversity, peace, and rural communities!

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

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.



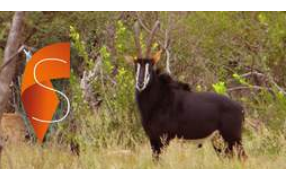
MOOC Ecological monitoring

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
SUPPORTED BY THE
FONDS FRANÇAIS POUR
L'ENVIRONNEMENT MONDIAL



PLANNED FOR JULY SINTERNSHIPS AND CEL RESULTS



MOOC CONSERVATION INTERNSHIPS

In February we launched the first recruitment phase for interns who would be going out into the field to put into practice the knowledge they had acquired through the MOOCs. After examining the applications and conducting individual interviews, a first cohort of **23 trainees** has been selected and the first of them will be leaving this month!

As a reminder, all graduates of the online Certificate in Conservation of Protected Areas who are also nationals of French-speaking Africa and Haiti are eligible. This internship component of Papaco is made possible thanks to the financial support of the French Facility for Global Environment (**FFEM**) and the academic, logistical and technical support of **Senghor University**.



RESULTS OF JUNE'S ONLINE CERTIFICATE EXAM

The final Online Certificate exams took place in June (in French and in English), and thanks to the 35 new winners, **the total number of certified students now stands at 233!**

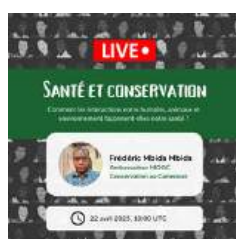
Well done to you all on your success!

YOUTUBE LIVE REPLAYS

Youtube LIVES replays are now available (FRENCH ONLY):



Human-wildlife
conflicts in
Cameroon



Health and
conservation



The status of
protected areas in
Haïti

2025 MOOC CONSERVATION CALENDAR

10 Sept.: Youtube Live

17 Sept.: Online certificate exam for French speakers

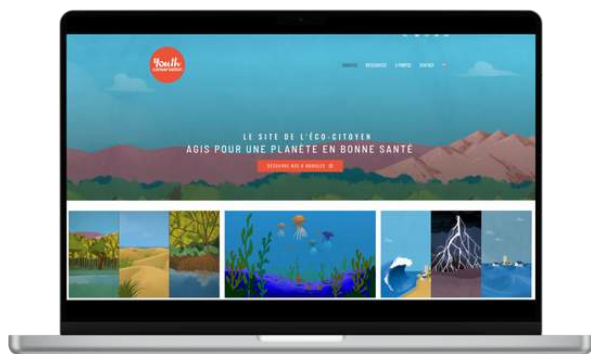
18 Sept.: Online certificate exam for English speakers

New online courses will be launched in the second half of 2025.

Keep an eye on this calendar to make sure you don't miss out!

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.

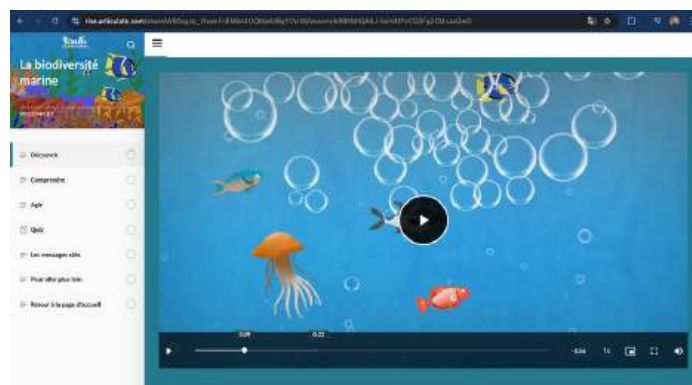
- For educators: downloadable teaching resources to facilitate learning and the running of educational sessions (posters, guides, etc.).

VISIT WWW.YOUTH-CONSERVATION.ORG !

HIGHLIGHT ON YOUTH CONSERVATION DIDACTIC COURSES!

Among the various educational and teaching resources freely available on the Youth Conservation platform are **six learning pathways**. Accessible to a wide audience thanks to their interactive and engaging approach, these six different pathways explore the major themes of conservation.

Through **motion design videos, quizzes, and tailored animations**, these modules enable young people aged 8 to 17 to learn independently about key topics such as climate change, terrestrial biodiversity, the connections between nature and human health, and more. They can be accessed on both computers and mobile phones. Educators can also use them in the classroom during awareness sessions to explore topics in an engaging way, always following the Discover / Understand / Act learning approach. A valuable resource, designed primarily for children!



