



Effective governance of natural resources and poverty reduction

2014 Annual report



CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICA PROGRAMME (PACO)

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADB: African Development Bank	LCBC: Lake Chad Basin Commission
AFD: French Development Agency	MINEPDED: Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la Nature et Développement Durable
AGEREF/CL: Inter village Association for the Management of Natural Resources and Fauna of Comoé-Léraba	MINFOF: Ministère des Forêts et de la Faune
APV/FLEGT: Voluntary Partnership Agreement for the implementation of regulations on forests, governance and trading wood and its by-products	MOLOA: West African Coastal Area Observation Mission
BIOPAMA: Programme for Biodiversity and the management of protected areas	MPA: Marine Protected Areas
BRICKS: Building Resilience, Innovation, Communication and Knowledge Services	NBA: Niger Basin Authority
BSB: Complexe Binational Sena Oura-Bouba Ndjidda	NCU: National Coordination of Basin Users
CARPE: Central Africa Regional Programme for Environment	NGO: Non Governmental Organization
CBD: Convention on Biological Diversity	NORAD: Norway Agency for Development Cooperation
CBFP: Congo Basin Forest Partnership	NTFP: Non Timber Forest Product
AFS: Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security	OFAC: Observatory of Central Africa Forests
CEC: Commission on Education and communication	PA: Protected Area
CED: Center for Environment and Development	PACO: West and Central Africa Programme
CEFDHAC: Conference on Dense and Humid Forests Ecosystems of Central Africa	PAGE: Partnership for Environmental Governance in West Africa
CEPF: Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund	PAP: Populations Affected by the Project
CILSS: Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel	PAPE: Programme d'Appui aux Parcs de l'Entente
CNU: Coordination Nationale des Usagers (National Coordination of Users)	PAPECALF: COMIFAC Action Plan to reinforce the implementation of national laws on wildlife
COMIFAC: Central African Forest Commission	PARCC: Protected Areas Resilience to Climate Change
COP: Conference of Parties	PES: Payment for Environment Services
CREMACO: Regional Committee of IUCN Members in West and Central Africa	PHEIC: Public Health Emergency of International Concern
CSO: Civil Society Organization	PRCM: Partnership for Regional Programme for the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Zone
CSRFP: Fisheries sub-regional Commission	PREAO: Water Resources Policy in West Africa
DANIDA: Danish International Development Agency	RAID: Regional Association for Irrigation and Drainage in West Africa
DIC: Unité de Développement Institutionnel et de la communication	RAMPAO: Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas of West Africa
DRC: Democratic Republic of Congo	RAPAC: Network of Protected Areas of Central Africa
ECA: Economic Commission for Africa	RAPIWRM: Regional Action Plan for the Integrated Water Resources Management
ECOCAS: Economic Community of Central African States	RECEAC: Central Africa Network of Environment Communicators
ECOFAC: Central Africa Forests Ecosystems	REDD+: Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation while providing environmental and social benefits
ECOWAS: Economic Community of West African States	REPALAC: Indigenous and Local Populations' Network for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa
EIE: Environmental and Social Impact Study	RERAO: Network of West African Radios for Environment
EoH: Enhancing our Heritage	RONGEAD: European Non-government Network on Agric-food, Trade, Environment and Development
EPIC: Ecosystems Project for the protection of Infrastructures and Communities	RRI: Resources and Rights Initiative
ESARO: IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office	SAWAP: Sahel and West Africa Programme in support of the Great Green Wall Initiative
EU: European Union	SIDA: Swedish International Development Agency
FAO: Food and agriculture Organization	SMART: Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool
FEVAC: Funds for green economy in Central Africa	SNV: Netherlands Voluntary Service
FFEM: French Funds for Global Environment	SODAGRI: Société de Développement Agricole et Industriel
FGECA: Funds for Green Economy in Central Africa	SSC: Species Safeguard Commission
FISCAP: Fiscalização e Controlo Das Actividas de Pesca (Surveillance and Control of Fishery Activities)	SSO: Sahel and Sahara Observatory
GEF: Global Environment Fund	TNS: Tri-national de la Sangha
GFCCP: Global Forest and Climate Change Programme	TOP-SECAC: Toolkit for the Planning and the Monitoring & Evaluation of Capacities of Resilience to Climate Change
GIS: Geographical Information System	UEMOA: West African Economic and Monetary Union
GPS: Global Positioning System	UNCCD: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
GSBA: Globally Significant Biodiversity Area	UNDP: United Nations Development Programme
GWJ: Global Water Initiative	UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
GWP/WA: Global Water Partnership / West Africa	USFS: United States Forest Service
HCDNV: High Commission for the Development of Niger Valley	VBA: Volta Basin Authority
HGBF: Howard G. Buffet Foundation	WAP: Parcs W, Arly and Pendjari
IBAP: Institute of Biodiversity and Protected Areas	WAPO: Parcs W, Arly, Pendjari and Oti Kéran Mandouri
ICRISAT: International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics	WB: World Bank
IFDD: Institut de la Francophonie pour le développement durable	WHO: World Health Organization
IGA: Income Generating Activities	WRCC: Water Resources Coordination Centre
IGTL: Local Territorial Management Organ	WWF: World Wildlife Fund
IIED: International Institute for Environment and Development	WWF: World Wildlife Funds
ILC: International Land Coalition	ZSL: Zoological Society of London
IUU: illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing	
IRD: Institut de Recherche pour le Développement (Research Institute for Development)	
IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature	
IWRM: Integrated Water Resources Management	



Panorama Tinkisso, Republic of Guinea

Our vision

A World that values and conserves nature

Our mission

To influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable

FOREWORD

The socio-political context of countries like Mali, Guinea Bissau and Guinea clearly improved in comparison to last year. Yet, insecurity still remains a major concern in several countries because of civil war (Central African Republic), terrorist groups such as Boko Haram (mostly Nigeria and Cameroon), jihadists threats (Mali) and also, contested political perspectives as it was the case in Burkina Faso, which developed into a mass insurgency.

Besides, the Ebola virus epidemics which mostly prevailed in Guinea, in Sierra Leone, and in Liberia and affected to a lesser extent four other countries, (Nigeria, Mali, DRC, Senegal), disrupted the overall activities in the concerned countries. Nevertheless, the latest figures published by the World Health Organization (WHO) indicated that the epidemics regressed to a reflux phase.

In spite of that difficult background, environment remained a major element of governments' agenda in West and Central Africa. This could be observed through the number and the diversity of meetings on the planned management of shared landscapes and the protection of emblematic species such as elephants. These included the finalization and validation of the new convergence plan of the Commission on Forests of Central Africa (COMIFAC) that came up with orientations, priorities and strategies for the sustainable management of the Congo Basin natural resources for the next 10 years. Also, a ministerial meeting hosted at N'djamena adopted the regional action plan for IWRM (RAPIWRM). Besides, at Kinshasa in October 2014 the Conference of the ECCAS ministers in charge of Economy and Finance deliberated on the Funds for Green Economy in Central Africa (FGECA) and the structural transformation of Economy; conclusions of that meeting were validated by the Council of ministers of ECCAS, in N'Djamena on 21st and 22nd November 2014.

