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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Marlous van den Akker was born in Gouda in 1983. Between 1996 and 2002 she attended the Coenecoop College Waddinxveen where she finished her secondary education (VWO). In the two years that followed Marlous had different jobs, travelled through South Africa for three months where she developed an interest in wildlife conservation, and obtained a first-year diploma in animal management at Hogeschool Van Hall Larenstein in Leeuwarden. In 2004, Marlous began her studies at the Institute of Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology at Leiden University. After finishing a thesis that discussed the political implications of nature conservation in Sub-Saharan Africa she obtained her Bachelor's degree in 2008. In early 2009, Marlous carried out fieldwork in the region around Narena, southwestern Mali. Subsequently, she wrote a thesis that dealt with conflicts between groups of pastoralists and peasants, which earned her a Master's degree. In 2010, the Leiden Global Interactions Research Profile selected her as one of four PhD candidates working on the larger themes of heritage and migration, and sponsored her PhD position for which Marlous conducted fieldwork in Kenya in January 2011, from July to December 2011, and from April to September 2012. Currently, she lectures at the Institute of Cultural Anthropology and Development Sociology at Leiden University.