

A photograph of two scientists, a man and a woman, in a natural setting. The man on the left is wearing a white cap and a light blue shirt, looking down at a plant specimen. The woman on the right is wearing a light-colored headscarf and a dark top, also looking at the specimen. They are both holding a branch of a plant with small green leaves. The background shows a lush green landscape with trees and a cloudy sky.

# Building conservation capacity in Africa today

TROPICAL  
BIOLOGY  
ASSOCIATION



**The TBA is building the capacity of conservationists to safeguard the biodiversity on which people depend.**

# Conservation is about people

Africa is critically short of people who can develop and direct sustainable conservation strategies that will protect the continent's unique biodiversity.

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Africa contains an immense wealth of biodiversity; a rich and vital natural resource which underpins social and economic wellbeing for people locally and globally.

Yet, biodiversity in Africa is fast diminishing, and – ironically – human activity is the main cause of loss. Throughout the continent, there is increasing pressure on ecosystems, threatening the species they contain and the benefits they provide to humankind.

Africa needs skilled conservationists to meet this challenge. In response, the TBA is providing training and support to build the capacity of biologists with the potential and the passion to become effective conservation leaders.

Capacity building is vital because it gives scientists essential skills and develops their confidence and expertise so that they are well equipped to protect the environments on which communities depend.

As the threat to Africa's biodiversity increases, the need for well-trained conservationists increases.

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TBA training has never been more important or more in demand. It is essential we address this need since a lack of training today means a lack of experts tomorrow.

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# Training: the key to building capacity

Over 200 world class experts teach on TBA courses for free because they believe in what we do.

“TBA training is different because it is so practical and effective in conveying the message that there is a whole new world of applying direct science into conservation.”

Iroro Tanshi, TBA Alumna, 2010

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## TBA FIELD COURSES

Hands on; expert-led; multicultural

Our practical, one-month courses for graduates, held in several locations, bridge the gap between theoretical university studies and field-based research and conservation. Expert teachers use the forests and savanna as outdoor classrooms to explain sustainable management strategies.

Run in collaboration with conservation organisations in Africa, the courses are unique because they bring together equal numbers of young scientists from the host region and beyond. This multicultural mix provides a dynamic forum for learning skills, sharing ideas and developing networks; all vital for successful conservation careers.

## TBA SPECIALIST SHORT COURSES

Hot topics; high impact

We are increasing the effectiveness of African conservation institutions by filling skills gaps that they have identified as urgent. Our specialist short courses are tailor-made, teaching priority topics such as measuring the benefits of ecosystems to communities, and publishing research.

Crucially, TBA short courses train trainers, enabling successive generations of conservation managers to transfer knowledge and good practice.

TBA training is strengthening the capacity of Africa's most influential conservation institutions.

# The impact of TBA training

“It’s not about the science, but how that science makes an impact.”

Sam Ivande, TBA Alumnus 2008

6 The TBA is giving conservationists in Africa the skills and knowledge they need to conserve biodiversity. These individuals are bringing about lasting change across the continent because they have the expertise to:

- identify priorities
- generate reliable data
- involve local communities in lasting solutions

“The TBA is having a substantial impact creating cadres of skilled African scientists working on important issues in conservation and sustainability”

Professor Lord May of Oxford OM AC KT FRS

A few examples of how we make a difference...

## Inspiring individuals

The TBA inspires hundreds of young scientists to become conservationists. The TBA stands out from almost any other training organisation because it is in contact with the majority of its past trainees so it can follow, and support, their conservation careers.

## Giving evidence

TBA short courses on publishing research are transforming decision-making in Africa by making valuable knowledge on biodiversity accessible, which would otherwise not be available.

## Tackling aliens

TBA specialist training for scientists in Tanzania enabled them to respond to the threat posed to the country’s unique biodiversity by invasive alien plants.



