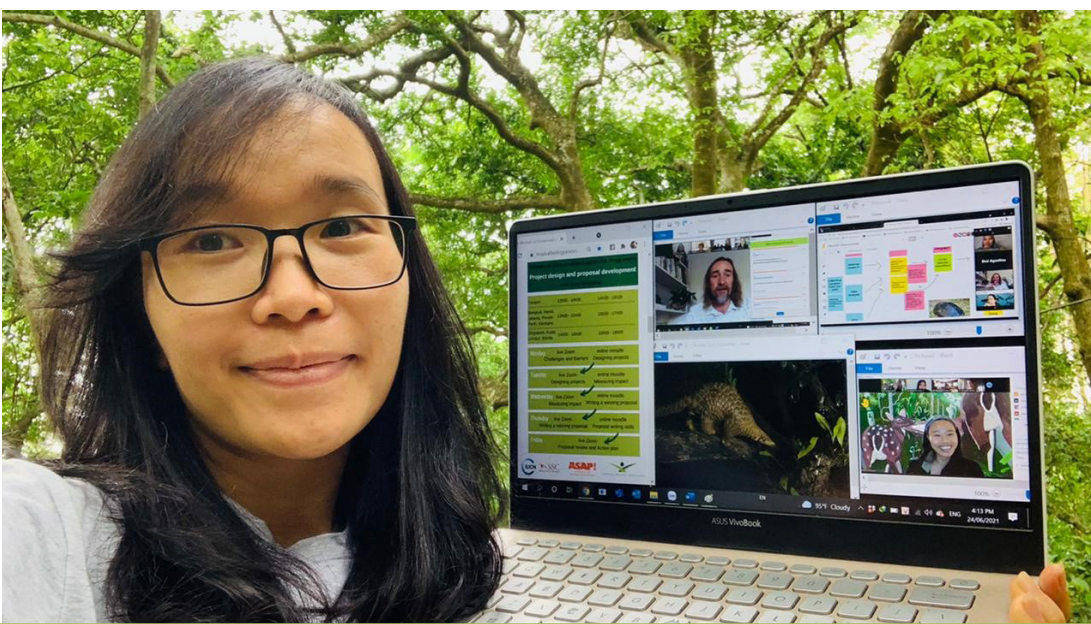




TROPICAL BIOLOGY ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL REVIEW 2022



TBA's year at a glance

The Tropical Biology Association is creating a critical mass of conservationists who have the skills and expertise to bring about a step change in their own countries; influencing management and policy, and training others. We do this through a portfolio of capacity building programmes.

Field training

47 aspiring conservationists trained on our field courses:
50% female

22 countries where the conservationists came from

Online training

300 people trained on TBA's Virtual Learning Platform

8 dynamic online courses now available

Training experts

14 Whitley Fund for Nature winners gained new skills

24 Malaysian State Forestry Department staff and their partners trained on ecosystem services

TBA alumni network

2600 alumni, **90** countries and growing strong

West Africa Women in Conservation Network launched



© Kate Davison



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PRACTICAL TRAINING IN THE FIELD



Our 2022 field course gave **24** young scientists from **19** countries practical hands-on training that will help launch their careers. A unique feature of this course is that half the participants are from countries in Africa and half from elsewhere.

We invited world-class scientists to teach on the course and share their expertise in current approaches to ecology and conservation. Six of the Kenyan teachers were TBA alumni – they told us they wanted to hand on the expertise they had gained from their own TBA courses.

“The Tropical Biology Association field course is a dream come true for upcoming African ecologists.”

