

Dear Colleague,

We are pleased to share with you the latest news and blogs from the Sentinel project website. To find out more, visit [www.sentinel-gcrf.org](http://www.sentinel-gcrf.org) or click on the links below.

## **Sentinel subscriber survey: Extended to 30 September**

Thank you to everybody who responded to our survey in the June newsletter. If you haven't yet completed it, we would still love to hear from you. It really does take only a couple of minutes! [Take the survey here.](#)



Blog

## [Sharing experiences on reconnaissance survey implementation in Zambia](#)

Petan Hamazakaza

The Sentinel Zambia reconnaissance survey was implemented from 15 August to 28 September 2019 in the Kazungula, Katete, Kaoma, Kapiri Mposhi and Zambezi districts of Zambia. The survey's aim was to understand agricultural expansion and its impacts on natural resources and the environment.

Petan Hamazakaza is an agriculture and socioeconomics specialist, and is undertaking a PhD under the RUFORUM programme at Copperbelt University. This blog shares Petan's personal experiences and what he learnt during the survey's implementation.



Blog

## [Truly transformative change is key to combating the biodiversity crisis](#)

Phil Franks

Transformative change is widely accepted as essential for tackling the twin crises of biodiversity loss and the climate emergency. But, even though discussions on the Convention for Biological Diversity's post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework – a 10-year plan for halting the rapid loss of the world's biodiversity – frequently refer to its importance, the term transformative change is conspicuously absent from the current draft. And discussions have not yet taken COVID-19 into account.

In this blog for IIED, Phil Franks discusses how we can move from rhetoric to truly transformative change by analysing trade-offs more seriously, and challenging some assumptions that have long been overlooked.



Blog

## [Shining the spotlight on Ghana's RUFORUM PhD candidates](#)

Delali Kumapley

When the Sentinel project began in 2017 it put out a call for proposals from PhD candidates through its partner, The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM). Successful candidates would be offered a US\$7500 research grant over four years to carry out their PhD research in line with the Sentinel project's areas of study.

This blog introduces two of the successful students studying at the University of Ghana, Seyram Loh and Jacqueline Baidoo, and shares some of their experiences of the RUFORUM programme.

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**Sentinel** is an interdisciplinary research project seeking to address the challenge of achieving ‘zero hunger’ in sub-Saharan Africa, while at the same time reducing inequalities and conserving ecosystems.



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