At international level, an outstanding event was the 6th World Parks Congress held in Sydney, Australia. About 900 delegates from Africa, including 350 from 22 countries of West and Central Africa participated at that Congress, supported by many political personalities like Gabon President, Ali Bongo.

Although insecurity and the Ebola virus disease disturbed or stopped some of our activities (Guinea, Mali, North Cameroon), the richness of the regional and international environmental agenda rather presented opportunities for advocacy, political influence, identification of new initiatives and new partnerships for IUCN-PACO.

This report presents the most significant progress in all the action areas of IUCN in West and Central Africa.



Aimé J. Nianogo,
Regional Director
IUCN-PACO

¹ Ebola is a rare viral disease, very severe and very contagious that affects human beings and other primates.

1

PROGRAMME

1.1 OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES OF SIGNIFICANT IMPORTANCE

1.1.1 Conserving and valuing Biodiversity

In this area IUCN contributed through several types of actions.

■ *Generating knowledge on biodiversity*

- Major annual results of the regional programme in generating knowledge were the completion of the process of evaluation of the status of conservation of Burkina Faso fresh water fishes on the basis of IUCN Red List, coupled with the development of a data base on water resources and fishery resources of that country, and the creation of a team of national trained experts.

This process, which started in 2012 led to organizing a workshop for the validation of results and a national symposium to share research results on fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems. This was an outcome of consultation between the Universities of Boku (Austria) and Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), the Species Safeguard Commission (SSC), IUCN Secretariat and the Burkina Faso State, Member of IUCN. Out of 148 species of freshwater fishes 24.6% were classified "In Critical Danger", 8.4% "Endangered"; 22.5 % were

qualified "Vulnerable"; 3.5% are substantially threatened and 28.8% are of minor concern.

- Interesting works were also conducted on fishes in **Guinea Bissau** with the identification of present species and the monitoring of their status; besides, works were done on the biology of the various species that were captured, with a view to defining regulations for sustainable fishing in the Cacheu, Buba and Cacine Rivers. IUCN also supported the implementation of specific studies on some aquatic species (hippopotamus, elephant sharks, turtles, manatees) and the creation of data bases.
- **In Mauritania**, the programme supported improvement of knowledge on mullet, atlantics croaker and blue fish, and also on the statistics of fishery, and in socio-economy (employment, profitability, annuity...).



Mullets



Green turtle

- **In Cameroon**, national institutions conducted inventory works on wild life and woody flora in the Waza National Park with support from IUCN. These results aim at promoting ecological monitoring and henceforth, an adequate management of habitats and species.
- With a view to supporting efforts for the promotion of irrigation agriculture, in the framework of the Global Water Initiative (GWI), IUCN conducted an economic evaluation of the agriculture component of the Bagré dam in **Burkina Faso**. That evaluation is in line with the guidelines for the development of sustainable water infrastructures in West Africa adopted by ECOWAS in 2011. Axe 4 of these guidelines, recommends the States to “assess and optimize major dams in West Africa”. In that same vein, an economic assessment of the Niandouba dam in Senegal was conducted.
- In consultation with the IUCN East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO), PACO conducted a study on the general condition of pastoral resources of the East Region of Burkina Faso; this aimed at generating economic information that would enable more efficient decision takings for the promotion of the country’s pastoral resources. The results of the study were supplemented by a situation analysis of the political and institutional framework of pastoral systems development, and an evaluation of about fifteen good practices of pastoral resources management for animal husbandry actors, in the form of a documented index.



Protected areas managers capacity building workshop, 13-14 October 2014, Brazzaville, Republic of Congo

- As side event at the 14th meeting of the Congo Basin Forests Partnership (CBFP), IUCN, the network of Protected Areas of Central Africa (RAPAC), the Observatory of Forests of Central Africa (OFAC), and some other partners launched the Regional observatory for biodiversity and protected areas in Central Africa. About sixty park managers, representatives of national and regional services in charge of protected areas, nature conservation NGOs, research and training centers, and partners for nature conservation and development, came to agreement on the roles and functions of the Observatory, the modalities for data sharing and communication strategy. They also improved their capacities regarding the use of tools for data collection and for data processing. The promotion of the Observatory for biodiversity and protected areas is in the framework of the Programme for biodiversity and protected areas (BIOPAMA), and will be coordinated by OFAC, with the technical and institutional support of RAPAC.



Launch workshop of Central Africa protected areas and biodiversity observatory



Coastline of the Meio Island in Guinea Bissau

■ Production of planning and management tools

Besides the first version of the Red List of fresh water fishes of Burkina Faso, several tools were developed:

- As a follow up to a research project that examined 64 micro-projects on alternatives to bush meat in Central Africa, a technical note and a position statement were formulated with respect to improving projects' efficiency regarding alternative livelihood products that would foster a reduction of the consumption of bush meat of illegal origin. This was followed in 2015 by a publication, entitled "*Learning out lessons: A review of alternative livelihood projects in Central Africa*".
- Thanks to the financial support and a partnership with the Executive Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, IUCN and Members such as the Naforé NGO supported the Mauritanian Government to develop a mapping of major humid zones and a national strategy for the conservation of these zones.
- Promoting systems for the sustainable management of biodiversity and forest ecosystems of the Congo Basin and stimulating the involvement of all the stakeholders, various planning tools were developed with the support of IUCN. These included: A handbook for practical training in the sustainable management of the natural resources of the Mont Allen landscape; tools for awareness raising on the sustainable management of wildlife in the savanna ecosystems of North Cameroon; and the development plan for the Waza National Park, revisited and supplemented with a business plan indicating available funds and funds to seek from potential financial partners.
- Some other tools produced in the course of the year include: a mapped data base of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in West Africa, launched with the support of a partnership with the RAMPAO and MOLOA ; reports of surveys on the plan for the Development of the Baie de l'Etoile in Mauritania; a document identifying the criteria and indicators for forests evaluation, and a methodology to define the local REDD+ activities in the savannas region of Ghana; a toolkit for the protection of wildlife in production forests of Cameroon, in consultation with ZSL, PALLISCO, WIJMA et ALPICAM to contribute to the implementation of the 2011-2020 strategic plan of the CDB, particularly target 11.
- In Guinea Bissau, the Programme supported the drafting of the management plan for fisheries of the Cacheu River and the start up of the preparation of management plans for fisheries of two other rivers (Buba and Cacine) in a participative process involving all the local actors and fishers' federations.

