

Challenges of implementing conservation programs in Equatorial Guinea

Dr. Christian Barrientos
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Growing up in Guatemala City, Christian Barrientos knew from early on that he would pursue a career in biology and work towards conserving biodiversity. Christian completed his undergraduate degree from University of San Carlos and after working to improve his English he made the decision to obtain his graduate degrees at University of Florida. His PhD research focused on life history variation and artisanal fishery of Giant Cichlids in Guatemala. Since 2014, Christian has been the director of the Coastal Resource Management Program for the Wildlife Conservation Society in Equatorial Guinea, a country in West Africa. The program works to conserve important ecosystems that shelter most of the wildlife in the country. At WCS-Equatorial Guinea office, Christian is in charge of day-to-day operations, overseeing research and management activities. His work involves strengthening local governmental entities to improve their management capabilities. He works closely with INDEFOR-AP (the Instituto Nacional de Desarrollo Forestal y Areas Protegidas), the national protected areas authority for the country, to enhance their role within the country to manage protected areas. About 18% of Equatorial Guinea is in protected areas, but like in many other countries, there is limited resources and capacity for management and enforcement.



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