

MENTOR-Bushmeat Fellows, 2020 - 2021



Commercial Bushmeat Market in the Republic of Congo

Credit: Nancy Gelman, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) MENTOR Program brings together teams of emerging conservation leaders and combine rigorous academic and field-based training, long-term mentoring, learning through experience, and project design and implementation to address major threats facing wildlife populations. These fellowship programmes help strengthen capacity in-country – a fundamental objective of the USFWS in Africa.

In collaboration with the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), USFWS launched MENTOR-Bushmeat in October 2020. Based in Yaoundé, Cameroon, this 18-month program is developing a trans-disciplinary team of eight early-career Central African conservation practitioners to tackle the illegal trafficking of protected species in the commercial bushmeat trade in Central Africa. The Fellows recruited from among the Central Africa Bushmeat Action Group (CABAG) organizations include:

Bioko Biodiversity Protection Program (BBPP), Equatorial Guinea:



Elpidio Buelecope Sepa

Elpidio holds a degree in Environmental Sciences from the National University of Equatorial Guinea. Since 2014, he has collaborated with BBPP. He also worked for the last two sea turtle nesting seasons as the manager in the research camps of the Scientific Reserve of the Great Caldera of Luba. Elpidio is one of the co-founders of the Youth Association for the Environment. In 2018, Elpidio obtained a grant from the Conservation Action Research Network (CARN) to study the thermal tolerance of the ants of Bioko Island with respect to the altitudinal gradient. He has experience working for the private sector, volunteering with community projects, and supervising data collection for the government's marine turtle program.



Francisco Mitogo Micha

Francisco earned degree in Environmental Sciences and recently won a CARN grant to carry out a project related to butterflies on Bioko Island. He is currently the Assistant Manager of BBPP. Francisco has participated in several courses and seminars related to the conservation of biodiversity in the Congo Basin. Previously, he worked as Fieldwork Assistant and later as Co-Manager of the Moaba Research Camp at the Gran Caldera de Luba Scientific Reserve. He spent several years organizing and carrying out environmental education and awareness activities in schools and communities on Bioko Island.

Ecotourism Organization of Lake Oguemoué (OLEO), Gabon:



Jimmy Franck Nzomba

Jimmy obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in 2011, a License in General Biology of Earth Sciences (BGST) in 2016, and a Master's degree in 2019 at the University of Sciences and Technology of Masuku (USTM). Currently, Jimmy holds the position of Environmental Education Program Assistant with OLEO where he teaches classes in primary and secondary schools in the community of Lambaréné and participates in a micro-project called "Family Garden" with the EE team.



Arsène Etsughe

Arsène attended professional computer training at the Center for Publishing and Technical Education in Libreville and also worked as a Commercial Agent at the *Pari Mutuel Urbain Gabonais*. He was Cantonal Secretary and Civil Status Agent for the Lambaréné sub-prefecture from 2015 to 2017. To pursue his interest in wildlife, Arsène was a forest guide with the Max Planck Institute investigating great ape behaviour in 2018-2019 with. Arsène is actively working to address threats to the fishery resource in the lakes where he grew up. He became President of the Efoulatchi Cooperative (Union is Strength) to conserve Lake Oguémoué.

Tshuapa–Lomami–Lualaba Conservation Landscape (TL2) and Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS), DRC:



Cyprien Kalikililo Bukasa

Cyprien has worked with TL2 and FZS since 2013.. He is an Assistant Team Leader in charge of data entry, management of personnel, and materials. In 2018, Cyprien finished his studies on fauna and flora at University of Kindu at the Faculty of Agronomic Sciences, Department of Renewable Natural Resources Management.



Depson Lokonde Ndjadi

In 2015, Depson completed his university studies at the University of Kindu. Since 2016, he has worked with TL2 and FZS as the head of the bushmeat checkpoint where they regulate the passage from Balanga East and West to the Lomami National Park, the newest national park in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Wildlife Conservation Society – Urban Bushmeat Programme, Democratic Republic of Congo & Republic of Congo



Jenny Ntshila Kasonga

Jenny is an ecologist, who obtained her Bachelor's degree at the University of Kinshasa in DRC where she is an Assistant at the Faculty of Sciences in the Department of Biology. As part of a professional internship, Jenny collected survey data on the consumption rate of bushmeat by the population of the city of Kinshasa. Currently she works with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) on the Urban Bushmeat Programme where she is a Research Assistant.



Luc Fernand Mayet Kitoko

For the past two years, as the Urban Bushmeat Programme Technical Assistant in Kinshasa (DRC) and Brazzaville (ROC), Luc trains research assistants and supervises the bushmeat data collection surveys. He was part of the WCS coordination team that launched the behaviour change campaign to reduce the consumption of bushmeat in Pointe-Noire, ROC. Prior to joining conservation, Luc worked for the Congo Mining Project, where he held the position of GIS technician, during this time he completed a short GIS training at Globalgeo in Brazil. Luc holds a Master's degree in spatial planning geography and a DEA in human and economic geography from the University Marien NGOUABI in Brazzaville, Congo.



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