Raymond Owino, Kenya

Hands-on learning

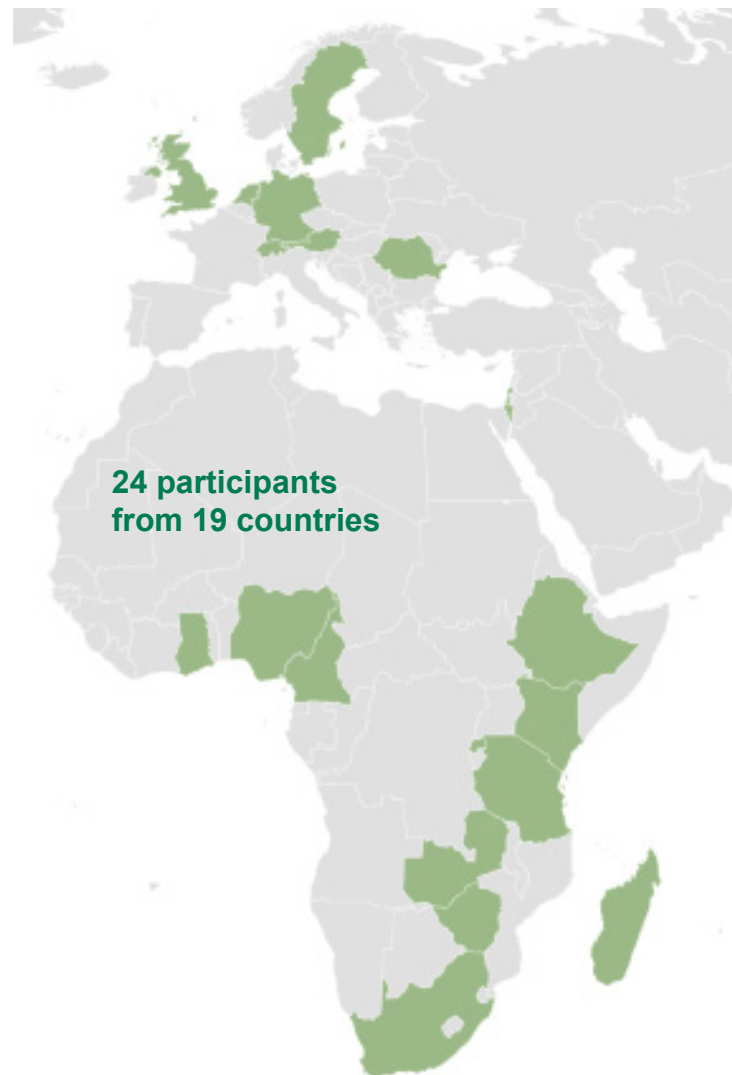
Our **multi-national** group of aspiring conservation scientists made Kenya’s Mpala Research Centre their home for a month of learning, inspiration and sharing ideas.

Students learnt about savanna ecology and its conservation, pollination and freshwater ecology. They gained new field skills and learnt about topical issues such as citizen science.

The course gave students a valuable opportunity to design and carry out their own field research projects, which our experience shows has a huge impact on their careers afterwards.

“Something very new to me was working with students from all over Europe and Africa. Each student had a different background and knowledge that was very useful for conducting the research projects. Learning together was one of the aspects of the course I enjoyed the most.”

Iris Noordermeer, Netherlands



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A new field course on project design

We developed this field course with our African partners to fill an important gap in young researchers' careers. This course focused on all the elements of a good research project, from asking questions through to how to sample, interpreting results and giving presentations.



“All I can ask is for you to keep offering this opportunity to as many people as possible because it is a life changing one.”

James Munyawera, Rwanda

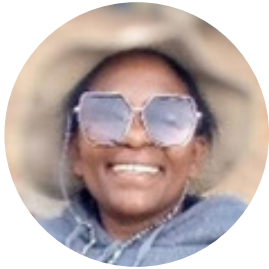


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Inspiring teachers

A key to TBA's success is our teachers. Our unique blend of experts and practitioners brings an unrivalled depth and passion to the teaching. And this year seven alumni returned to teach (6 Kenyans and 1 European).

Many thanks to them, and to the staff at Mpala Research Centre.



FLORA NAMU
Karatina University, Kenya



JEFF OLLERTON
University of Northampton,
UK



KIM MORTEGA
Museum für Naturkunde,
Germany

TBA alumni return to teach



BRENDAH NYAGUTHI
Mpala Research Centre,
Kenya



DAVID KIMITI
Grevy's Zebra Trust, Kenya



DUNCAN KIMUYU
Karatina University, Kenya



KIMANI N'DUNGU
Mpala Research Centre,
Kenya



LABAN NJOROGE
National Museums of Kenya



MARK OTIENO
University of Embu, Kenya



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EXPANDING TBA'S REACH ONLINE

Developing our virtual learning environment meant we could expand our reach and train even more conservation managers. We spent 2022 creating new online courses which integrate videos, animations, and interactive graphics based on real-world case studies. Our courses include live sessions as well as tasks that students complete and receive feedback on.



