

# SOCIETY FOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGY

*Africa Section*

*Report of the Section activities for 2020*

SCB Executive Office  
1133 15th St. NW  
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*SCB's Mission is to Advance the Science and Practice of Conserving  
Earth's Biological Diversity*



## Executive Summary

The Board of Directors of the SCB Africa Section presents this annual report of the Section's activities in 2020. The report serves to ensure accountability of the Section's administration, preserve institutional memory, and provide a summary of the proposed activities for 2021.

The year 2020 was filled with uncertainties due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of us lost loved ones, friends, jobs, and sources of income, but we are grateful to be alive and well, and we hope for professional development and economic recovery in the years to come.

Despite these challenges, the SCB Africa Section continues to maintain our leadership role in conservation biology in Africa and provide necessary services to our members. In the year in focus, the SCB Africa Section made landmark achievements by offering graduate student research awards to six winners across different regions of the continent. Our partnership with the editorial team of the *Conservation Science & Practice* journal yielded fruits with the release of the first virtual issue of publications of conservation related research in Africa and by African authors. We also created the Section's policy committee to oversee the review process for policy briefs and statements, and also expanded the Section's presence in social media platforms.

These achievements would not have been possible without the selfless service and unflinching support of the Section Board. We are also grateful to the staff members of the Executive Office of the Society in Washington D.C., United States; Dr. Murali Pai, the Editor-in-Chief of the *African Conservation Telegraph* newsletter; Dr. Tuyeni Mwampamba and Dr. Benis Egoh who contributed immensely to the Section's partnership with the *Conservation Science and Practice* journal; Frowin Becker, who volunteers in managing the Section's social media platforms; and the members of the Section Award Committee.

We look forward to a productive 2021, especially as the Section will be hosting the 30th International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB). We also hope to strengthen and strategically position the SCB Africa Section to significantly contribute to the conservation of African biodiversity, and enhance members' benefits. We need your contribution and expertise to accomplish these tasks without overburdening the Section Board.

**Israel Borokini**  
*President of the Board of Directors,  
SCB Africa Section*

## SCB values

### Mission

The mission of the Society for Conservation Biology is to advance the science and practice of conserving Earth's biological diversity.

### Vision

The Society for Conservation Biology envisions a world where people understand, value, and conserve the diversity of life on Earth. We envision SCB, a global community of conservation professionals, as a leading scientific voice for the study and conservation of Earth's biological diversity.

### Organizational Values

The Society for Conservation Biology holds these values:

- There is intrinsic value in the natural diversity of organisms, the complexity of ecological systems, and the resilience created by evolutionary processes.
- Human-caused extinctions and the destruction and loss of function of natural ecosystems are unacceptable.
- Maintaining and restoring biological diversity are individual and collective responsibilities of humans.
- Science is critical for understanding how the natural world operates and how human actions affect nature.
- Collaboration among scientists, managers, and policy-makers is vital to incorporate high-quality science into policies and management decisions affecting biological diversity.

## Strategic Priorities

In service to the mission, vision, and values, the SCB Strategic Plan focuses on five priorities:

1. Facilitate the creation and dissemination of conservation science.

*The highest quality scientific research and expertise needed to understand and conserve biological diversity is identified, supported and disseminated.*

2. Advance the application of conservation science to management, policy and education.

*Management, policy and education at local, national, regional, and global levels are directly informed with the highest quality science. The effectiveness of management actions is routinely and openly evaluated.*

3. Empower Sections, Committees, Working Groups & Chapters to build local, national & international capacity.

*SCB Sections, Committees, Working Groups, and Chapters grow and develop to build local, national, and international capacity worldwide for conservation of biological diversity.*

4. Build organizational capacity to maintain robust & sustainable economic & business models.

*SCB has the capacity necessary to sustain core operations and implement programmatic goals and objectives that advance our vision and mission.*

5. Enhance services to meet current & potential member needs.

*The needs of current and potential SCB members are effectively served to maximize their impact in advancing our vision and mission.*



## Strategic priority 1: Facilitate the creation and dissemination of conservation science

The Section operational plan 2019-2021 outlined programmes and activities to facilitate the creation and dissemination of conservation science by members. These programmes include creation of thematic working groups, a peer-reviewed open-access journal, completion of the Africa horizon scanning research and hosting of the 30th International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB) in 2021. At the very core of these programmes is the need to address relatively low scientific productivity in the continent.