■ Information, awareness raising and capacity building of actors

- Flagship actions in this area targeted the awareness raising of over 200 people on the body of laws relating to forest and wildlife resources of Chad; organizing an awareness raising conference for students and scientists on the exploitation of forests and mining at the Portuguese speaking university of Bissau; training riparian populations of protected areas on the SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) data base, patrolling data collection and using GPS in several countries of West and Central Africa. Besides, trainings in protected areas management were implemented: a short training (eight weeks) for 18 people (8th edition of University Degree in protected areas management from 10 countries of West Africa, a specialized Master's in PA management for 12 people in West Africa, and a one week training on the systematic planning of nature conservation for 24 people (civil servants, field actors, and NGO's workers) from Burkina Faso, Togo, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Chad, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali; lastly a training on village monitoring of protected areas conducted for the members of AGEREF-Hauts Bassins.



8th year of the UD, Burkina Faso

- Several actions targeted managers of World Heritage sites. Thus, eight managers of World Heritage sites from four countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Niger and Senegal) were trained on "the planning and monitoring & evaluation of capacities of resilience to climate change" regarding World Heritage Sites of West Africa. Managers of the park Trinational de la Sangha (TNS) were also trained on the Heritage with a view to
- IUCN contributed in providing workers of conservation service and mostly rangers of the Waza National Park (Cameroon) with materials, equipments for the control of poaching, meals, with a view to enabling them to efficiently conduct monthly patrols in the Park and increase the number of patrols from 10 to 20 days per month. It was likewise for the rangers of the Mangrove Marine Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo, for whom the programme facilitated the grant of a set of similar materials for interventions.



Anti-poaching material and equipments distributed to the mangroves marine park agents

improving the quality of reports on the state of conservation of the TNS, based on the Enhancing our Heritage (EoH) evaluation. Lastly, the team preparing the Zakouma dossier benefited a support empowering them to improve on the consistency of the registration file of the Zakouma National Park in the list of World Heritage sites.

- Sixteen representatives of associations from 8 NGOs and 12 representatives of the local Territorial management organ IGTL (elected representatives and municipal technicians, in charge of the management of conservation areas, local actors of tourism) from 7 West African sites were trained on "Ecotourism and community planning" in order to be equipped in developing and managing ecotourism activities and sites.
- Likewise, with the support of IUCN programme in Cameroon, 70 facilitators in the riparian villages of Complexe BSB Yamoussa were trained in techniques for pushing back elephants, that enabled them to actively participate in information sharing and awareness raising on the migratory movement of elephants with a view to protecting crops.
- About 46 journalists and community radio workers in Chad and Cameroon also benefited from capacity building to develop radio programmes in local languages on the control of poaching as a contribution to the awareness raising and environmental education of local communities.

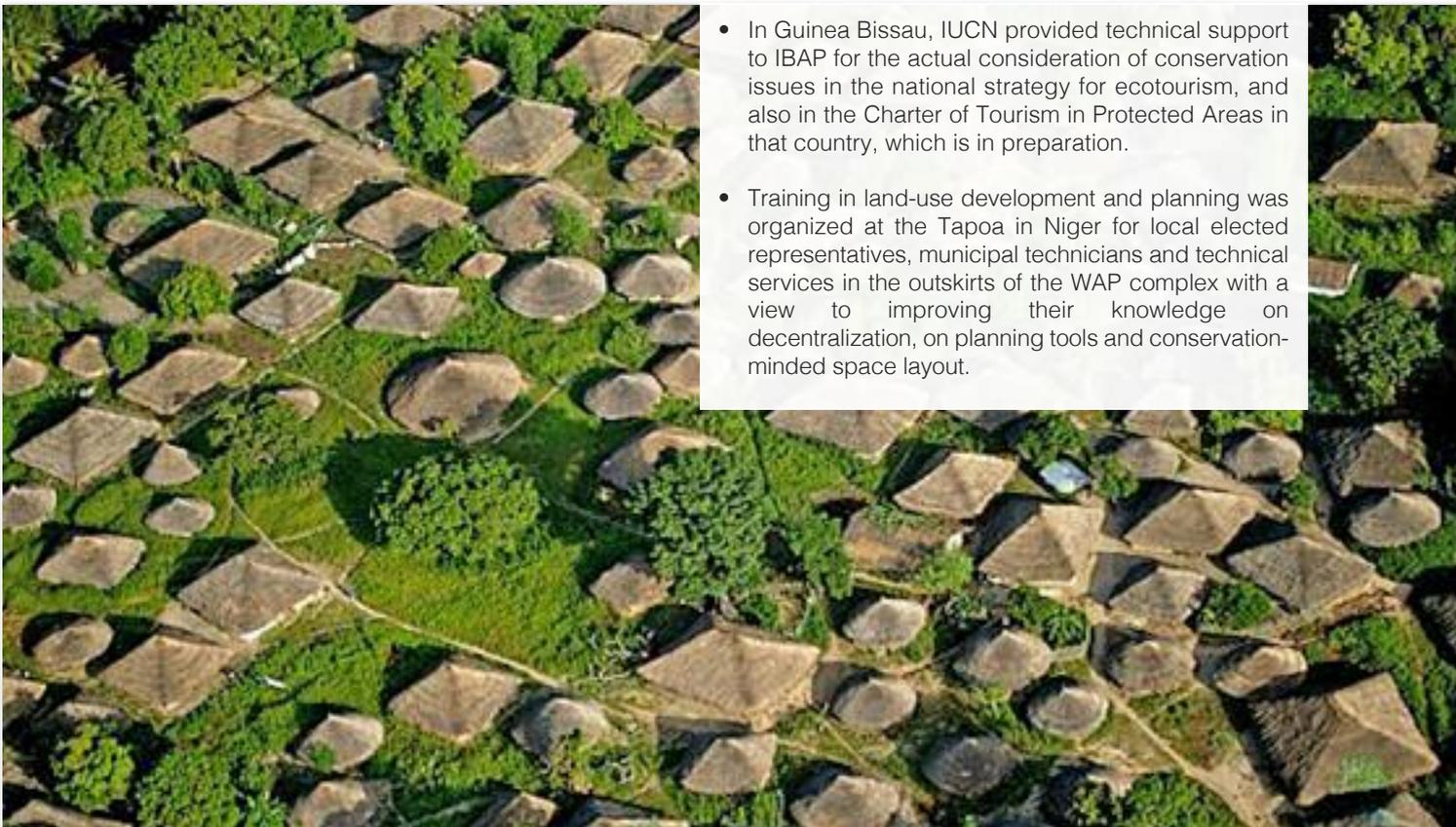
■ Support to land-use planning

- Several initiatives were implemented, namely in West Africa, in landscaping with an ecological focus. Such works specifically addressed the assisted restoration of ten Shea-tree parks covering about 53 ha in the Sablogo forest (Central-East of Burkina Faso), support for the promotion of agro-forestry and for the anchoring of embankments in the Central West Region of Burkina Faso, which is the intervention zone of the project *"Increasing local communities' capacity of resilience to Climate Change"*.

