

## Participants to the 2nd Edition

### SOUTH AMERICA

2024

#### **Kevin Sidney Ibañez Saravia** Frankfurt Zoological Society



Perú

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Kevin is a Peruvian National, and a Tourism and Environmental Professional with a Master in Science Degree in Ecology and Environmental Management from the University of San Antonio Abad del Cusco. Kevin has been working with FZS in Peru in various capacities for more than ten years and has graduated from the Conservation Project Management Program at the University of Goethe in Frankfurt. Currently, he serves as the **Coordinator of the Bahuaja Sonene-Tambopata Landscape**, one of the most biodiverse natural areas on the planet and the landscape with the highest level of threat in Peru. In this role, Kevin is responsible for designing and implementing initiatives in the areas of biological monitoring, resource management, surveillance and control, infrastructure development and use. He also coordinates training and capacity building in close collaboration with the native Ese eja and Harakbut indigenous population, as well as the Quechua and Aymara population all of them closely associated with the Bahuaja Sonene National Park and the Tambopata National Reserve. At the strategic level, Kevin is involved in planning, proposal development, and resource mobilization for FZS in his region.

#### **Lucas Beltramino** Rewilding Argentina



Argentina

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Lucas is a biologist, sailor, diver and **coordinator of Rewilding** in **Patagonia Azul**. This is the first coastal marine project in which Rewilding Argentina is involved. Lucas coordinates projects to monitor whales, sea lions and continental fauna, restore seaweed beds and control exotic species on islands. He is in charge of the logistics of maintaining a team on islands whose access requires sailing in a zodiac boat and depend on weather conditions. Lucas also participates and coordinates field activities for monitoring petrels, penguins and cormorants together with CONICET researchers. His team is composed of biology students and volunteers. He also writes research projects and their reports, receives researchers, journalists, government authorities, members of other NGOs and donors. All this combined with his role as father of two girls.

#### **Diana Friedrich** Rewilding Argentina



Argentina

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Diana Friedrich **coordinates the parks, communities and tourism** area of Rewilding Argentina's **Patagonia Azul** project. Her main mission is to achieve the creation of a new marine park in the province of Chubut. She and her team of about 25 people work hard in the areas of tourism and communities to create the foundations and conditions necessary for the park to gain social acceptance, establish a new economy based on nature tourism, develop the necessary infrastructure within the future park so that it can be visited by the public, and promote the new tourist destination with a brand and identity.

Most of her work is political and social management, where Diana interacts with officials and technicians from the provincial government, national parks, other industrial sectors such as fishing and livestock, the mayors of several municipalities, researchers, universities and leaders of other NGOs, among others. In addition, she receives journalists, donors and other key players in the project and is exposed to many interviews in different media, to spread the importance of nature conservation through the creation of parks, rewilding and nature production in general.

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### Marianela Masat

Rewilding Argentina



Argentina

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Marianela or “Mane” works as **Rewilding Coordinator** at one of the reserves managed by RA in **Iberá National Park**. She coordinates the reintroduction of the red-and-green macaw, a species that was extinct in Argentina. Her responsibilities include planning successful releases, actively managing and monitoring the birds, communicating the project to neighboring communities, and handling the operations and logistics of the release site. In her day-to-day work, she coordinates the activities of a team composed of field technicians and volunteers with different academic backgrounds. Additionally, she must liaise with the RA team who manage the quarantine and training of the macaws, and with the veterinarians responsible for the health aspects. She also interacts with personnel from the National Parks Administration since the project's operations base is located within the Iberá National Park. And since the macaws don't recognize administrative borders, she must be able to communicate not only with other park users such as tourists and tourism service providers, but also with park neighbors, including landowners, ranchers, forestry workers, and residents of neighboring communities.

### Maximiliano Costa

Ambá Association



Uruguay

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Maximiliano Costa is **Executive Director** of Ambá in Uruguay. Ambá was created with the purpose of reconnecting people emotionally with nature and regenerating ecosystems. Uruguay has a rather poor national culture in terms of conservation, parks and even less rewilding. The country ranks 172nd in the world in terms of protected areas, and is one of the most defaunated in the Americas. Ambá was inspired by the park creation, rewilding and local development work led by the Tompkins in neighboring Argentina. Thanks to this, they are pioneers in the implementation of the Full Nature model in Uruguay. As director of Ambá, Maxi coordinates a team of more than 20 people working in two large conservation landscapes: one on the Uruguay River and network of islands (west of the country) and the other on the Atlantic coast and adjacent sierras. This project aims to establish the largest protected area in the country (400,000 ha) through the creation of departmental and private reserves. Maximiliano coordinates Amba's steering group and is responsible for establishing partnerships with national and local authorities, while managing relations with national and international donors.

