

MENTOR-POP (Progress on Pangolins) Fellows, 2016-2017



Tree pangolin, also known as African white-bellied pangolin. Credit: Tim Wacher / Zoological Society of London

Capacity development is a fundamental objective of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in Africa. The MENTOR Fellowship programs provide an important mechanism for achieving this objective. MENTOR programs bring together teams of emerging conservation leaders and combine rigorous academic and field-based training, mentoring, learning through experience, and project design and implementation to address major threats facing wildlife populations.

In collaboration with the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), USFWS is pleased to announce the launch of a new 15-month **MENTOR-POP (Progress on Pangolins) Fellowship program**. Based in Yaoundé, Cameroon, this program is developing a trans-disciplinary team of nine early-career Central African and Asian conservation practitioners with academic and field-based training and internships to champion the conservation of pangolins in Central Africa. All three species of pangolin in Central Africa (white-bellied tree pangolin, long-tailed tree pangolin, and giant ground pangolin) are threatened by hunting and trafficking, and have recently been listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

The Fellows work in three action groups to implement projects, as indicated below.

Field Assessment Action Group



Carla Mousset (Gabon)

Most recently, Carla was an intern at the French National Institute for Agricultural Research in Toulouse, France, where she conducted DNA sequencing and bioinformatic data analysis. Carla also worked for the Central African Biodiversity Alliance in Lopé National Park in Gabon and participated in a training course in tropical ecology. Carla is currently completing a Master's Degree in Population Biology and Ecosystems from the University of Science and Technology of Masuku in Gabon. Carla also holds a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and Earth Sciences.



Ichu Ichu Godwill (Cameroon)

Ichu served as an intern in Takamanda National Park, which is home to the critically endangered Cross River Gorilla. As part of this internship, Ichu took part in field patrols and community development activities and research. Ichu also volunteered with the Cameroon Society for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (CASSDNREP) in Buea and was President of Natural Resource and Environmental Management students at the University of Buea. Ichu holds a Master's Degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Management and a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science from the University of Buea. He is interested in a PhD on pangolins.



Jonas Kambale Nyumu (Democratic Republic of Congo)

Jonas is an Assistant Lecturer and Researcher at Tayna Center for Conservation Biology (TCCB) in Goma City in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Jonas' research interests include biodiversity conservation, sustainable bushmeat hunting and pangolin population assessments in Central Africa. Jonas holds a Master's Degree in Forestry and Biodiversity from the University of Kisangani (DRC) and a Bachelor's Degree in Science, Ecology, and Natural Resources Management from the Tayna Center for Conservation Biology (DRC).

Demand Reduction Action Group



Camille Affana (Cameroon)

Camille worked as a Junior Auditor for SIC Cacaos, Barry Callebaut's subsidiary in Cameroon. Barry Callebaut is the world's leading manufacturer of high-quality cocoa and chocolate products. Camille also worked for a palm oil company and the Union Bank of Cameroon. Camille holds a MBA in Management from the International School of Management in Paris, France and a Bachelor's Degree in Management from the University of the Western Cape in South Africa. Camille also completed a professional development seminar in Tokyo, Japan.



Esua Etokekwe Fossung (Cameroon)

Esua has over three years of experience working with international conservation organizations in Cameroon, including World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and TRAFFIC, the Wildlife Trade monitoring Network. During her work with WWF, Esua worked on a project which aimed to enhance law enforcement to combat the poaching crisis in Cameroon. While at TRAFFIC, Esua contributed to the implementation of TRAFFIC Central Africa's (TCAF) Wild animals & Trade related projects and its activities in Central Africa. Esua holds a Bachelor's Degree in Zoology from the University of Buea in Cameroon.



Linh Nguyen Ngoc Bao (Vietnam)

Linh currently serves as a campaign officer for the Demand Reduction Team of Education for Nature (ENV). ENV is Vietnam's first non-governmental organization to focus on environmental conservation and wildlife protection. In this capacity, Linh's main responsibilities are to develop and execute public awareness campaigns aimed to reduce consumption of wildlife and seek partnerships in Vietnam for wildlife protection. Previously, Linh was a project management officer at one of the largest banks in Vietnam. She holds a Bachelor's Degree from the Academy of Finance.

Legal Systems Action Group



Euphemia Ewah Fosab (Cameroon)

Euphemia is a lawyer who worked for the Asongwe Chambers in Cameroon for six years as an Intern and Legal Practitioner. In this capacity, Euphemia consulted and mentored new clients, represented and followed up with litigants, and carried out research and analysis on legal issues. In 2015, Euphemia was called to the Cameroon Bar Association. Euphemia also served as a Policy and Advocacy Consultant to TRAFFIC and as a volunteer with the Food and Environment Development Association in Yaoundé. Euphemia holds a Bachelor's Degree in English Private Law from the University of Yaoundé II - Soa.



Jerry Mbi Kirensky (Cameroon)

Jerry currently works at Cameroon's Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF). At MINFOF, he was Chief of Bureau for training for three years and was recently appointed as Regional Controller of Forestry and Wildlife. In this capacity, Jerry will control forestry and wildlife regulation applications, wildlife exploitation activities, exploitation registers, and effective payment of forestry and wildlife taxes. Jerry holds a Master's Degree in Anthropology from the University of Yaoundé I and a Master's Degree in Management of Forest Resources from CRESA Forêts Bois.



Nebaneh Samuel Neba (Cameroon)

From 2012 to 2015, Nebaneh worked as an Investigator and Legal Assistant with the Last Great Ape Organization (LAGA) in Cameroon. While working for LAGA, Nebaneh helped to identify wildlife traffickers, carry out investigative and legal missions, and follow up with wildlife trafficking cases as they moved through the justice system. Nebaneh also collaborated with other members of the EAGLE Network on the application of wildlife law enforcement throughout Central Africa. Nebaneh holds a Bachelor's Degree in English Private Law from the University of Yaoundé II - Soa.



To learn more about the USFWS MENTOR program, please see <http://www.fws.gov/international/pdf/factsheet-mentor.pdf>