In that perspective, four nurseries equipped with production materials were set up in the Central-South and another one in the Central-West of Burkina Faso, for a total production of about 20 000 plants a year; thereby, plants that will be necessary for the operations of lands anchoring and water courses protection will be available.



Jatropha Curcas Tree nursery



- In Guinea Bissau, IUCN provided technical support to IBAP for the actual consideration of conservation issues in the national strategy for ecotourism, and also in the Charter of Tourism in Protected Areas in that country, which is in preparation.
- Training in land-use development and planning was organized at the Tapoa in Niger for local elected representatives, municipal technicians and technical services in the outskirts of the WAP complex with a view to improving their knowledge on decentralization, on planning tools and conservation-minded space layout.

Eticoga village is the main of the Orango Island in Guinea Bissau

■ Poverty control and mitigation of pressures in biodiversity conservation zones

IUCN, in consultation with various partners including NGOs Members of the Union, conducted a series of activities on the field, namely:

- **In Burkina Faso**, a nutritive garden and two community ecological farms (5 ha and 3 ha) equipped with a high delivery borehole and solar water lifting means were installed in the Bingo commune (located in the Central West of Burkina Faso). The two farms are operated for the production of crop seeds (certified ones or foundation seeds) and for market garden production.
- **In Guinea Bissau**, materials for responsible fishing were granted to populations that live along the Cacheu, Buba and Cacine Rivers. Fishers and processing women also benefitted some financial support (loan, infrastructure, rotating loan funds, ice making machines) for the promotion of traditional fishing. In that country, various investments in ecotourism and for income generation (micro credit, techniques for the harvesting of oysters, recuperation of mangroves rice fields, fish processing) are also in progress to the benefit of the populations that live around the protected areas of Cufada, Cantanhez, Orango, Joao Viera and Poilão. They were supported by a reinforcement of surveillance mechanisms (participative surveillance of fishers communities and FISCAP missions) for the control of illegal fishing practices in the rias of Cacine, Buba and Cacheu
- **In West Africa**, actions were implemented for the capacity building of pastors to plan measures for resilience in the context of climate change, to the advantage of riparian communities of two transhumance corridors of the ECOWAS space. Namely it is the corridors followed by transhumant from Mali, from Niger and from Northern Burkina Faso and going to Benin, to Togo or to Ghana.
- **In Central Africa**, IUCN supported local income-generating initiatives such as the multiplication of plantain banana trees, poultry and fish breeding in the periphery villages of Mont Allen, and subsidies to communities for the promotion of economic activities (periphery of the Waza national Park in Cameroon).
- **In the riparian communities of the WAP complex**, IUCN supported the process of creating consultation frameworks around the W National Park of Niger, organized trainings in land-use planning and development, sensitized stakeholders of 3 riparian communes of Parc National W in Burkina Faso on behaviour to adopt for the mitigation of poaching and to increase the funding of IGAs that would be beneficial to vulnerable groups such as women. The programme implemented trainings in land-use planning and development for local representatives, municipal technicians and technical services of the WAP periphery. Participants are now capable of planning and proposing development actions that takes into account the interests of the various socioeconomic groups existing there.



Women collecting mangrove tree oysters



Fish processors

² Fiscalização e Controlo Das Activadas de Pesca. (Surveillance and Control of fishery activities)

■ *Support to set systems for the sustainable financing of protected areas*



Steering Committee of the BIOGUINE Foundation

The programme keenly followed the progress of the operationalization process of Fondation BIOGUINE and like other partners, provided support. That Foundation is to ensure in the long term the funding of the development and sustainable management of the country's natural landscapes, in consistency with the objectives of the institute of Biodiversity and of Protected Areas (IBAP) which is in charge of the management of Biodiversity and of Protected Areas in the whole country of Guinea Bissau.



Meeting of MAVA and its heads of projects

At the end of 2014, important funds were already mobilized from Fondation MAVA, from FFEM (the French Funds for Global Environment), from the Government of Guinea Bissau through resources issued from fishing agreements with the European Union; the government also decided to supplement that fund with more than 2.5 millions USD of its revenues from carbon credit sale when the process regarding that operation would culminate.

1.1.2 Effective and equitable governance of nature's use

In that thematic area, IUCN contributed in diverse ways.

■ *Promoting dialogue between the various sectors regarding the exploitation of natural resources*

- With a view to promoting the implication and accountability of all the stakeholders in the sustainable exploitation of natural resources, IUCN supported (i) the dynamization and capacity building of the inter-community committee that monitors development and management actions of the Sablogo Forest in Burkina Faso ; and (ii) the implementation of consultations with local populations living in the periphery of the Nouabale-Ndoki National Park in Cameroon and in the Yangambi Biosphere Reserve in DRC.
 - In the implementation of a project of the Ministry of Forests and Fauna (MINFOF) of Cameroon, IUCN facilitated the creation of a multi-sector dialogue involving 29 concerned institutions. This supported the conservation of Ngoyla-Mintom forest ecosystems in Cameroon, with a view to developing a monitoring system that would enable documentation on the dynamics of change in that region. This consultation framework sustained the identification of biophysical data and of products of populations' existence, which will be periodically monitored for an understanding of the dynamics of change.
 - IUCN, jointly with the Foundation of Friends of the earth (NATURAMA), Member of IUCN, organized the second congress/symposium of nature in Burkina Faso, the proceedings of which led to a series of resolutions and recommendations for a greater involvement of the environmental civil society in the promotion and conservation of nature, the promotion of green economy and the management of mining resources.
- IUCN also offered support to:
- the creation and operationalization of a regional technical committee on climate change in the North Region of Burkina Faso, in the framework of the project entitled "Ecosystems for the Protection of Infrastructures and Communities" (EPIC), thereby granting actors with a framework for consultation and dialogue on climate change. That framework also serves for the validation of results of technical studies, of work plans and activities reports from projects being implemented in the zone;
 - the facilitation of a multi-actor consultation framework for the protection of the Mangrove Marine Park in DRC, which will bring together public institutions, the private sector, local NGOs and the Park riparian communities;
 - continuing the coordination of policy and evaluation groups regarding the socio-economic and environmental impacts of mining industries in Guinea Bissau, in close consultation with IBAP, NGOs and concerned technical partners. This support enabled riparian populations of mining sites to become conscious of their influential capacities for the mainstreaming of their interests.
- Thus, local populations mobilized themselves against the continuation of mining activities in the heavy sands of Valera, and got that site shut down