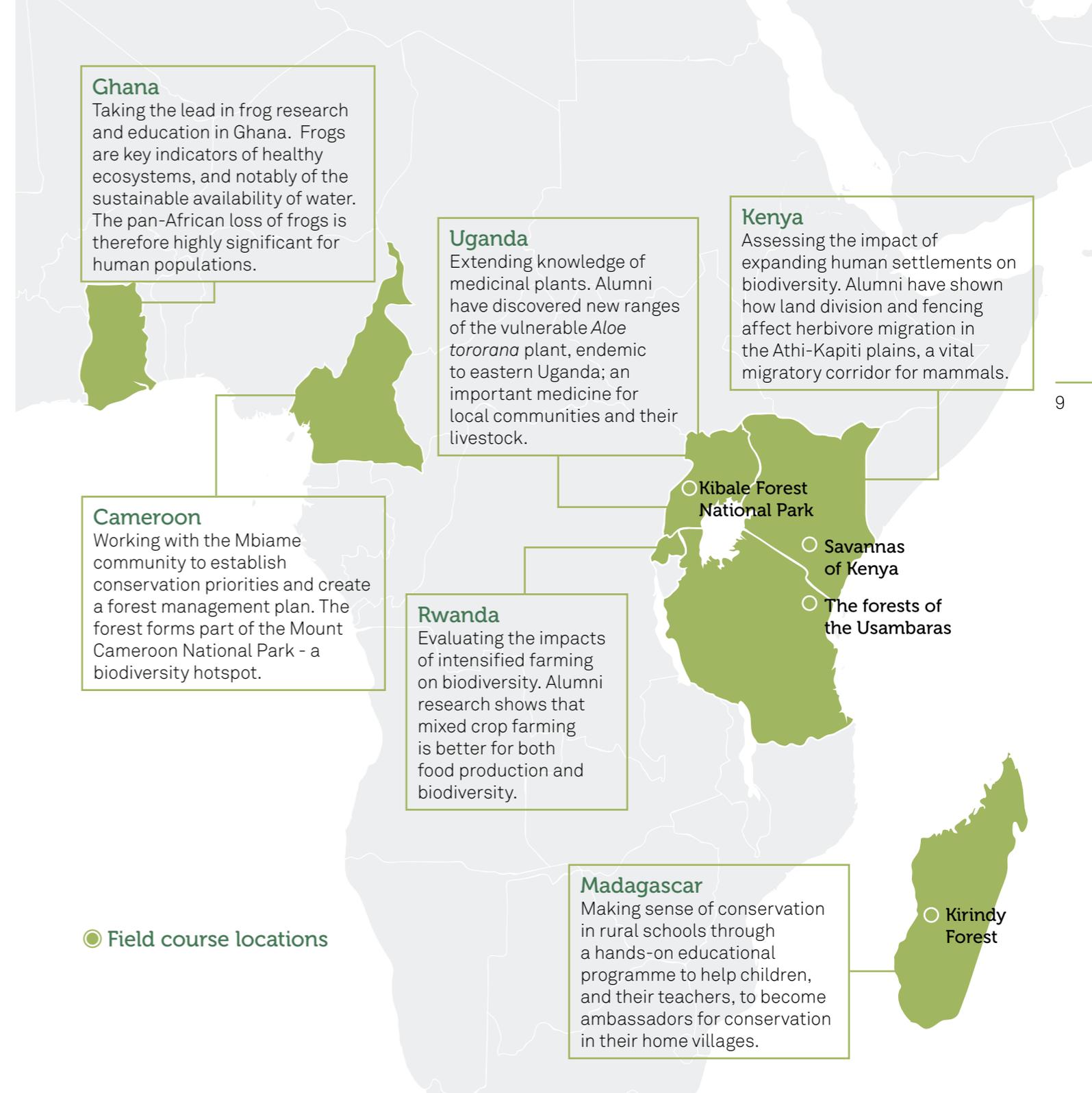
# Our alumni in action

More than 900 alumni from 30 countries in Africa – a growing community of scientists with practical, relevant skills to make an impact in conservation.

8 The TBA's African alumni groups represent our greatest legacy. Inspired by our courses, alumni have set up 14 groups throughout the continent, each meeting priority research, conservation and educational needs in their respective countries.