***To be shared in class during your awareness sessions
and widely communicated to parents
so they can talk about it with their children!***

YOUNG GREEN HEROES: WHEN THE CHILDREN OF BUTEMBO RISE FOR THE PLANET 🌍

BY LYSA BINGO BINDU, COORDINATOR - YOUTH AMBASSADORS FOR
CLIMATE JUSTICE (DRC)



In Butembo, North Kivu (DRC), the young conservation champions are growing fast... and strong! On June 5, 2025, to mark World Environment Day, the organization Youth Ambassadors for Climate Justice (YACJ), with educational support from Youth Conservation, launched a large-scale school mobilization. **Their motto? "An eco-friendly student is a hero for tomorrow."**

Under the theme "Between Childhood and the Environment: An Alliance for Tomorrow," **over 5,000 students from three primary schools** (Tsaka Tsaka, Butembo Cité, Marter Excesia) were raised awareness about environmental issues through a fun and interactive campaign. Activities included waste management workshops, mini-lessons on fighting climate change, tree planting, and most importantly, a call to take concrete action from a young age.

The highlight of the day was the creation of three "Green School" Clubs, already counting around a hundred enthusiastic members. **The goal: to make ecological engagement a lasting movement within schools.**



The educational approach also included teachers, with 50 of them trained in education for sustainable development.

While the results are promising, challenges remain: limited logistical resources, the need for financial support to ensure the clubs' sustainability, and expanding the initiative to other schools. But the energy and enthusiasm are there. **The seeds planted today may well grow into the next generation of nature defenders.**

For YACJ and its partners, this action is part of the ongoing "Green Children" project being rolled out in Butembo, Goma, and Bukavu. **An inspiring initiative that shows Africa's protected areas can also rely on their youngest guardians.**



You can contact the NGO Youth Ambassadors for Climate Justice by email at yacjustice@gmail.com and/or through their [Facebook](#) page.

STUDENTS ROOTED IN ACTION: IN ZA-KPOTA, CHILDREN STAND UP FOR TREES (BENIN) BY SAMSON KPEHOUNKPÈ - VOLUNTEER MENTOR, YOUTH CONSERVATION

In Allohou-Kodota, within the Beninese commune of Za-Kpota, World Environment Day was celebrated belatedly but with undiminished enthusiasm. On June 6, 2025, students of the private primary school Le SUCCÈS welcomed Samson Kpehoukpè, a volunteer mentor from Youth Conservation, for a **memorable awareness session on the protection of trees and ecosystems.**

A Pedagogy Rooted in Practical Experience

The activity, organized as part of Environment Month, began with an introduction for students to the educational resources made available by Youth Conservation. The children explored the online platform, discovering simple and accessible tools to learn how to protect their environment sustainably.

The rest of the day led them to a tree-planting event — an ideal setting for a participatory learning approach. Samson Kpehoukpè facilitated an interactive discussion around a simple yet essential question:

Why protect trees?

The students' answers came quickly, revealing genuine awareness:

- "Trees bring rain."
- "They provide shade, which reduces stress at school."
- "They give us bark for herbal tea."
- "They produce fruits that are good for our health."

So many benefits listed with seriousness and conviction, echoing a wisdom deeply rooted in everyday life.

Standing Against Deforestation, Planting the Future

The mentor also raised students' awareness about deforestation threatening their community — its causes and impacts on water, climate, and biodiversity. Faced with these realities, the children expressed outrage and a firm resolve to act. Their response? A strong commitment: each will plant a tree during June and ensure its protection.

A small gesture, but a powerful symbol. Because it is through these concrete commitments, carried by youth, that the sustainable transformation of our territories is shaped.



Thank you and congratulations to our mentor for his strong commitment !

**Would you like to join the Youth Conservation mentor network?
Contact info@youth-conservation.org**

AFRICAN RHINO CONSERVATION 2025–2035

A CONTEMPORARY STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Source

From the report prepared by Dave Balfour, Sam M. Ferreira, Jamie Gaymer, Claire Lewis, Humbulani Mafumo, Keitumetse Makoma, William Mgoola, Mmadi Reuben, Jo A. Shaw, Simson Uri-Khob

A - Summary of the report

Rhinos are part of the charismatic megafauna of Africa and are valued in multiple ways by African and global stakeholders. After decades of population collapse, the numbers of black rhino (*Diceros bicornis*) reached a low of about 2,500 in the mid-1990s. Illegal killing for their horns was largely responsible for this, but habitat loss and population fragmentation also contributed to the population collapse.