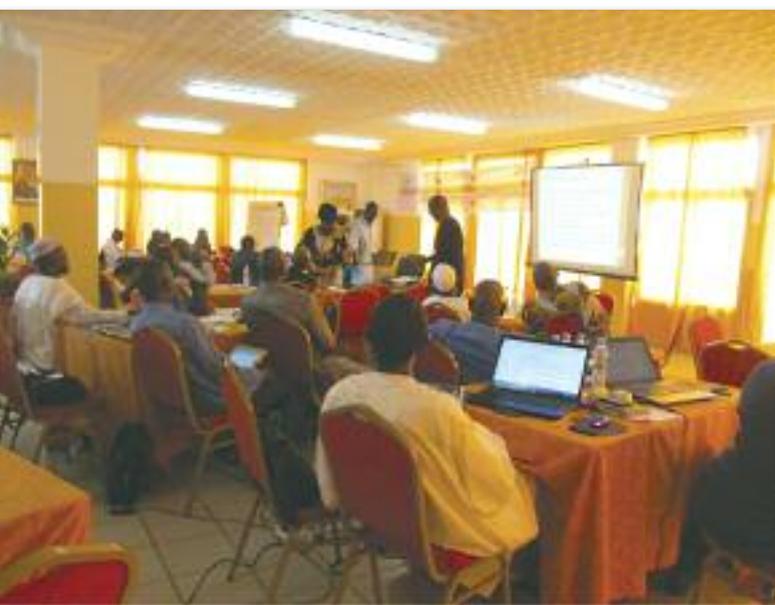
Restored mangroves



Opening ceremony of the GWI workshop

■ *Concerted planning of the management of landscapes and natural resources*

- National forums of the Conference on Tropical wet woodlands of West Africa (CEFDHAC) were dynamized in Burundi, in Rwanda, in Congo and in Equatorial Guinea. The functioning, the vision and the missions of the network of indigenous and local populations for the sustainable management of the forest ecosystems of Central Africa (REPALEAC) were reviewed with the support of IUCN, with a view to making them more operational.
- In West Africa, IUCN had an active role in facilitating a public discussion on the role of women in the sustainable management of fishery resources, in consultation with the Institute of Research for Development (IRD) and the French Institute in Ouagadougou. The initiative contributed to extending the scientific thematic of environment to the public at large. Besides, the Regional Partnership for the Conservation of the Coastal and Maritime zone of West Africa (PRCM) and IUCN supported the creation of the network of parliamentarians and elected representatives in Guinea and the participation of the network of parliamentarians of Cape Verde, of The Gambia and of Senegal to the Conference of the global network GLOBE on natural capital, held in June 2014 in Mexico.
- A *Task-force* AMP-Pêche, composed of regional experts, specialists in fishery matters and protected areas, was set up by RAMPPO (the Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas of West Africa) with the support of CSRP and IUCN at a workshop on The Ecosystem Approach of the Management of Fisheries and Marine Environment in West African Waters (AWA) in December 2014 in Dakar. A first field-mission enabled the Task-force to develop jointly with the management teams of Joal MPA in Senegal and the fishers' community a protocol for the monitoring of key species of fishery within the MPA and its outskirts, and to engage a dialogue between the community of traditional fishers of shrimps and the managers for a reopening of traditional shrimps fishing in the zone.
- The programme contributed to the Irrigation Task force in the Sahel which was conducted by CILSS and the World Bank, and to the dynamics of consultation on rural farmers' land securement in large scale rice growing. A workshop organized in Bamako by the Global Water Initiative (GWI), in consultation with CILSS, RAID and ILC brought together experts and the civil society of the agriculture and water sectors with a view to proposing innovative approaches to governance; the objective was to improve land securement for households on irrigated lands in West Africa.
- In Mauritania, IUCN supported the adoption of a proposal to set up a preliminary multi-national Commission to formulate baseline principles of cooperative management of stocks, mullets, Atlantic croakers and blue fish. The commission's deliberations should lead to developing a concerted approach for the implementation of development plans for the fishing grounds of benthic-pelagic resources in Mauritania and Senegal.

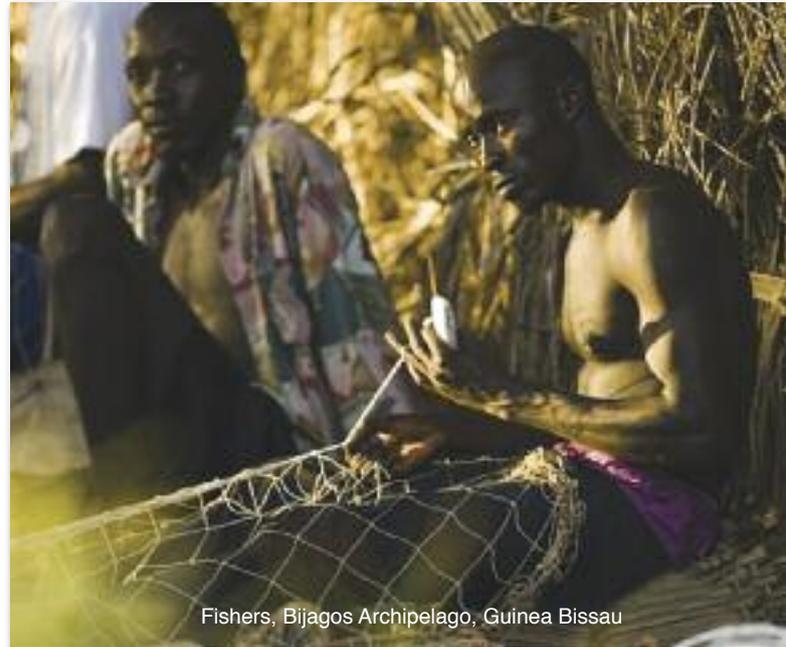


West Africa GWI workshop on farmers' land securing in the Sahel large scale rice growing

³ The Global Organization of Legislators (GLOBE International) is an international organization that brings together national parliamentarians from more than 80 countries engaged in the making and supervision of the implementation of laws with a view to sustainable development.

■ Promotion of adapted policies and agreements

- In close consultation with fishers' associations, IUCN, IBAP and the technical and research services in charge of Fisheries in Guinea Bissau, came to an agreement regarding the zoning of fishing grounds, and agreed for (i) respecting biological rest in the Cacheu, Buba and Cacine Rivers; (ii) the withdrawal of mono filament nets; and (iii) the ban of nets having a mesh pattern of less than 30 mm.
- The programme supported The Gambia, Mali, Sierra Leone, Chad and Togo for the drafting and /or updating of trans-boundary management agreements between neighbouring countries that share the same resources and protected areas. Thus, in 2014, a roadmap to finalize and sign a first trans-boundary agreement between Burkina and Mali, including the management of the Malian Gourma and that of the Burkina Sahel was adopted.
- In partnership with the working group on the governance of the forest (GREG-Forêts), the programme contributed to a survey on the establishment of links between the private economic sector, great apes conservation and poverty control in Cameroon. That study contributed to the implementation of the priorities of phase 2 of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Plans (NBSAP II) in Cameroon, which was developed by the Ministry of Environment, of Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) to serve as a tool for awareness raising that would inform the various actors in the sub-region on efforts for the conservation of biodiversity in Cameroon.
- In the framework of PRCM, IUCN and WWF assisted the Sub-regional Commission on Fisheries in the preparation



Fishers, Bijagos Archipelago, Guinea Bissau

and holding of a session of the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea regarding illicit fishing, which severely affects coastal countries in West Africa. The request needed the Tribunal's view in order to clarify (i) the obligations of the State of which is the flag, in case of illicit unreported, unregulated (IUU) fishing practiced within the exclusive economic zone of third States, (ii) the responsibility of the State of which is the ship flag in case of violation of Fisheries legislation of the coastal State, (iii) the rights and obligations of the coastal State in order to ensure the sustainable management of shared stocks and of common good stocks, particularly that of tunnies and small pelagics. The Tribunal will pronounce its advisory opinion on April 2nd 2015. The support of IUCN global Commission on Environmental Law was particularly appreciated for its relevance in this dossier.

