



SCHOOL OF GLOBAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

## The Africa Center Newsletter

Hi all! Happy Spring! We hope you all enjoyed your break and are soaking up the warm weather. Below are some of the latest things we've been attending, watching, and reading to stay up to date on social, environmental and sustainability issues in Africa.

### Graduate Student Scholars Highlight: Anahita Verahrami



***Project: the application of acoustic monitoring to understand the impacts of illegal gun hunting on populations of forest elephants in the northern Republic of the Congo***

In this month's newsletter, we're highlighting scholarship recipient Anahita Verahrami. Ana is a Masters student in the Graduate Degree Program in Ecology. Her research with Dr. Sara Bombaci focuses on using sound recordings from the rainforest to understand the impacts that illegal gun hunting is having on a population of forest elephants in the northern Republic of Congo. She hopes to use her specific skillset to train members of local communities in Central Africa so they can use these methods to monitor wildlife in the areas surrounding their homes and increase the access these communities have to their rightful lands.

***Are you interested in becoming a Graduate Student Research Scholar with the Africa Center? We are now accepting applications for Spring 2023! Deadline to apply has been extended to March 31 at 5pm. Learn more [HERE](#).***

## ATTEND

**Save the Date: Africa & Ale!**

**Towards Collaborative  
Conservation of the World's Most  
Trafficked Mammal: Protecting**

# Africa & Ale

Join us for a network and community building event to discuss issues of sustainability in Africa while tasting African style beers created by local breweries, touring the Gregory Allicar Museum's African art exhibit, and enjoying live music from the Mokomba West African Drum & Dance Ensemble.

On April 14, from 4:00-6:30pm, we will be holding our annual Africa and Ale event as a collaborative "end-of-year" celebration that honors the cultures of Africa. The event is free and open to people age 21 and over, but an RSVP is required. A \$10 cash donation is suggested to help support the Africa Center.

More information will be available on our website in the coming weeks, but mark your calendars now!

RSVP [HERE](#)

## Pangolins and Building Conservation Capacity in Takamanda National Park, Cameroon

On Friday, March 31 at 2:30pm in Johnson Hall 108, the Africa Center will be hosting Jerry Kirensky Mbi. Jerry is the Conservator (Park Warden) of Cameroon's iconic Takamanda National Park in the South West Region. His talk will focus on his efforts to protect pangolins and move towards more collaborative approaches for natural resource management in Takamanda National Park, while filling important gaps in understanding of pangolin distribution and abundance and building a constituency for collaborative conservation in the region.



## LEARN

### These start-ups are helping women while reforesting Africa

The World Economic Forum's UpLink platform has recognized 3 startup ecopreneurs who contribute to Africa's Great Green Wall tree restoration initiative with women at the forefront. The winners include: the Shea Empowerment Foundation, an NGO that aims to plant 2000 Shea trees in south west Nigeria, to help create long-term economic as well as environmental security for local communities; Baobab des Saveurs, a start-up operating in Senegal which trains local women to plant economically valuable trees like the

### Meet 10 Storytellers Supported by Africa Refocused

Africa Refocused is a space founded by National Geographic's Nature, Environment, and Wildlife Filmmakers (NEWF) group. Their goal is for African storytellers to own and drive the narrative about the need to protect the continent's natural habitats and wildlife. Since NEWF's founding in 2017, they have built a community of talented storytellers from across Africa, referred to as NEWF Fellows. To date, there are 137 Fellows from 26 countries—from Morocco to South Africa, from Nigeria to Tanzania, and beyond—who are paving

Baobab; and the Herou Alliance, a Mali-based women's cooperative which exports Moringa products to eight countries and supports over 5,000 local women producers.

Learn more [HERE](#)

the way for present and future generations to ensure that African nature and wildlife stories are increasingly told by, and prominently feature, a diverse network of African storytellers. Last month, they highlighted 10 of the NEWF fellows.

Meet them [HERE](#)

## LISTEN

### Field Notes - Tewabe Negash Kassaw



In this installment of Field Notes, we talk to PhD student Tewabe Negash Kassaw. As receiving his undergraduate and master's education at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, Tewabe came to CSU to pursue a PhD in Anthropology with a focus on the context of the extinction of Australopithecus and the origin of the genus Homo. We chat about his research questions, his prestigious position as a Baldwin Fellow with the Leakey Foundation, and goals for his future career.

Listen [HERE](#)

### Largest Kenyan solar plant but little benefit to locals

Residents in Garissa, a region northeast of Kenya, say they gave up 210 acres of their land in 2019 to make way for the largest grid-connected solar power plant in East and Central Africa. But, so far, they have seen few benefits in return. In this episode of Africa Climate Conversations in collaboration with China Dialogue, the hosts ask themselves: as Kenya aims to go 100% renewable, what balances of power should the country consider?

Listen [HERE](#)

## WATCH

### Climate and Conflict in the Horn of Africa

In the Horn of Africa, climate change is increasing food insecurity, water scarcity and resource competition, while also disrupting livelihoods and spurring migration. Nazanine Moshiri and Christophe Hodder, the UN's climate security and environmental adviser to Somalia, discuss the intersection



between climate, environment and conflict in the Horn of Africa, and what must be done to mitigate the risks of violence.

### **Weight of Water: The Story of Athanasie**

The African Conservation Voices Media Labs are a partnership between the African Wildlife Foundation and Jackson Wild to provide mentorship and skill-building to early career African conservation filmmakers. This film shows the story of Athanasie, who saw a problem in her rural Rwandan village and took charge, implementing groundbreaking change in her community in order to put kids back in school and money in people's pockets.

Watch the segment [HERE](#)



Watch the video [HERE](#)

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**Want to add something to next month's newsletter? Let us know!**

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