Today, there are over 6,500 black rhinos in Africa. White rhinos (*Ceratotherium simum*) recovered from an all-time low nearly a century ago to become the most abundant rhino species globally in the early 21st century. The re-emergence of illegal harvesting (poaching) from 2005 onwards resulted in the total number of rhinos on the continent declining, mainly because of declines in white rhino numbers in South Africa.

This trend of annual decline ended in 2022 when the annual poaching rate in Africa for both species was contained at 2.5%. African range states reported 23,321 rhinos (6,487 black and 16,834 white rhinos) at the end of that year.



African rhino conservation 2025–2035

A contemporary strategic framework

Dave Balfour, Sam M. Ferreira, Jamie Gaymer, Claire Lewis, Humbulani Mafumo, Keitumetse Makoma, William Mgoola, Mmadi Reuben, Jo A. Shaw, Simson Uri-Khob



Over the past three decades, continental, regional and national conservation efforts have produced successive rhino conservation action plans and management plans.

The African Rhino Specialist Group often supported these plans under the auspices of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC). This framework for African rhino conservation builds upon past plans and presents fresh approaches to rhino conservation, integrating new insights with proven practices.

Rhino conservation and the contribution of rhinos to Africa's socio-ecological systems are embedded in the broader context of the history and the people of Africa. Rhinos and other umbrella species require extensive protected conserved areas if their future is to be secured and for them to remain a part of Africa's living legacy.

It is increasingly apparent that trade-offs need to be made between the needs of human development and losses in biodiversity and ecosystem services.

There is also an increasing recognition of the importance of meaningful and informed participation of people living in and next to protected areas, and of those carrying the cost of living with wildlife, in decisions concerning those areas. This assertion, associated with strong calls from Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), is framed as rights-based conservation. An analysis of the factors influencing successful rhino conservation across Africa highlights how partnerships, particularly between the state and the private sector, can play a key role in enhancing the performance of rhino populations and recovering their numbers.

Combined, the above considerations suggest that a future with less emphasis on traditional fortress-oriented or militarised conservation practices and more emphasis on consultative and participatory conservation can yield significant benefits.

The value of developing a socio-ecological perspective for future success in rhino conservation establishes the basis of a transdisciplinary approach to rhino conservation and the contribution it can make to the well-being of people. The vision of this framework thus encompasses both thriving rhinos and thriving people.

The framework recognises six strategic pillars that will be beneficial to adopt in rhino conservation:

1. **Ecological** – Ensuring implementation of all aspects of biological management.
2. **Safety and security** – Creating safe and secure areas in which rhinos and people live.
3. **Disruption of organised crime** – Suppressing illegal wildlife trade.
4. **Rhino-horn markets** – Understanding and influencing rhino-horn markets.
5. **Equity and rights** – Ensuring equity and the rights of stakeholders in relation to rhinos.
6. **Value** – Fostering diverse views of the value of rhinos in society.





Making advances on these strategic pillars requires enabling funding with flexibility; legitimate, devolved and collaborative governance, including recognition of rights and laws; and technical capacity. Guidance on approaches to achieve the strategic pillars and enabling themes takes cognisance not only of environmental principles but also of the rights of people as the basis for people-centred conservation.

This framework is an adaptive, living framework seeking to ensure that societal expectations are accommodated, particularly those of local peoples.

As part of their international responsibilities, rhino range states report the national status of rhinos on a triennial basis to the IUCN Species Survival Commission's African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG). The AfRSG consolidates the continental numbers and reports them to the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

B- Extract of chapter 6 of the report - Strategic guidance to support rhino conservation

THEME 1: Ecological - Ensuring implementation of all aspects of biological management

1) *Expand ecologically significant units of both species of rhino across the continent*

Maintaining dynamic free-ranging populations of rhino, particularly in extensive areas, is important for rhino conservation. Future rhino conservation interventions will include restoring populations and, in particular reintroducing rhinos to localities where they are currently absent. The focus is not only on their historical range but also on prioritising landscapes where rhinos are most likely to persist in 20-50 years'time. To ensure species recovery at subnational, national, regional and continental scales, biological management should continue based on pragmatic genetic approaches.