- IUCN also contributed in the creation, by Université Senghor d'Alexandrie, of a Master 2 in Environmental Law and Policies at the Senghor Campus of Burkina Faso. Fifteen candidates were recruited for that training which is intended to be practical and functional.
- In close consultation with the Commission on Environmental Law, the Burkina Faso pro-gramme finalized the collection and compilation of the necessary data with a view to producing a legal Guide on transhumance agreements at the level of the WAP complex, for animal husbandry actors in the three concerned countries (Burkina Faso, Niger and Togo).
- IUCN's work also supported the process of developing legislation on the mangroves of Guinea Bissau, and on the transformation of the Charter on mangroves into



Bonobos in the Kinshasa Bonobo Sanctuary, DRC

Additional Protocol to the Abidjan Convention. The preliminary draft of that additional protocol for the concerted and sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems of the Atlantic coast of Western, Central and Southern Africa was approved in Abidjan in November 2014 by a panel of experts sponsored by the Abidjan Convention Secretariat. That panel directed IUCN to support the finalization of the aforesaid document.

- In Central Africa, the Programme contributed to developing a sub-regional strategy for the sustainable use of wildlife by the indigenous and local communities. The targeted objective is to reinforce the implementation of national legislations on wildlife, in consultation with the provincial services of Cameroon Ministry of Forests and Wildlife, and with several other local NGOs. The programme also issued a guideline on the improvement of alternative projects with a view to reducing game hunting.

The integrated management of water resources was one of the strong thematic of IUCN in 2014:

- A draft guideline was presented and was validated by representatives of ECOWAS' countries, of basin organizations, partner institutions in the sub-region, and civil society, at a regional workshop organized by the ECOWAS/IUCN/IIED partnership in the framework of the Global Water Initiative and the Partnership for Environmental Governance in West Africa (PAGE), namely with financial support from UKaid. This is an outcome of the regional dialogue on major dams in West Africa which is being conducted since 2009 by

ECOWAS' Water Resources Coordination Centre (WRCC/ECOWAS), in consultation with IUCN. That dialogue enabled the framing of *Guidelines for the development of major dams in West Africa*, which includes 6 axes, 25 recommendations and 77 measures of best practices.

- The programme supported two basin organizations for the implementation of their 2014 work plan. In that vein, it supported members of the Experts' Committee, representatives of the Forum of Parties and of technical and financial partners for the validation of the new 2015-2019 strategic plan of the Volta Basin Authority (VBA) with SIDA funds. Regarding the Niger Basin Authority (NBA), IUCN advocated for the conservation of natural ecosystems and for their recognition as "natural infrastructures", and at the 33rd session of the Council of Ministers of the NBA, this fostered the adoption of a Resolution proposed by IUCN on the formulation of a Development Plan for the humid areas of the Niger basin. That plan will be developed with IUCN and in consultation with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat.
- IUCN played an active role in several processes:
 - o At the *Africa Water Forum 2014*, IUCN advocated for an improved management and the restoration of ecosystems which can guarantee water and biodiversity services, and for an equitable sharing of profits through the implementation of great dams projects. These themes were included in the contribution proposed by Africa at the 7th World Water Forum.



Inner Niger Delta



IUCN at the Africa Water Forum

- o In the organization of the National Forum on irrigated land securement in Niger (Konni, May 2014) sponsored by the State of Niger, with the support of the GWI (IUCN/IIED consortium) and the French Agency for Development (Afd); a real general awareness-awaking was manifested regarding the challenges of compliance to legislation and to populations' right to land ownership; strong recommendations were made, aiming especially at: registering and securing the irrigation schemes throughout Niger, to accept the option of emphyteotic lease developed by Kandadji to compensate populations affected by the project, and to review/ harmonize applicable texts.
- This national milestone was specifically followed by the government's commitment to secure an irrigated area, as a pilot step, with GWI support, and by the adoption of the Kandadji's emphyteotic lease as the official proposition for compensation to be shared with donors (WB, ADB, FDA, etc.)
- o In the formulation of the Charter of the irrigated domain of the Anambé Basin in Senegal sponsored by Société de Développement Agricole et Industriel (SODAGRI); GWI facilitated the promotion of an equitable management of waters and land in the zones served by Niandouba and confluents' dams, and the associated irrigated area. Local communities, users, the administration and the dispersed technical services validated the document at a regional workshop (Kolda, September 2014).
 - o To support efforts of the Executive Secretariat of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), and those of the Regional Parliamentarian Committee of LCBC, IUCN informed and sensitized institutions in Nigeria and Cameroon for the ratification of the Water Charter of Chad Lake Basin. After ratification by Niger, Chad, and recently by Cameroon, Nigeria's ratification will enable the coming into force of the Charter which was signed in April 2012 by the heads of States and Governments of six member countries of LCBC.

⁴ Cameroon, Niger, Chad, Nigeria, CAR and Libya

Promoting the participation of civil society and of the private sector in political processes of environmental orientation

- In the region, IUCN plays the role of dialogue facilitator which is acknowledged. Thus, in Ghana, the mobilization of actors facilitated the formulation of appropriate safeguard measures to be integrated into an efficient REDD+ strategy for the country. This warrants that all the stakeholders, particularly local actors, have an appropriate understanding of REDD+, of what it benefits the country, their own roles and responsibilities, and the opportunities they have to implement the REDD+ process for the benefit of Ghana.
- In partnership with the Resources and Rights Initiative (RRI), the Environment and Development Center (CED), Radio Environnement, and some other institutions, the programme fostered the participation of civil society organizations in the process of the review of forest and land legislation in the region, namely in Cameroon, with the mobilization of journalists, to promote awareness raising regarding environment. Journalists were trained to understand land insecurity which faces indigenous and local communities, especially those who live in or around the agro-industrial concessions. This meeting came up with key messages addressing decision makers, and which were replicated at the "first edition of land and forests tenure week in Cameroon" organized by IUCN, in consultation with members of the RRI coalition. Results of the week of land and forest tenure will foster the reform of land-use policy and its implementation. Actors requested the creation of an Observatory of land and of forestry reform to enable environmental journalists to play a key role in the process from 2015 onwards.
- IUCN continues monitoring the small grants of the Central Africa Regional Programme on Environment (CARPE) implemented in Cameroon, in DRC, in Congo, Equatorial Guinea and in Gabon in 2014. The objective of that programme is to encourage the contribution of CSOs to the preparation phase of the REDD process, including the implementation of R-PP or the drafting of a REDD framework strategy (namely in DRC).