Despite the pandemic, the Section board made historical achievements in facilitating the dissemination of conservation science. The very first special virtual issue focusing on “Emerging issues in African conservation” was published in *Conservation Science and Practice* journal. The virtual issue is a collection of published articles in the journal by African authors on African conservation, and it is one way to publicize and bring to the forefront, the conservation of African biodiversity. It also aligns with the recommendations that African challenges should be addressed by African researchers (World Bank, 2014). The virtual issue currently includes seven research articles and an editorial. The Section board is grateful to Professor Mark Schwartz, the Editor-in-Chief, who made this happen, as well as, the three handling editors – Israel Borokini, Dr. Tuyeni Mwampamba and Dr. Benis Ego – who wrote the editorial.

The momentum leading to this virtual issue was built in 2019 when the Section Board worked with the Editor-in-Chief of the journal to increase the number of African handling editors as a way of increasing the number of publications from Africa. Currently, there are eight African handling editors for *Conservation Science and Practice* journal.

*African Conservation Telegraph*, ACT, the Section’s official newsletter, continues to lead the Section’s effort to facilitate conservation research information exchange and dissemination in Africa. This year, the newsletter published three issues in its 15th volume, which were released in April, July, and October 2020. The Section board is grateful to Dr. Murali Pai and his editorial team for this feat. Dr. Pai continues his unflinching support and excellent service for this newsletter since its resuscitation seven years ago.

The Section board is heavily involved with the planning of the 30th International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB). Badru Mugerwa, the Section's President-elect, chairs the Steering Committee, while the Section President also sits on the Committee. Several past board members of the Section are also involved in the planning of the congress, including Dr. Tuyeni Mwampamba, who is the Vice Chair of the Steering Committee and Chair of the Scientific subcommittee. Many African members have also indicated interest to volunteer and serve in different operational subcommittees. The congress was originally planned for July 2021, but has now been postponed to December 2021, due to the pandemic related travel restrictions.

### **Outlook for 2021**

The planning of ICCB 2021 remains a top priority for the Section board. The board will continue to work closely with the Steering Committee and the Local Organizing Committee to ensure safe, inclusive, affordable, and successful congress that will highlight conservation research and practices in Africa. We will continue to plan towards a December 2021 meeting and cautiously follow the trends of the pandemic.

During the congress, it is hopeful that African researchers will have the opportunity to create thematic groups that will focus on cross-boundary research on specific areas like landscape ecology, invasive species, African megafauna, pollinators, and many other species-specific and ecosystem themes. These groups, under the SCB Africa Section, will be able to write proposals for grants, carry out research studies and publish their findings in scientific journals. Such academic activities will not only increase publicity on African research, but also enhance the productivity and professional development of the participants.

The horizon scanning research that started in 2016 is yet to be completed. We received over 300 responses on 12 questions focusing on conservation challenges in Africa and suggested solutions. Since the response variables are categorical (qualitative) data, it requires meticulous effort to process each survey accurately. We hope to publish the findings of this study during 2021 and share the findings with policymakers to help them address local and national biodiversity crises within their geopolitical jurisdiction.

The Section Board is also discussing the possibility of organizing an African congress for conservation biology in 2022. The last Section congress was held in 2016 in El-Jadida, Morocco. The board hopes to identify a host country and venue that will facilitate maximum participation of SCB members across Africa and beyond, and facilitate the exchange and dissemination of conservation research, and networking among members.