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 AUSTRALIA

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## Wayne Sparrow

Australian Wildlife Conservancy



Australia

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Wayne has been in the **North East-Regional Operations Manager (ROM)** at the Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) for the past twelve months, prior to this appointment, he operated as the Pilliga Operations Manager. The NE Region has the largest geographical spread within AWC and currently comprises nine (9) AWC-owned or long-term partnership sanctuaries located within the state of Queensland and the top end of the Northern Territory. Relying on an operations staff base of 14 staff to deliver a broad range of land management activities to a combined area of 961,671 hectares.

Wayne has dedicated his career to developing skills and experience for the effective implementation of conservation programs in natural environments across a number of locations within Australia for over 20 years, including staff management for the past 15 years in rural and remote environments. Having an extensive background working in both the public and private sector, natural resource setting, and the emergency operational response domain.

## Aly Ross

Australian Wildlife Conservancy



Australia

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Aly has been a **Wildlife Ecologist** in South Australia for three years, focused on improving the conservation outcomes for reintroduced and threatened species in the region through effective monitoring, management, and research. Aly completed her PhD in 2021, investigating novel methods for tackling the problem of naiveté in native Australian species. Aly has been lucky to work with a variety of species across Australia, from crocodiles in the Kimberley to small mammals along the post-bushfire east coast of Australia. Aly is committed to finding the best path forward for species at risk of extinction, with the goal of working herself out of a job; the best future is the one where we don't even need conservationists anymore. Aly loves chatting about books, lichen, and footy.

## Issie Connell

Australian Wildlife Conservancy



Australia

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Issie is currently employed as a **Field Ecologist and a Senior Guide** with AWC, spending half her time with our science teams and the other half hosting groups across our 32 locations, showcasing AWC's work and communicating and educating others in the importance of protecting and conserving our biodiversity. Issie has been with AWC for over 11 years, in various capacities and across many of AWC's sanctuaries and partnership areas. Work programs she's been involved with include biodiversity surveys, fire and feral cat management, wildlife translocations, as well as representing AWC at various Australian and International functions. Issie is responsible for leading and supporting a variety of different teams and groups in the field such as ecologists, volunteers, Traditional Owner's, private land owners, students and visiting philanthropic donors of AWC, requiring a range of different management and leadership techniques, and lots of flexibility! Issie is originally from the UK but for years has been fascinated by and passionate about Australian wildlife, the natural world, and sharing it with others. Issie holds a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Conservation and Biology, and Honours in sea-birds and microplastics.

## Participants to the 2nd Edition

 AFRICA

2024

### Koko Bisimwa Mardoché

Frankfurt Zoological Society



Democratic Republic of Congo

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Koko Bisimwa is a Congolese with extensive experience in biodiversity conservation. Combining his academic background in computer science and communication with his field experience, Bisimwa has become a leading figure in the protection of the natural heritage of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Currently, Bisimwa is the **Technical Director** in charge of the **Lomami National Park** research and biomonitoring program for FZS. His previous experience as a field agent and IT support for the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN-PNKB) gave him first-hand experience in conservation issues in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He honed his communication and project management skills working as an IT and public affairs assistant for Banro Congo Mining.

He leads field teams in data collection through patrols and biomonitoring activities. He uses advanced GIS tools to map species distribution, locate threatened areas and track environmental changes. This information is crucial for prioritizing conservation efforts in Lomami National Park. Bisimwa guides and trains the field teams, ensuring that they can contribute to quality data collection. Koko acts as a communicator, translating complex scientific data into clear and concise reports, ensuring that research conducted in Lomami National Park informs public policy and inspires broader engagement in conservation efforts. Actively works with local authorities, communities and other partners to achieve effective and sustainable management of Lomami National Park.

### Andrew Mwakisu

Frankfurt Zoological Society



Tanzania

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Andrew is a natural resource and development economics professional with expertise in transformational leadership and management techniques. He's the FZS **Project Coordinator** in Tanzania for the Project "**Emergency and Recovery Support for Biodiversity in Tanzania**" (ERB) covering a total area of 62,783 km<sup>2</sup> of the Serengeti National Park, Nyerere National Park and Selous Game Reserve. The ERB is funded by the German Development Bank (KfW) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). ERB is an emergency project resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak that affected the operations of the national parks due to the unprecedented decrease in tourist arrivals, loss of income and, significantly affected the governmental conservation agencies (TAWA and TANAPA), causing them to interrupt critical conservation activities and investments. The project aims to ensure the continuity and resumption of key conservation activities, secure the necessary investments and ecological recovery of the Serengeti National Park.