Participants to the 1st edition of the RRI Coalition land and forest tenure week in Cameroon



Workshop opening ceremony

- To enable civil society to play its role in the implementation of the Water Resources Policy in West Africa (PREAO), an information and awareness raising workshop was organized in consultation with ECOWAS' WRCC and the NBA. That workshop enabled 37 actors (including 15 women) from ten countries⁵, Niger and Mono basin users, to acquaint themselves with their roles and responsibilities in the implementation and in monitoring and evaluation.
- The national coordination of Niger Basin Users in Guinea (CNU-Guinée) was a precious relay for the local validation of the GWI study on land securement for populations affected by the future Fomi dam (Kankan, July 2014), that aims at implementing the measures recommended by the Environmental and Social Impact Study (EIES). It enabled the mobilization and meeting of stakeholders in the zone (technical services, elected representatives, Populations Affected by the Project (PAPs) etc.). The National Coordination of users (NCU) is more and more standing as an influential actor for propositions, especially regarding supplementary technical and impact studies for the future Komi project (NBA/WB). The GWI achievements also enabled the formulation of a support programme for the CNUs of Guinea, Mali and Niger, funded by GIZ for the 2014/2016 period.
- In Niger, in the framework of GWI, the IUCN/IIED consortium facilitated consultation missions in villages affected by the future construction of the Kandadji dam, for the submission and acceptance of the contract documents proposed by the State with respect to newly developed lands allocated as compensation (emphyteotic lease to landowners in December 2013, and improved operating agreements for non-owners in September 2014). Such an approach, on one hand complies with the principle of prior, free and enlightened consent, promoted by ECOWAS guidelines and by the Water Charter of the NBA, and on the other hand, it conforms to the environmental and social safeguard principles of donors such as ADB and the WB. These missions were conducted by the High Commission for the Development of the Niger Valley (HCDNV), elected representatives and traditional authorities, assisted by a private lawyer, through village meetings legitimized by reports of proceedings.

⁵ Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Togo

■ **Promoting Gender and Indigenous Peoples Mainstreaming**

- The Ghana REDD+ Secretariat set up a working group on gender to see to the implementation of the road map for gender equality and REDD+, formulated with IUCN facilitation. Also, women from two landscapes were trained with a view to encouraging them to promote their activities which reinforce the restoration of forest landscapes.
- From the conclusions of the GWI study (2013) on the economic livelihoods of family farmers in the Bagré irrigation area (Burkina Faso), the IUCN/IIED consortium proposed to Bagrépôle, its partner, to produce a participative video with rice-growing women of the developed plain with a view to bringing in exergue the real life of these farmers and launch a dialogue with Bagrépôle for an improvement of their situation regarding governance, plots development and decision taking. The contents and the lessons stemming from this experience are rich and Bagrépôle plans to promote them in 2015 in its own programme.



A women taking care of her tree nursery at Wassa Amenfi in Ghana



Women pricking out rice in the Bagré dam-irrigated area in Burkina Faso

1.1.3 Nature-based solutions to meet the global challenges of climate, food and development

■ *Generating knowledge*

- With IUCN support, relay letters from the observation mission of the West African littoral (MOLOA), enabled the dissemination of some information in the region, relative to the mitigation of coastal risks, including a glossary of terms relating to coastal risks and a guideline of soft solutions to protect the littoral.
 - The programme disseminated a position statement on the theme *"Investing in natural ecosystems to ensure sustainable development"*. The statement was used as a support for advocacy on the importance of goods and services provided by ecosystems to human societies and to national and sub-regional economies at the 33rd session of the NBA Ministers conference. The advocacy led to the ministers' council adopting a Resolution on the formulation of a development plan for the humid zones of Niger, jointly with IUCN and in consultation with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat.
 - A study on *"Analysis of links between climate change, protected areas and communities in West Africa"* was conducted. Financed by the Global Environment Fund (GEF) and implemented in the framework of the PARCC project (Protected areas Resilient to Climate Change), that study aimed at improving protected areas networks' resilience to the impacts of climate change in the region.
- The deliberations were mostly based on the results of prior national studies on that issue, and also on a literature review. The objective was to analyze the complex relationships between protected areas, populations of the outskirts and climate change, and henceforth contribute to improving knowledge on these relationships.
- An analytical survey on the payment of environmental services (PES) was conducted by the programme in Ghana. The study report presented a theoretical framework for a PES market for the practical experiences of Latin America and the Ghana case where the PES market is under-developed. It used specific examples in Ghana to model multiple evaluations, the size of investments and the yield. The surveyed sites were the forest reserves of communities of the *Wassa-Amenfi-West* district in the West Region where investments in the Globally Significant Biodiversity Areas (GSBA⁶), ecotourism and resource-based-development as PES opportunities were modeled, and also the forest wildlife of *Atewa range* in Kwaebibirim district in the East region, where a potential market for water as an ecosystem service was assessed, and its economic value determined.



Harvesting honey
at Yaoui, Benin

⁶ Globally Significant Biodiversity Area

■ Knowledge sharing

- In Burkina Faso, IUCN organized a several-day open-house event on resilience to climate change entitled "Climate change adaptation days"; it was a major event for sharing experience and knowledge on the theme: "Which partnership for a better support to rural communities' resilience to climate change?". Participants were from Burkina Faso and Mali, including scientists, development partners, projects managers, and representatives of local communities and of base communities.
- The creation of a platform for the exchange of radio programmes, as a tool for the sharing and dissemination of knowledge through local radios was recommended by an IUCN-PACO survey on the potential and the portfolio of radios in some West African countries. IUCN, WWF and the Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas of West Africa (RAMPAO) have henceforth established a partnership that led to the Network of West Africa Radios for Environment (RERAO). This network officially launched its activities in 2014 with a view to contributing to good governance, conservation, and sustainable and equitable management of natural resources in West Africa through an improvement of radio communication. Charter-members of the network are radios representing nine (9) West African countries⁷.
- Besides, in connection with the dynamization of "Share Infos" the network of environmental journalists, IUCN-PACO and GWP/WA organized a competition to award the best works on the thematic of "Water security and resilience to climate change in West Africa". After the competition, three award winners were rewarded during the Africa Water Forum 2014. The awards of best radio report in French and in English were granted respectively to Mrs. Idiatou Camara (Guinea) for her work "La sécurité en eau et la résilience climatique de l'Afrique de l'Ouest" (water security and resilience to climate in West Africa) and Mrs. Bernadet Sanneh (The Gambia) for her work "Vision 2016 Food: Self Sufficiency in the Gambia". The best press article in French went to Mr. Alain Tossounon (Benin) for his work "La difficile adaptation des communautés de la commune d'Adjohoun aux changements climatiques. Perturbations climatiques: Quand la terre ne nourrit plus son homme" (Challenges of Resilience to climate change facing the communities of Adjohoun Commune: When the land no longer feeds its man).
- Besides, with a view to promoting experience sharing between communities, the Programme coordinated the preparation of two study trips for 50 women from Benin and Burkina Faso. These study trips allowed more than 500 people from these two countries to share experiences in milk processing, techniques of nurseries in trenches, co-management of conflicts and co-sponsoring for small flock rearing.