These include using well-established best practices (e. g. individual or population-level monitoring, trans-locations, or improving habitats using fire) and expanding the range of rhinos. Where the indigenous subspecies (or appropriate genetic units) have become extinct (such as the western black rhino), the ecological role of rhinos may be mimicked using other subspecies. In the case of the northern white rhino, of which only two females remain, innovative reproductive technologies may help to rescue the subspecies.



Changes in the climate and future shifts in suitable rhino habitat, together with habitat loss, may require novel solutions. Rhinos could be introduced beyond their natural range to contribute to the role that large herbivores play in enhancing ecological function and resilience. This will require stringent risk assessments and management practices to prevent unintended consequences on other species and across ecosystems. Conservationists should only undertake this if they consider that the potential conservation gains outweigh such risks.

2) *Connect dynamic fragmented populations across range states*

Connecting different areas where rhinos live, or might live, will benefit from ecological corridors. Some of these corridors could be created in transfrontier conservation areas, which could also enhance opportunities for local people to earn a living.

If this is not possible, meta-population management, guided by the social and population dynamics of rhinos, will make it possible for rhinos to persist in fragmented landscapes.

Linked to the meta-population management of free-ranging rhinos is the integration of rhinos in zoo collections, captive-breeding organisations and wild populations. Reintroducing rhinos bred in captivity, whether in Africa or beyond, into natural free-ranging conditions may restore genetic diversity, but will require the mitigation of threats to rhinos and enhancing the adaptive capacity of individual rhinos. The multiple ways in which rhinos can be owned, kept, managed and used in captivity or in the wild must also be carefully considered.

3) Mitigate biological limitations at sites

Managing the influence of ecological and social density-dependent constraints on populations is important to enable ongoing species recovery, and to maintain and enhance robust ecological dynamics. Linked to site-level management, managers can, to a limited extent, improve habitats for rhinos. This includes mitigating bush encroachment which degrades the grazing habitats of white rhinos. It is increasingly seen as helpful to consider the social dynamics of each or both species of rhinos as these dynamics may have a greater influence than is commonly believed. Further research must be done and the results should be included in management decisions.

4) Monitor trends and adapt

Monitoring rhinos under established high standards of detail using methods that are appropriate based on the vegetation type, total area, numbers of rhinos or their density will provide the information basis for decision-making and evaluation. Effective monitoring also requires robust data management to help facilitate timely reporting at national and mandated international levels.

THEME 2: Safety and security - Creating safe and secure areas in which rhinos and people live

1) Advocate for and influence inter-agency cooperation

The aim would be to increase sentences, promote prosecution-led investigations and increase judicial awareness of rhino poaching as a form of transnational organised crime.

It is important to understand the role of corruption in aiding organised crime activities and to develop approaches to build resilience and integrity within agencies. These initiatives will benefit from being integrated with regional ones such as the SADC Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching Strategy (LEAP).

2) Enhance landscape safety and security at abutting sites

Strengthening cooperation between law enforcement agencies, social development organisations and other agencies should enhance rural safety and security.

A key element is to develop or strengthen community policing practices and policing approaches by engaging with local people living in areas abutting sites where rhinos occur, or communities that share landscapes with rhinos.

3) Protect rhinos at sites

Rhino protection and law enforcement should be implemented by using new approaches that reduce militarised tactics where feasible (e.g. use policing tactics that aim to enhance regional security). Rhino site managers should seek to leave a legacy of thriving rhinos valued by all through co-developing and implementing rhino protection with the cooperation of local people. A key element is to develop, explore, test and implement alternative ways, such as community custodianships and rhino guarding, to create safe rhino habitats.

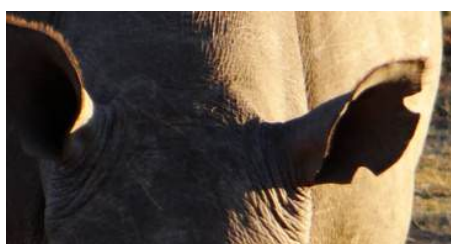
4) Monitor trends in criminality related to rhinos and adapt safety and security responses

The monitoring of criminality related to rhinos should be promoted, while robustly managing and sharing relevant data and information. Robust data management will help to facilitate timely reporting at national and mandated international levels. Support should be given to assessments and reflections on challenges and best practices linked to the curbing of poaching so that approaches can be adapted to secure rhinos and create safe areas where they live.