Since 2021 he has played a crucial role in project design (preparation of project tools, logical frameworks, preparation of detailed budgets, annual plans, procurement plans and refinement of the operational procurement manual to suit donor requirements), fostered effective collaboration between partners, and provided technical support and acts as secretary to the project management team. He leads the Coordination Unit to provide day-to-day support to protected areas in activities ranging from law enforcement, ecological and wildlife health monitoring, vehicle and aircraft maintenance, radio and communications, community outreach to environmental and human social safeguards.

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## Abdulkadir Ebrahim

Frankfurt Zoological Society



Ethiopia

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Abdulkadir is the **Field Coordinator** of the Bale Ecoregion Project in the Frankfurt Zoological Society's Ethiopia program in **Bale Mountains National Park**, Ethiopia. The Bale Mountains National Park was inscribed as a World Heritage Site in September 2023. Its interconnected ecosystems range from rare Afro-alpine habitat at over 4,000 meters above sea level and descend through Ethiopia's second largest tropical rainforest to 1,500 meters above sea level. The Bale Mountains supply water to more than 30 million people living in southeastern Ethiopia, Somalia and northern Kenya.

As the field coordinator of the EU-funded Bale Ecoregion project, Abdulkadir coordinates overall project activities and works closely with line managers to monitor financial risks, develop and implement mitigation measures where necessary. The project supports both park conservation and community livelihood activities. He currently coordinates three natural resource management experts, two crop and livestock management experts, two marketing experts and two finance teams. Abdulkadir started working with the FZS Bale Mountains Conservation Project in 2007 where he has held various positions ranging from community liaison officer, district development facilitator, livelihoods and monitoring specialist, and project field coordinator.

## Primael Hartmann Tabiti

African Parks



Central African Republic

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Primael Hartmann Tabiti is a passionate conservationist who started working for African Parks in 2018 as a simple control room officer, information and database manager for the **Chinko Conservation Area**. After successfully completing the Wildlife Specialist training at the Garoua Wildlife School (Cameroon), today he assumes the position of **Research and Awareness Officer** in the Conservation Department. He manages more than 150 field agents in habitat management, ecological monitoring of wildlife, scientific research on fauna, flora and the biotic and abiotic factors that condition them, and sensitization of stakeholders whose interaction with the Chinko Conservation Area may affect its management (i.e. transhumant pastoralists, local and transboundary hunters).

## Kyle Hinde

African Parks



Zimbabwe

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Originally from Zimbabwe, Kyle pursued his education in South Africa, where he earned a Master's Degree in Conservation Biology, specialising in leopard density and ecological drivers across mixed-use landscapes. Working as **Coordinator for Conservation and Research**, Kyle spearheads the conservation and research initiatives at **Matusadona National Park**. He established the park's Biodiversity Conservation Department and oversees its IT and Technology sectors. Kyle works closely with colleagues in the Law Enforcement, Technical and Community Departments to address conservation operations or issues that may arise in these areas. Besides this role, Kyle is responsible for developing the park's high-level strategies, such as the General Management Plan. He is currently working with local government and communities to create a comprehensive Land Use Plan to ensure space for people, agriculture and wildlife in the areas surrounding the park.

## Vinic C. Kaya

African Parks



Republic of Congo

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A lawyer by training, Vinic has been working in African parks since 2021, first as an intern at **Odzala-Kokoua National Park** and then as a **special projects, funding and reporting assistant**. That position allowed Vinic to contribute to the Park Management Unit's efforts to preserve the biodiversity and natural resources of Odzala-Kokoua and the Congo Basin. As a funding and reporting assistant, Vinic is involved in the process of writing proposals to donors, monitoring the implementation of grants by relevant park staff, and overall management of donor funds. This position has also allowed Vinic to maintain an ongoing relationship and communication with various public and private stakeholders, such as central government, conservation NGOs and donor representatives, as well as coordination with park staff in the field.

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### Jean Paul Karinganire

African Parks



Rwanda

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Jean Paul or "JP" has been working at **Akagera National Park** since January 2016. He began his career as an intern at the park-operated lodge, Ruzizi Tented Lodge, and quickly rose through the ranks working in positions such as cafeteria manager and receptionist at the park's front desk. In July 2018, he was appointed **Deputy Director of Tourism and Marketing**. In this position, he manages the park's marketing and communication activities, conducts behind-the-scenes tours explaining Akagera's conservation history to tourists, accounting and reporting of tourism statistics. Involved in managing Akagera's public relations and media, digital marketing platforms such as social media, newsletter and assists in managing staff and tourism assets. He works closely with key stakeholders such as the Rwanda Development Board's Department of Tourism and Conservation, Rwanda Travel and Tourism Association and safari guide associations. Through these collaborations, he ensures seamless coordination and alignment of efforts to promote sustainable tourism practices in Akagera National Park. Between May 2022 and December 2023, JP assisted Nyungwe National Park in creating marketing and communication strategies and successfully developed a guidance document for the park's communication plan in accordance with AP's standard operating procedures.