25

Online courses, workshops and masterclasses run by TBA since autumn 2020



“Honestly, I have never enjoyed an online course like this one, TBA, the modules are very informative and easy to follow.”

Joy Ishong, Nigeria, Scientific Writing course

“Through this module, I learned the necessary skills that will allow me to be able to deal with my own fundraising.”

Participant on Writing Winning Proposals course



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Online training: Africa & Melanesia

The Guinea Forests of West Africa

In West Africa 138 conservation practitioners benefitted from training and mentoring. They learnt about project development, fundraising and organisational management and leadership.

The organisations applied what they had learnt by developing new organisational strategies, fundraising plans, communications strategies and gender policies. Eight developed grant proposals which were successfully funded.

138
participants

91% of the organisations said that the skills they gained from the masterclasses are beneficial to their organisations

Bespoke training for women

TBA developed a capacity building programme for women-led conservation organisations in West Africa. Our training gave these organisations the skills and confidence to strengthen their own groups and mentor other women in their countries.

There were **26** participants from women-led organisations in **Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone**.

A lasting outcome is that the participants launched a **West Africa Women in Conservation Network** which is still active today.

Eastern Melanesian Islands

TBA's online training capability opened up opportunities for us to engage with new geographies in 2022. We ran some online masterclasses for members of NGO's in the Eastern Melanesian Islands of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.



76
conservation managers
trained

These projects were funded by Conservation International through their Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund.

SPECIALIST TRAINING

Training Whitley Fund winners: a new collaboration

The Tropical Biology Association partnered with the Whitley Fund for Nature to run an inaugural training course for their winner network development programme. The course brought together **fourteen** winners from **nine** African countries - five of whom were TBA alumni.

This lively group of conservation professionals told us they found our sessions on Developing a Theory of Change, Conservation Planning and Measuring Conservation Impacts very useful.

“What impressed me most was... the range of subjects covered, and the quality of the trainers.”

“... it was very relevant, very engaging, and full of practicals. It will help me in my work.”



Valuing Malaysia's forests

Foresters from all regions of Malaysia benefitted from TBA's capacity building during a five-day workshop in which they learnt how to use the **TESSA toolkit**. This is designed to help assess the ecosystem services offered by a site, thus facilitating better planning decisions to support both biodiversity conservation and ecosystem service delivery.

This training programme was run in partnership with the South East Asia Rainforest Research Programme.

TBA is actively involved in development of the TESSA toolkit, which is primarily aimed at conservation practitioners. This year we are launching version 3 which includes new modules on pollination, freshwater and coastal habitats.



Decolonising fieldwork

TBA took an early lead in training on decolonising field-work, developing an online course for researchers at Oxford University. This has helped shift the perspectives of **26** participants since its launch in February.

“This course has highlighted the need for active de-colonisation at all stages of scientific practice [and] the importance of ensuring an environment ... that allows for the voices, needs and opinions of all parties to be equally heard [and] valued.”

Elliot Carlton, Decolonising Fieldwork course



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TBA ALUMNI NEWS

Award winning alumni

Perpetra Akite is the winner of the **Marsh Award for Ecologists in Africa**.

Perpetra, from Makerere University, told us her TBA course was the most treasured moment of her career and that she is still in touch with her course-mates from 2006. Perpetra is now one of Uganda's leading entomologists and is training the next generations to follow in her footsteps.

The Marsh Award celebrates the significant scientific achievements of African ecologists. It is provided by the Marsh Charitable Trust and administered by the British Ecological Society.

"I was very honoured to receive the Marsh Award. I dedicate this to the next sets of ecologists and I hope this can inspire them. I am motivated to engage in a higher gear for ecological engagement. Thank you so much, you are such a great inspiration to me and TBA has been a great ground for my continued learning."



Emmanuel Amoah, an alumnus of our 2017 Tanzania field course, won a 2022 prestigious Whitley Award. These awards recognise grassroots conservationists, providing funding, training and profile. Emmanuel was given the award in recognition of his pioneering work safeguarding the last stronghold of West African slender-snouted crocodile.

"I am a proud member of the TBA alumni group and always grateful for the support and training I received."