## **Strategic priority 2: Advance the application of conservation science to management, policy and education**

In the year in focus, the Section made another achievement with the establishment of the Section Policy Committee. This Committee is a resuscitation of the historical Section's Conservation, Policy, Education and Science Committee (COPESCO). The Section's Policy Committee comprises Dr. Abraham Ekperusi, who represents West Africa region and also chairs the Committee, Dr. Margaret Owuor, representing the East Africa region, Mr. Judicaël Fomekong, representing Central Africa, and Mr. Haytem Bouchri, representing the North African region. The Committee has developed the Section's guidelines for policy statements and briefs which has been reviewed by the SCB's Global Policy Committee and will be ratified by the Section Board. This Committee is one of the most active Committees in the Section and the team work demonstrated by the Committee is unparalleled. The Section Board is grateful to Dr. Abraham Ekperusi for his experience and dedication to this Committee.

### **Outlook for 2021**

The Section's policy guideline will be ratified by the Section board this year and circulated to all Section members. The Policy Committee will also serve to review any policy submission to the Section before publication. Following the approval of the guideline, members of the SCB Africa Section and Chapters geographically nested in the Section would be encouraged to use policy briefs and statements to raise public awareness on subnational, national, regional, and continent-wide conservation issues. Furthermore, the Committee seeks an SCB member to represent the Southern Africa region.



### **Strategic priority 3: Empower Sections, Committees, Working Groups & Chapters to build local, national & international capacity**

The year 2020 witnessed the establishment of the Zimbabwe SCB Chapter, under the leadership of Mr. Mxolisi Sibanda, and the incredible dedication and selfless support of Timothy Kuiper. Within months of establishment, the Chapter has created its professional website and intensified efforts to publicize conservation research and efforts in the region.

The Kenya SCB Chapter, under the leadership of Mr. Erick Ogallo, won the SCB's Michael Soule grant to organize conservation symposium and other local events in the country. Additionally, the Chapter underwent administrative changes that resulted in Mr. Abdullahi Ali becoming the Chapter President. SCB Africa Section, Kenyan SCB Chapter and their respective boards are grateful to Mr. Erick for his passion, zeal, and dedication to the SCB Kenya Chapter.

Madagascar SCB Chapter continues their unmatched accomplishments. In 2020, the Chapter won SCB's Michael Soule grant (US\$ 713.26) which was used to organize two workshops to sensitize university students about scientific research and biodiversity conservation. In addition, the Madagascar SCB Chapter also won an EFN reforestation grant (US\$ 14,689.00) from the WWF jointly with the Department of Forestry and Environment, University of Antananarivo, Madagascar. The grant money was used to (1) plant 10,000 trees for the restoration of the protected Tampolo forest, a coastal forest in Northeastern Madagascar, (2) sensitize local communities on reforestation and sustainable forest management, and (3) train local communities on making charcoal briquettes from recycled wood and biomass waste. Furthermore, the Chapter organized a training workshop on scientific communication in collaboration with the DP Forêts & Biodiversité and the School of Agronomy, University of Antananarivo, Madagascar. The event was organized between 14 and 18 December 2020, with 22 PhD students and early career researchers in attendance. In 2019, during the Research Fair organized by the University of Antananarivo, the SCB Madagascar Chapter won the prize for the best exhibition booth for research partnership, for which the Chapter was awarded a trophy and a check of 500,000 MGA (about US\$ 135.00).

The Nigeria SCB Chapter successfully organized its 7th annual conference virtually between 27 and 29 October, 2020. The conference themed, “Biodiversity conservation and current environmental challenges” featured 41 presentations and brought together about 200 people. Earlier in July of 2020, the Chapter also organized three webinars on “scholarly writing and publishing” delivered by Dr. Tuyeni Mwampamba, Dr. Mark Schwartz, and Dr. Lynne Baker.