THEME 5: Equity and rights - Ensuring equity and the rights of stakeholders in relation to rhinos

1) Advocate for and enhance equitable governance

Active participation in decision-making by principally affected stakeholders is a key requirement for rhino conservation. This participation should empower involvement in the co-development, co-implementation and co-management of rhino conservation and the benefits and costs that may accrue at the level of local sites. Establishing or implementing processes that allow and facilitate meaningful participation in national and international contexts will require novel approaches and adaptation, such as the procedures of the Conference of the Parties to CITES and the Convention on Biodiversity.



Approaches of this nature will also help to work towards equity in the distribution of the costs of living adjacent to rhinos and the benefits that could accrue from doing so. Equity in recognition (e.g. giving different groups an equal voice) is a key element in the sphere of equitable governance.

2) Monitor social resilience links to rhinos and adapt responses

Extracting various indices that reflect the social condition and perceptions that people have should provide a better understanding of the quality of their lives and livelihoods in localities abutting protected areas where rhinos live. Sometimes, these will be community-conserved areas. Appropriately monitoring trends in these indices needs to be linked to rhino population performances. Approaches should be adapted based on timely reporting and support for the assessment and analyses of social resilience in areas linked to rhinos.

Read more:

<https://iucn.org/resources/publication/african-rhino-conservation-2025-2035>

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"When a forest disappears in Africa, it's not just the trees that fall—it's our traditions, our remedies, our memory that fade away."

— Léonidas Nzigiyimpa, Burundian ecologist, founder of the NGO 3C (Conservation and Community for Change).

READING OF THE MONTH

PLANETARY HEALTH: PROTECTING NATURE TO PROTECT OURSELVES

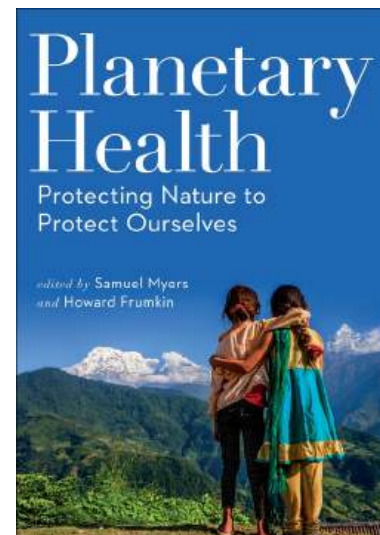
BY SAMUEL MYERS AND HOWARD FRUMKIN

This book is a major reference in the emerging field of "planetary health," an interdisciplinary area that explores how ecosystem disruptions — deforestation, biodiversity loss, climate collapse — directly impact human health.

It covers:

- The role of **protected areas in regulating epidemics** (zoonoses)
- The **importance of biodiversity for food security and nutrition**
- **Ecosystem services** essential to public health
- **Environmental justice**, especially for countries in the Global South
- **Concrete case studies from Africa, Latin America, Asia...**

Planetary Health is the ideal guide to understanding how changes in our environment affect our health, for the survival of both humanity and the planet.



IN THE NEWS

3RD UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE (UNOC-3) IN NICE — THE OUTCOME

Here are some of the major and impactful decisions for the future of the oceans following the 3rd United Nations Ocean Conference held in Nice from June 5 to 13:

- **Ratification of the High Seas Treaty**
 - 49 countries have already ratified the agreement (60 are needed for it to enter into force, expected in early 2026).
 - It will enable the creation of marine protected areas in the high seas.
- **Call for a moratorium on deep-sea mining**
 - 37 countries support a pause due to the risks to marine ecosystems.
- **Progress toward the "30×30" goal**
 - Several countries announced the creation or expansion of MPAs to reach 30% ocean protection by 2030.
- **Increased funding, but still insufficient**
 - Over USD 5 billion pledged by public and private donors.
 - Still far below the USD 175 billion per year needed.
- **Nice Action Plan and enhanced inclusion**
 - Promotion of science, involvement of youth, indigenous peoples, and coastal communities.

The UNOC-3 in Nice marked a key moment in ocean diplomacy with landmark decisions — but now these commitments must be translated into tangible and lasting actions.

CONTACTS - PAPACO

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. Hélène Magdelain, Youth Conservation focal point - info@youth-conservation.org

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

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