### Theopiste Mushimire

African Parks



Rwanda

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A native Rwandan, Theopiste or "Theo" is Field Operations Manager in Nyungwe National Park, the tropical rain forest in Rwanda. She joined AP 2016 in Akagera National Park as part of the Operation Department, which is in charge of park infrastructures and supporting the other departments. In 2021 she answered a call for **Junior Field Operations and Procurement Officer** in Nyungwe. Since then, she is responsible of the infrastructures (rehabilitation of the old buildings), trails maintenance, store management, logistics and procurement in **Nyungwe National Park**. She's in charge of maintenance and construction of park infrastructures and tourism infrastructures that support the park to generate the income for being sustainable financially, and also works closely with the local community on these matters.

### Ilidio Wamusse

African Parks



Mozambique

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Ilidio works as a **tourism officer** in the **Bazaruto Archipelago National Park**. Mozambique has been Ilidio's home since he was born, and he is passionate about conserving its natural heritage. Ilidio has been working at African Parks since 2018, and before that he gained his conservation experience collaborating with Pomene National Reserve while working as a tourism technician in the Massinga District Government for several years (2009 - 2017). In 2017 he joined the Bazaruto Archipelago National Park team as a tourism officer through the World Bank project, but his contact with conservation began in 2007 when he was an intern at Limpopo National Park, part of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park. Ilidio's passion for wildlife and the landscape ensures that guests access information on rules and regulations in their interaction with nature, and leave with a deep appreciation for the beauty of the Bazaruto Archipelago National Park and the work of African Parks.

### Eric Stanislas Herman

African Parks



Benin

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Eric joined African Parks in October 2020 as Grants Manager for W-Benin National Park, then Funding and Reporting Manager for Pendjari National Park in April 2022 and now Country Representative since August 2023. He is **responsible for the legal and institutional representation of African Parks in Benin**, in close contact with local and national authorities, as well as institutional, technical and financial partners in the country, while maintaining a strategic analysis of risks that may affect collaboration with these stakeholders. He supports the Pendjari and W-Benin national parks under AP management, ensuring that operations comply with the country's legislative, policy and regulatory framework. Eric has under his direct supervision an office manager from the Cotonou office and a program assistant, while interacting extensively with both the Parks Management Unit and the Central Government and local, technical and financial partners in the country.



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 AFRICA

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## Andreaia Pawel

Orange River-Karoo Conservation Area



South Africa/Namibia  
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Andreaia's origins are from Brazil, and she grew up in England where she became a British Fencing Champion. Andreaia's fascination for primates and itch for cultural immersions took her to field experience in Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Brazil, and Kenya. Andreaia completed an MSc in Primatology & Conservation at The Durrell Institute of Conservation Ecology and then became a conservation entrepreneur. Alongside that, Andreaia's thesis on environmental education led to work in Tanzania where she directed and produced an award-winning environmental education film shown at the Sondrio Wildlife Film Festival.

Andreaia co-founded Oana Namibia and led as the CEO, one of Namibia's leading adventure tourism organizations which has now closed. Andreaia also co-founded Oana Community Foundation, a non-profit organization in Southern Namibia. Andreaia, alongside her business partner Ed, has gained experience in landscape restoration through the process of rewilding Kum Kum Reserve, one of the founding members to join ORKCA. She presently serves as **Chief Executive Officer** for ORKCA.

## Alton Tsowaseb

Orange River-Karoo Conservation Area



Namibia  
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Growing up in a conservancy in the Erongo region of north-central Namibia, Alton has always been passionate about conservation and the role that people and their communities can play in the preservation of nature. He holds a National Diploma in Natural Resource Management from the Namibian University of Science and Technology, which, coupled with his time in the mining sector, environmental education, water resource management and community conservation, has given him a wealth of experience in various aspects of conservation.

As **head of ORKCA's Community Program**, he is thrilled to sit around a campfire with community leaders to discuss the realities they face and look together for possible solutions. Key positions he has held include a conservation leadership internship program with NACSO (Namibia Association of Community-based Natural Resource Management Support Organizations), the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform in the Geohydrology Division as a hydrological technician, and Namibia Integrated Natural Resource Management as a group coordinator, supporting five communal conservancies in various aspects of natural resource management and development. His hope is that local communities will realize their potential to improve their livelihoods through conservation enterprises. Meanwhile, Alton loves to cook and play chess, and whenever he can, he takes up bird watching.