The Section Board acknowledge the impact of African SCB members at the global Chapter Committee administration. Dr. Excellence Akeredolu represents the Section in the Chapters Committee, while Dr. Clare Kyasiimire coordinates the Chapters Committee’s grant awards. Clare is also spearheading the effort to create an SCB chapter in Uganda. Dr. Kevin Njabo heads the Chapter Committee and is the SCB Vice President for Membership.

#### **Outlook for 2021**

Given the major administrative changes that are being proposed for SCB, it is important to ensure a strong linkage between Sections and Chapters. Therefore, the Section board will be holding regular meetings with Chapter presidents. The goal of those meetings is to exchange information between the Section and the Chapters, help chapters become more self-reliant, organize capacity building programmes, and encourage chapters to address conservation issues in their respective countries through policy statements and grassroots activities.

We are very optimistic that new chapters will be created in 2021. We are monitoring closely and supporting ongoing efforts in Uganda and Tanzania. Also, we have not given up on the resuscitation of the South Africa SCB Chapter, as we continue to look for resident members who will volunteer to serve on the Chapter board.

#### **Strategic priority 4: Build organizational capacity to maintain robust & sustainable economic & business models**

The Section can no longer continue to depend solely on the remittance from the global SCB for financial support, but needs to become more creative in fundraising to support several missions and goals. One way to ensure financial sustainability is to

intensify publicity and marketing for the Section. In 2020, the Section revamped and revolutionized its social media platforms. The Section now boasts of a very active and robust Facebook group and page, as well as a Twitter account. These social media platforms were designed to disseminate information to members on current conservation news in Africa and opportunities for research grants and graduate education. By the end of December 2020, the Facebook page has 475 likes, 500 followers, and 830 Facebook community group members, while the Twitter page has 350 followers. Our Facebook page posts has made significant impact with an average of 135 reaches and 16 reactions per post.

As part of the marketing drive for the Section, the Board recommended a review of the Section's logo. This was implemented as a public contest with the prize of 2-year free membership to whoever wins the award, while the Section Board served as the judge of the logo submissions. Of the six submissions received, the logo design submitted by Mr. Van Shiming Wangye was judged the best. Following this, the logo was revised and is officially unveiled in the title page of this annual report. Mr. Wangye has been offered a 2-year free SCB membership, which is the prize for the best logo submission. These marketing drives and social media strides could not have been possible without the dedication of Mr. Alain Ngute and Mr. Frowin Becker, as well as the various educational posts and comments by members.

Protecting the institutional memory of the society is crucial to the development of the society because it contributes to the decision-making process of the incumbent board. This year, the Section board completed the compilation of the list of the past board members for the SCB Africa Section (see Appendix 1). The list is a working document and would be subjected to reviews and modifications from time to time. The Section Board is grateful to the SCB Executive Office and some of the past board members, particularly, Dr. Alison Ormsby, contributed to the compilation of this list.

As efforts are in top gear in planning the ICCB 2021, the Section Board unanimously voted to extend the tenure of its Education and Science Officer, Information Officer, and Member-at-large #1 until the end of 2021. This will help maintain stability within the Section board as we plan for hosting the congress. Additionally, the Section board also

appointed Frowin Becker as Member-at-large #2. Frowin brings diversity to the Section board, representing the Southern region of Africa. His appointment will be for one year, until the end of December 2021.

### **Outlook for 2021**

In 2021 and beyond, the SCB Africa Section will strategically position itself for effective fundraising to support conservation efforts in the continent. We have an ongoing effort to collaborate with the African Biodiversity Collaborative Group, as well as connect with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) who have robust international conservation programmes in Africa. We look forward to repositioning the SCB Africa Section as both a member-based and project-based organization, so that we can attract conservation funds for research in Africa. We are also striving to register the SCB Africa Section as a civil society organization with the African Development Bank, as a way to attract funds that can be used for conservation projects across Africa.