To serve as a voice for African conservationists in shaping future policy, our alumni launched the TBA Africa Alumni Group (TAAG). TAAG held its first African Student Conference in Nairobi in 2013. Ghana hosts the next event in 2015.

Highlighted are a handful of the 24 successful conservation projects TBA Alumni groups have carried out so far:



# Our Conservation Champions

TBA's young scientists are changing the face of conservation in Africa. They are passionate about safeguarding their countries' biodiversity for the long term. They are people like...

## 10 **Darlington Tuagben, Liberia**

Appointed in 2014 by Liberia's President to a senior management role in the country's Forestry Development Authority, responsible for conservation and sustainable development of forest resources.

"Since my first TBA course in 2009, my professional life has changed. I am now regarded as one of Liberia's foremost biodiversity and environmental conservationists.

The TBA gave me the opportunity to undertake a masters degree in Conservation Biology at Cape Town. In doing so, I researched the effect of oil spills on Liberia's coastal and marine resources and my results are now an important national reference document.

I thank the TBA for its support over the years, and am very grateful to them for building the capacity of young professionals to positively impact the globe."

## **Faith Milkah Muniale, Kenya**

Programmes Coordinator at an NGO in Kenya that works with communities to manage their environment. Her career took off following a TBA field course in 2004.

"TBA gave me an experience that shaped my career, enhancing my leadership and research capacity as well as raising my visibility among peers and seniors. Today, I am raising protégés of my own.

Since my TBA course I have been training communities in basic conservation skills. In 2013 I was awarded a fellowship by African Women in Agricultural Research and Development, and TBA helped me to find the right mentor for the programme.

TBA has always been there for me, to support my career. Because of this, I received the prestigious Kinship Fellowship 2014 on Environmental Leadership. As I continue to grow I will be glad to give back and continue building the TBA legacy. I thank TBA for its commitment to raising a new generation of conservationists who are becoming a force globally."

## **Caleb Ofori, Ghana**

Research fellow at the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana, and recipient of the prestigious international Future for Nature Award, 2014.

"The TBA field course was a critical moment in my life. It inspired me to pursue a future in research and conservation. I have never looked back. My MPhil and PhD in wildlife ecology and management were possible by a scholarship from the TBA.

It has been an exciting journey for me, resulting in the discovery of frog species new to science and a number of important peer-reviewed papers.

As the first Ghanaian specialist in amphibians and reptiles, I founded the first conservation organisation for these species in Ghana, which now has branches in Liberia and Ivory Coast. Some of the students I trained are now playing important roles in conservation and research in Ghana. I am truly grateful to all of you at TBA for the selfless mentoring and the opportunities you have given me."



# With your help

we can train and support more committed conservation leaders in Africa.

12 More than ever, Africa needs people with the skills, knowledge and influence to manage the continent's biodiversity sustainably.

With your help we can ensure there are well-qualified conservationists who can halt the disappearance of plant and animal species, and manage ecosystems sustainably for the benefit of human communities.

During the next five years, our target is to launch the conservation careers of 250 young scientists on tailor-made training courses in Africa. Together, we can build a potent force that can bring about the change that Africa conservation needs.

To find out what you can do, please contact:  
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"Africa urgently needs more conservation leaders and TBA remains a beacon of hope to realise this objective."

Stephen Awoyemi, President elect,  
Africa Section, Society for Conservation Biology

# About TBA

14 We are a small, effective non-government organisation developing the capacity of conservation scientists and institutes in Africa because we believe local solutions have a lasting impact.

The TBA works in partnership with conservation institutes and member organisations in more than 60 countries in Africa and in Europe.