He is the Founder and Executive Director of the Threatened Species Conservation Alliance, Ghana and is using his Whitley Award to replant 30 hectares of degraded nesting habitat to boost crocodile breeding success and train other Ghanaian conservationists to scale up his work further.

Tropical Biology Association alumni **David Kwarteng and Badru Mugerwa** were on the shortlist of 15. It is a tremendous achievement, especially as the Whitley Fund say that this year they received 71 applications of an exceptionally high standard, representing a range of conservation approaches benefitting wildlife, landscapes and people across the Global South.



Photo Edge of Existence



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TBA ALUMNI NEWS

TBA alumni at COP 27

At COP 27 in Egypt TBA alumni were representing some of the organisations that were part of our capacity building programme in the Guinea Forests of West Africa. These included members of our programme on empowering women in conservation.

Ernestine led a group called **Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch** who took part in side events on women and climate change, as well as running a series of pre-COP awareness workshops.



Macomausey: a growing network

TBA's training programmes always create lasting connections and we enjoy hearing news of the networks we have catalysed. One such network was forged after our capacity building programme in the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands that we held in 2018 (funded by CEPF). Inspired by their training, the participants set up a regional network they called Macomausey so they could build further on the skills they had gained from us in how to design conservation projects and measure impacts.

The photograph shows the network leader, **Said Ahamada** (front left), of Association Banda Bitsi, visiting our Nairobi office. Macomausey takes its name from the countries that belong to it: **Madagascar**, **Comoros**, **Mauritius** and **Seychelles**.

Three years on Macomausey is still growing and now comprises **30** conservation organisations.



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LOOKING AHEAD

Building capacity in Indo-Burma

TBA recently launched a new programme to build the capacity of conservation NGO's in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. Working with partners in each of those countries, we will use online training alongside an in-person masterclass to build skills in designing conservation projects, fundraising, communications and organisational capacity. Follow-up will further strengthen their capacity to conserve the biodiversity of their countries.

Launching careers through TBA field courses

In 2023, we will return to Kibale Forest in Uganda to run a course in partnership with Makerere University. We will also run our first field course in Guinea Bissau for conservation scientists from West Africa, Mozambique and Portugal, in partnership with Tropibio.

Looking ahead, we aim to increase the number of our flagship field courses in Africa and south-east Asia to meet the huge demand from aspiring conservation scientists. To do this, we are looking for new partners to help us launch more conservation careers where they are needed most.

Expanding our online courses

We aim to scale up the number of online courses and develop more creative and interactive materials to our dynamic virtual learning environment.

Making plans for virtual field courses

Plans for our first virtual field course have begun and we are looking for partners who can help us transform our real-world training into pioneering digital learning.

Supporting our wonderful alumni

Numbering 2600 conservation champions from 90 different countries, our alumni are our greatest asset: They form a global community of conservation scientists who are transforming our training into action and real conservation impact on the ground.



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WITH THANKS TO

Our university members who have loyally supported us over many years.

Austria: Karl-Franzens University, Institute of Zoology; Paris-Lodron University, Organismal Biology; University of Innsbruck, Faculty of Biology; University of Vienna, Center for Organismal Systems Biology

Germany: University of Koblenz-Landau, Institute of Integrated Natural Sciences

Poland: Jagiellonian University, Institute of Environmental Sciences

Portugal: Centre for Environmental Biology, University of Lisbon

Sweden: Department of Biology, Lund University

Switzerland: University of Bern, Department of Biology; University of Fribourg, Department of Biology; University of Lausanne, Department of Ecology & Evolution; ETH Zürich, Institute of Integrative Biology; University of Zurich, Institute of Evolutionary Biology and Environmental Studies

The Netherlands: University of Groningen, Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Studies; Leiden University, Institute of Biology

United Kingdom: University of Aberdeen, School of Biological Sciences; Anglia Ruskin University, Department of Life Sciences; University of Cambridge, Department of Plant Sciences; University of Cambridge, Department of Zoology; University of Nottingham, School of Life Sciences; University of Oxford, Department of Zoology; Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London



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OUR FUNDERS

We thank our generous funders without whom none of this would be possible. They are helping us have a real impact in conservation through our training activities.



Nick Waser & Mary Price





TROPICAL BIOLOGY ASSOCIATION

Investing in people for conservation

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