The major impediment to achieving the goals highlighted above is registering the SCB Africa Section as an independent non-governmental organization in Africa. The Section Board started addressing this in 2020 and will continue to work on this throughout 2021. We have identified three countries with the potential and favorable national policies for registering the Section and we are currently working with SCB members who are resident in these countries.

One important step towards a robust marketing programme for the Section would be an overhaul of the Section's website. The Section board plans to work on this in 2021, and we would appreciate the services of volunteers and experts who can recommend the website design and content.

### **Strategic priority 5: Enhance services to meet current & potential member needs**

SCB remains a membership-based professional society, therefore members' benefits are an important part of the Society's mission. In 2020, the Section Board continues its

enduring tradition of circulating news on research grants, funded graduate education and research and job opportunities to members, through the Gmail mailing list and the social media platforms. Furthermore, the Section continue to offer the free e-mentoring programme to interested members to get expert advice and reviews on their research proposals and manuscripts. Despite his busy schedule and commitment to the ICCB 2021 planning, Badru continues to manage the e-mentoring programme, and for which the Section Board is grateful. We are also grateful to Dr. Janette Wallis, who heads the Young Women in Conservation Biology (YWCB) group and brought their energy into the e-mentoring programme.

During 2020, the Young Women in Conservation Biology (YWCB) group members continued to receive grant, education, and job news via the Section's mailing list and also receive individual advice and mentoring from senior women in conservation.

Perhaps the most important member service we implemented in 2020 was the maiden SCB-Africa graduate student research grant programme. The Award Committee received 16 applications and awarded a grant of \$500 to each of six successful applicants, including Caroline Wanjiku, Lalarisoa Rakotoarimino (both from East Africa), Samuel Jatto (West Africa), Given Matseketsa, Zanri Strydom (both from Southern Africa), and Clinton Factheu (Central Africa). The Section Board is grateful to Dr. Adrian Shrader who chaired the Award Committee, as well as the members of the Award Committee: Dr. Fatsuma Olaleru, Dr. Joelisoa Ratsirarson, Dr. Moreangels Mbizah, Dr. Janette Wallis, and Dr. James Watuwa.

### **Outlook for 2021**

There has been a historical geographical bias in the membership of the SCB Africa Section, with very few representations from North Africa. This is also evident in the lack of successful applications from the region in the graduate student research grant. The Section Board is aware of this geographic bias in SCB Africa coverage and will strive to address it. It is hopeful that the planned ICCB 2021 will help to increase SCB presence and membership in Africa, including the Northern region. Also, the Section Board is working to organize several capacity building workshops for African members during the ICCB 2021.

This includes a proposed scientific writing workshop being planned with the Editors-in-Chief of the three SCB journals, in order to increase and improve African authorship. The YWCB hopes to expand its reach in 2021 by recruiting more members, increasing services, and sponsoring a symposium at the ICCB 2021.

The Section board hopes to revive and offer free 2-year memberships to prospective members across Africa in 2021. This gratis membership has been offered in the past and has helped to increase SCB members in Africa.

During the ICCB 2021, the Section board hopes to organize a members' business meeting during which elections will be held for the board positions whose tenure expires in December 2021.

## What can you do?

I need to stress that all Section Board members are holding these positions on purely voluntary basis. Some of them spend 4-5 hours/week on SCB-related matters. Therefore, Section Board members can use some help to reduce the workload. Members can volunteer to support the Section without necessarily serving on the Section Board. We hope we can count on you to support the Section's activities by volunteering your time and expertise in these programmes.

## **References cited**

World Bank (2014). A decade of development in sub-Saharan African science, technology, engineering and mathematics research (English). Washington, DC: World Bank Group.

