

## CITES Master's Course Regional Cohort: Central and East Africa



Photos: white-bellied pangolin (Frank Kohn/USFWS), forest elephants (Daphne Carlson/USFWS), timber (William Kanapaux/USFWS), African grey parrot (Peri Apea/CC), loggerhead sea turtle (Becky Skiba/USFWS)

East, Central, and West Africa are highly biodiverse regions that face threats from the illegal wildlife trade. Strengthening the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) within each country, and building enforcement coordination and cooperation between countries, is critical to ensure conservation and ecological stability in these regions. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), in partnership with the Department of the Interior's International Technical Assistance Program (DOI-ITAP), provided scholarships to 14 professionals from nine countries in Central and East Africa to complete their master's degree in the Management and Conservation of Species in Trade: The International Framework (the CITES Master's Course) through the International University of Andalucia in Spain. USFWS and DOI-ITAP coordinated with the U.S. Agency for International Development's West Africa Biodiversity and Low Emissions Development project, which supported 16 CITES Master's Course scholars from West Africa. This cohort includes one of the largest participations of African scholars in the history of the program and the scholars (below) are helping to build a cohesive regional approach to tackling threats to CITES-listed species in Africa.



### **Abdul-latif Salmin (Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania)**

Abdul-latif is the CITES Desk Officer in the Department of Forestry of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar. Abdul is the focal person for CITES-related queries on Zanzibar and holds responsibilities in ensuring that Zanzibar implements CITES effectively and efficiently. Abdul-latif is also involved with CITES compliance resolutions and decisions.



### **Aime Serge Mibambani Ndimba (Gabon)**

Serge is a Water and Forest Engineer and the Director of Wildlife Management and Hunting in the Technical Department of Gabon's CITES Management Authority. In this position, Serge deals with CITES permitting, certificates, and database monitoring. Serge works to ensure the strengthening of conservation partnerships including between Gabon's National Agency for National Parks, World Wildlife Fund, Wildlife Conservation Society, and other partners within wildlife protection.



### **Bruno Matata (Democratic Republic of the Congo)**

Bruno is a Veterinarian for the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo's CITES Scientific Authority. Bruno prepares scientific advice regarding exports of CITES-listed wildlife, such as great apes and other mammal species. Bruno previously served as the Chief Veterinarian for Kinshasa Zoo and a Consultant for ICCN in the development of four parks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



### **Carole Liliame Rolengha Mambougou Ngouadango (Gabon)**

Carole is a Research Officer in Gabon's General Directorate of Wildlife and Protected Areas (DGFAP) and is responsible for monitoring the development of CITES permits. Additionally, Carole is also responsible for projects involving wildlife management policy, legal texts, monitoring roadmaps, external relations, communications, and monitoring projects.



### **Emmanuel Vounserbo (Cameroon)**

Emmanuel is a Water, Forestry, and Hunting Engineer working for Cameroon's CITES Scientific Authority. He is a Lecturer and the Head of the Research and Documentation Office at the Garoua Wildlife College. At Garoua, Emmanuel teaches courses on wildlife legislation, botany, general ecology, bushmeat issues, and wildlife economics. Emmanuel also supervises students in the field and carries out multi-resource inventories in protected areas.



### **Faustin Nadjamngar Ato (Chad)**

Faustin is an Environmental Management Specialist with the Enforcement Authority at the General Secretariat of the CITES Management Authority. Faustin holds many responsibilities related to CITES, such as being a focal point for the Forest and Wildlife Guard of the Ministry of the Environment. Faustin actively participates in the fight against poaching, environmental degradation, and illicit trafficking of CITES-listed fauna and flora.



### **Kizito Kakule Musubao (Democratic Republic of the Congo)**

Kizito is a Veterinarian in charge of Epidemiologic Surveillance and Biomonitoring at the Congolese Institute of Nature (ICCN). Kizito also serves as the Executive Director at the non-governmental organization, Conservation and Public Health for Generations (COPHEGs). One of Kizito's responsibilities is to confiscate species protected under CITES that are victims of illegal trade, and to channel them into sanctuaries for rescue and rehabilitation.



### **Letycia Adeline Atsoumpari Ngakabi (Republic of the Congo)**

Letycia is the Head of the Litigation and Public Relations Department at the Congolese Agency for Wildlife and Protected Areas in Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo. As part of her role in protected areas law enforcement, Letycia is responsible for managing the national Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) database, which is a tool to monitor threats, direct conservation efforts, and analyze wildlife distribution.



### **Nestor Waliwa (Central African Republic)**

Nestor is the Director of Wildlife and Protected Areas of the Central African Republic's Ministry of Waters, Forests, Hunting, and Fishing, which also houses the country's CITES Management Authority. Nestor develops and implements policies for the management of wildlife and protected areas in the Central African Republic. Additionally, Nestor assists in issuing CITES permits.



### **Ngalié Maha (Cameroon)**

Ngalié is a Water and Forest Engineer and the Deputy Director of Wildlife Development and Exploitation at Cameroon's Ministry of Forests and Wildlife. Ngalié is a focal point for Cameroon's CITES Management Authority. Ngalié oversees issuing permits for the use of wildlife resources and wildlife related activities, and is involved with the conservation and ecological monitoring of Cameroon's wildlife and the integrated management of protected areas.



### **Ngwa Adeline Neh épse Ndim (Cameroon)**

Ngwa works for Cameroon's CITES Scientific Authority and is a Lecturer at the Garoua Wildlife College on a variety of topics including botany, plant ecology, animal ecology, habitat management and conservation, and plant inventories. Ngwa previously worked as the Head of the Plant Database for Garoua's Herbarium.



### **Ramla Talib Omar (Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania)**

Ramla is a Research Officer at the Zanzibar Fisheries and Marine Resources Research Institute (ZAFIRE). Ramla carries out research on CITES-listed animal species, such as teatfish species belonging to the subgenus *Holothuria fuscogilva*, *Holothurais nobilis*, and *Holothuria whitmaei*. Ramla has additional experience in preparing research proposals and conducting socio-economic research.



### **Richard Muvunyi (Rwanda)**

Richard is the Head of the Veterinary Unit and a Research and Monitoring Analyst for the Rwanda Development Board. In this role, Richard leads the wildlife veterinary unit and coordinates the implementation of research and monitoring in National Parks. Additionally, Richard serves as the national focal person for CITES Management Authority and is the national focal person for the CITES Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) Program.



### **Rigoberto Esono Anvene Ntongono (Equatorial Guinea)**

Rigoberto is a Forest Engineer in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forests, and Environment (MAGBMA) of Equatorial Guinea. Rigoberto is currently working to develop conservation activities in a scientific reserve within the network of protected areas of Equatorial Guinea.