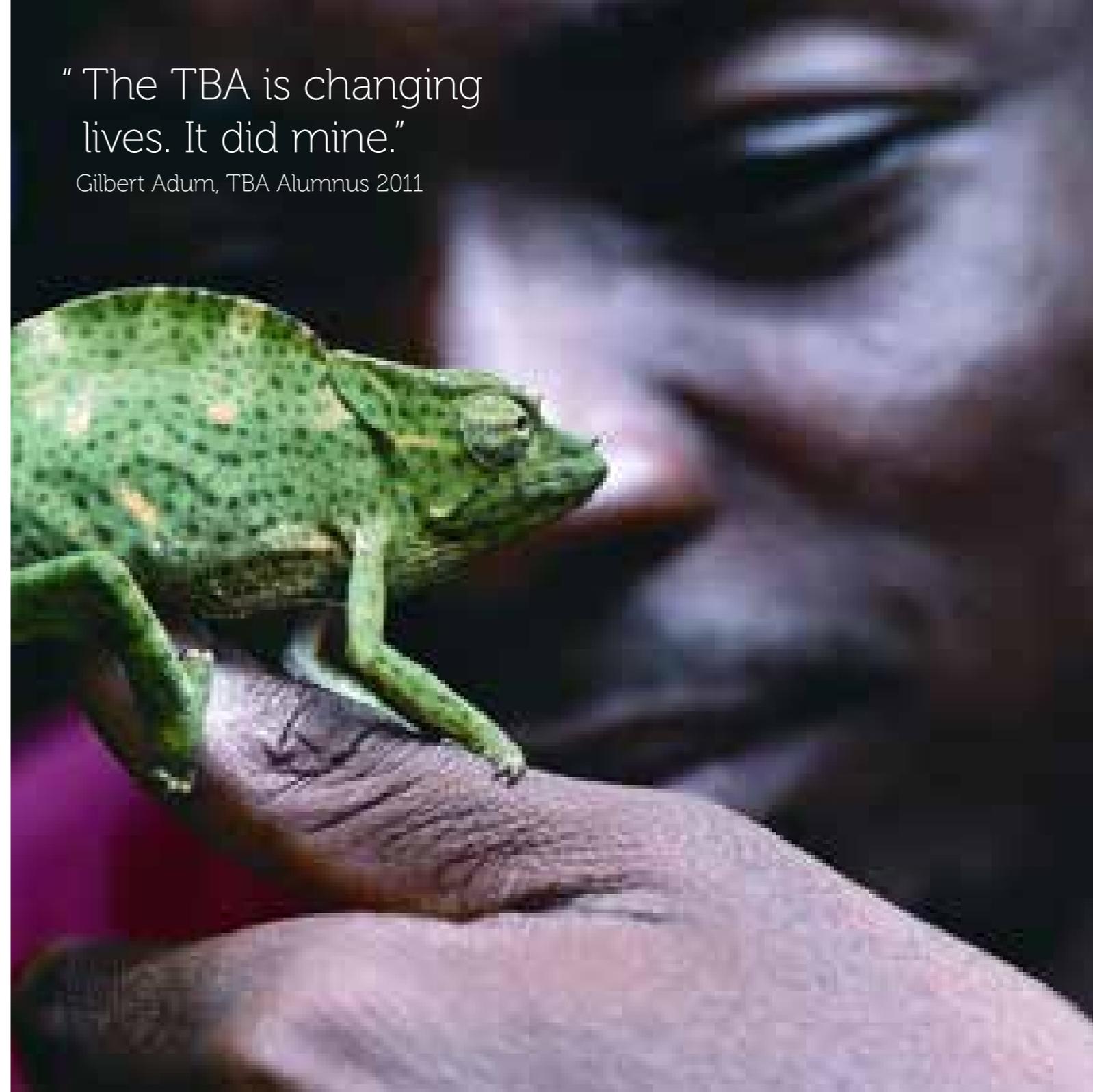
Our network includes leading universities, conservation organisations and government departments.

Founded in 1993, we are a registered charity with offices in Cambridge and Nairobi.

The TBA is a founder member of the Cambridge Conservation Initiative; a collaboration of leading biodiversity conservation organisations and the University of Cambridge. CCI seeks to transform global understanding and secure a sustainable future for all life on Earth.

“ The TBA is changing lives. It did mine.”

Gilbert Adum, TBA Alumnus 2011



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[www.tropical-biology.org](http://www.tropical-biology.org)

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