<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/237371468204551128/A-decade-of-development-in-sub-Saharan-African-science-technology-engineering-and-mathematics-research>

## Appendix 1

### Past board members of the SCB Africa Section

Name	Last	Position	Term begins	Term ends
Ron	Abrams	Finance and Monitoring Officer	Jan 1, 2007	31 Dec, 2018
Michael	Aigbe Uwagbae	Board Member	Jan 1, 2015	31 Dec, 2017
Ademola	Ajagbe	Membership and Nominations Officer	Jan 1, 2007	31 Dec, 2012
Mijaso	Andriamarivololona	Board Member	Jan 1, 2008	31 Dec, 2010
Stephen	Awoyemi	President-Elect	Jan 1, 2012	31 Dec, 2014
		President	Jan 1, 2015	31 Dec, 2017
Folaranmi	Babalola	Board Member	Jan 1, 2011	31 Dec, 2013
		Membership and Nominations Officer	Jan 1, 2014	16 Dec, 2018
Phoebe	Barnard	Board Member		
Israel	Borokini	Information Officer	Apr 1, 2015	31 Dec, 2018
		President-Elect	Jan 1, 2019	Apr 30, 2019
Nuhu	Daniel	Information Officer	Jan 1, 2007	31 Dec, 2009
Delali	Dovie	President-Elect	Jan 1, 2007	31 Dec, 2009
		President	Jan 1, 2010	31 Dec, 2012
Benis N	Egoh	Information Officer	Jan 1, 2010	31 Dec, 2012
		Board Member	Jan 1, 2015	31 Dec, 2017
Paula	Kahumbu	Board Member		
Beth	Kaplin	Board Member		
Bright Boye	Kumordzi	Board Member		
Caroline K.	Lumosi	Board Member	Jan 1, 2011	31 Dec, 2013
Shedrack	Mashauri	President	Jan 1, 2007	31 Dec, 2009
Michael	Masozera	Board Member		
Badru	Mugerwa	Board Member	Jan 1, 2018	31 Dec, 2019
Philip	Muruthi	Board Member	Jan 1, 2008	31 Dec, 2010
Tuyeni	Mwampamba	Board Member	Jan 1, 2015	31 Dec, 2017
Martin	Nganje	President-Elect	May 1, 2015	31 Dec, 2018
		President	Jan 1, 2018	Apr 30, 2019
Grace	Mwaura	Education and Science Officer	Jan 1, 2012	31 Dec, 2014
Edward	Mwavu	President-Elect	Jan 1, 2010	31 Dec, 2011
		President	Jan 1, 2012	31 Dec, 2014
Mary	Ng'endo Kanui	Membership and Nominations Officer	Jan 1, 2019	31 Dec, 2019
Kevin Yana	Njabo	Board Member	Jan 1, 2011	31 Dec, 2013

Jennifer	O'Leary	Education and Science Officer	Apr 1, 2015	31 Dec, 2018
Alison	Ormsby	Education and Science Officer	Jan 1, 2007	31 Dec, 2008
Belinda	Reyers	Board Member	Jan 1, 2011	31 Dec, 2013
		Board Member	Jan 1, 2008	31 Dec, 2010
Janette	Wallis	Board Member	Jan 1, 2008	31 Dec, 2010



## Appendix 2

### Board of Directors, SCB Africa Section 2020-2021



#### **Israel Borokini**

President of the Board of Directors, SCB Africa Section

Israel is a PhD candidate at the University of Nevada, Reno and an adjunct faculty at the Truckee Meadows Community College, Reno, Nevada. He is also a fellow with the current assessment on the Sustainable Use of Wild species of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) of the United Nations. He also served on the technical expert group on invasive species management for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). His research encompasses conservation genetics, conservation biogeography, regeneration niche, invasive species, and ethnobotany.



#### **Badru Mugerwa**

President-elect, SCB Africa Section

Badru is PhD candidate at the Technical University of Berlin and Leibniz Institute of Zoo and Wildlife Research. Badru is a founder and director of a Community Based Conservation Organization working with local communities to stop poaching and other threats to wildlife in Uganda. He is also the chair of the African golden cat conservation and working group. His conservation work focuses on the interactions between people and biodiversity. The goal is to understand the threats and identify working community-based threat reduction interventions. Other research interests include ecological modeling, statistics, bush meat poaching, forest degradation, remote sensing and Geographical Information Systems.



**Margaret Awuor Owuor**  
Education and Science Officer

Dr. Margaret Owuor is a National Geographic Explorer and ecologist with a bias to marine and coastal ecosystems. Owuor lectures and heads the Department of Hydrology and Aquatic Sciences at South Eastern Kenya University. Owuor holds a Ph.D in Marine and Coastal Management from the University of Cadiz, Spain. Owuor's research work on mapping and valuation of ecosystem services has also led to her winning grants from different organization like MASMA grant by Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association, the National Geographic Early Career grant to map the flow of mangrove ecosystem services in Mtwapa Creek and National Geographic Support for Women Grant (Lyda Hill) and WWF Russell E. Train fellowship on Ocean Management to carry out her project on valuation and mapping of mangrove ecosystem services in Mida Creek using the choice experiments and the matrix approach.



**Michelle Fasona**  
Financial Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

Michelle has a Ph.D. in Natural Resources Conservation from the University of Lagos, Nigeria. Her Ph.D. research used the interactive techniques of remote sensing, geographic information system, conservation biogeography and landscape genetics for large mammals in selected forest reserves in South-West, Nigeria.



**Tahiana Ramanantoandro**  
Information Officer

Tahiana is Associate Professor and Deputy Director of the School of Agronomy (ESSA), University of Antananarivo, Madagascar. She is also a visiting Professor at the Ecole Supérieure du Bois in Nantes, France. She obtained her PhD in Process Engineering from the Ecole des Mines of Saint-Etienne, France (2005). Her research activity focuses on tropical timber identification, wood technology and forestry products valorization. Her ultimate goal is to make a significant contribution to the efficient and sustainable use of forest resources in tropical regions.



**James Watuwa**  
Membership and Nominations Officer

Dr. James Watuwa is a wildlife veterinarian and conservationist. He earned his bachelor's degree in veterinary medicine at Makerere University Uganda. He currently works as a zoo veterinarian at the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre (Entebbe-Zoo), and he is the founder and CEO of Elgon Wildlife Conservation Organization, with a mission to promote biodiversity and wildlife conservation.



### **Janette Wallis**

Member-at-large #1 & YWCB Director

Janette is a primatologist whose primary interest is chimpanzees, baboons, and other African primates. She serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the IUCN journal *African Primates* and is Co-Vice Chair of the IUCN SSC Primate Specialist Group's Africa Section. In addition, Janette is a Scientific Advisor for the Plastic Pollution Coalition and serves on the boards of Kids Saving the Rainforest and the Tonkolili Chimpanzee Project. She is the Executive Director of the Kasokwa-Kityedo Forest Project in Uganda, where her research focuses on behavioral ecology of chimpanzees and the various effects of forest fragmentation. She also has an ongoing interest in the topics of primate conservation, disease transmission, and tourism.



### **Frowin Becker**

Member-at-large #2 & EID Officer

Frowin is an early career conservation scientist from Namibia, busy completing a PhD in Conservation Biology at the Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand. Over the years, his research has focused on conservation technology and he is currently concentrating his efforts on using sound (particularly avian sound) to monitor environmental changes. Since 2016, Frowin has been working for the National Geographic Okavango Wilderness as a field technician and data scientist, helping the project collate a biodiversity baseline for the Okavango River basin.



### **Alain Ngute**

Member-at-large #3 & Student representative

Alain is a PhD candidate based at the Tropical Forests & People Research Centre, University of the Sunshine Coast, Australia. As a fully dedicated member of the long-term, pan-tropical Forest Restoration and Climate Experiment, his research investigates the relationship between liana-tree competition and tropical forest ecosystem function & recovery following disturbances under climate change. He is also long-time serving member of IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN WCPA).

*We would love to connect with or hear from you!*



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