Laureates of the 1st journalism contest on "Water and Environment"

⁷ Radio Balafon and Radio nationale of Burkina Faso, Rádio Morabeza of Cape-Verde, Ivoire FM and Radio Denguélé of Côte d'Ivoire, Star FM and Brikama Community Radio of Gambia, Radio Rurale Basse Guinée Kindia and Radio Nationale of Guinée, Radio Lamparam Voz di Cantanhez and Voz do Rio Cacheu of Guinea Bissau, Radio Kledu and Radio Saghan of Mali, Radio Nationale of Mauritania, Cayar FM, Radio Popenquigne and the Côtère FM of Senegal.



Participants to the training of teams in applying the Forest-Poverty toolbox

■ Capacity building

- In Senegal and Burkina Faso, IUCN supported⁸ the training of nearly 200 small scale farmers in techniques of assisted natural regeneration, in the production of seedlings, in the management of nurseries, and in building stony wind-rows for the recovery of saline or degraded lands. These actions aimed at substantially increasing the agricultural productivity of lands. In Central Africa, facilitation with COMIFAC and SilvaCarbon⁹, led to organizing a training workshop on measurement techniques and the monitoring of carbon in the forest with a view to developing basic capacities on remote sensing technologies, reinforcing IUCN programmes in the SilvaCarbon countries of the region (Cameroon, DRC, Congo Republic, and Gabon), and also in some other countries of the COMIFAC space.

Some other training sessions were conducted for the capacity building of members of the CEFDHAC national Forum on climate change and REDD+ (Chad), and also on the carbon market and international negotiations on climate change (Cameroon).

- Training about 200 actors, members of local communities and NGOs in Burkina Faso, Niger, Togo, Benin and Ghana improved the development potentials of IGAs that promote non timber forest products

(NTFPs), with a view to integrating natural resources in the development plans of communes: monitoring by local populations, land development and planning, project writing, financial management and accounting, directly productive projects in the outskirts of PAs, building capacities for resilience to climate change, MIS and the systematic planning of conservation.

- Organizing national forums in Togo and in Cameroon served as a springboard for sharing experiences and seeking efficiency and synergies in the interventions of civil society actors involved in environment protection. It facilitated the networking of about twenty NGOs in Togo and in Cameroon in the field of environment protection; besides, capacities of civil society were reinforced in thematic regarding the management and governance of biodiversity conservation areas and the economic chains of biodiversity promotion.
- In consultation with the US Forests Service (USFS) and the COMIFAC Secretariat, the Forest programme organized in June at Douala workshops for capacity building on remote sensing for the personnel of COMIFAC member countries ministries in charge of measurement and satellite surveillance of forest carbon, remote sensing and the mapping of the forest cover.

⁸ Activities supported by the EPIC project (Ecosystems for the Protection of Infrastructures and Communities), funded by the Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit (BMU)..

⁹ See <http://www.silvacarbon.org/>



Beneficiaries of the training on land and forest tenure

- Besides, the Programme organized a capacity building session for CSOs and negotiators on climate change and REDD+ at Brazzaville, Congo, with a view to preparing them for future REDD+ regional and international meetings, especially the CoP20 at Lima, in Peru and the COP 21 at Paris by the end of 2015. That was also an opportunity to analyze how the seven Warsaw decisions (December 2013) started being implemented and to discuss REDD+ as a tool for development planning and sustainable improvement.
- The network of environment communicators in Central Africa (RECEAC) benefited a session of capacity building on REDD+ and climate change in Brazzaville, Congo in October. This aimed at reinforcing advocacy for more adapted policies and for new laws in the Congo Basin.
- Training sessions in the use of the tool kit on Forests-Poverty links were organized in the Congo Basin, namely in Gabon (29 people), in Cameroon (16 people), in Congo Republic (27) and in the Democratic Republic of Congo (49). The training was conducted for the concerned ministries (forest, environment, agriculture, fishery, animal husbandry...), the decentralized councils, local organizations of civil society, representatives of indigenous organizations, etc. That activity was in connection with a FAO project that focuses on the sustainable management of wildlife and bush meat in Central Africa. The project provided major elements that will contribute to the formulation of a sub-regional strategy for a sustainable use of wildlife by local and indigenous communities in Central Africa. That plan will supplement the COMIFAC Action Plan to reinforce the implementation of national laws on wildlife (PAPECALF), especially by contributing in the links between the sustainable management of fauna and the livelihoods of local communities. The project is to develop a methodology guideline for the training of National Technical Assistants and Focal Points in using the Forests-Poverty toolkit.
- In the same perspective, the Programme trained about 16 people, including nearly 20% women on using the Forests-Poverty toolkit to measure the ratio of local populations' dependency to forest resources.
- To accompany actors in Benin and Togo regarding resilience to climate change, a training workshop facilitated the creation of a pool of twenty training-experts (including 4 women) from the ministries in charge of environment, planning, transports, water, weather forecast national services, Universities and civil society organizations. In Niger, twenty senior executives (including 20% women) from ministries in charge of planning, national services involved in processes associated with climate change and, civil society organizations were trained in using TOP-SECAC. These new trainers are now competent in using the Toolkit for the Planning and the Monitoring & Evaluation of Resilience to Climate Change (TOP-SECAC), developed by IUCN, the AGRHIMET Regional Center, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Sahel and Sahara Observatory (SSO).

¹⁰ 13 top executives for Benin and 7 others for Togo.

■ *Environmental Policy and legislation*

- Regarding environmental policy and legislation, IUCN supported the preparation of a position document of COMIFAC member States and a position note of the REDD platform and climate change regarding the REDD+ process, respectively submitted to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on climate Change and to the DRC Government.
- IUCN gave its support to the approach of Central Africa countries towards green economy. That approach was recently manifested through the Conference of ECOCAS Ministers in charge of Economy and Finances, on “the Green Economy Funds for Central Africa (FEVAC) and the

structural transformation of economy in Central Africa”, in October, at Kinshasa, which IUCN was demanded to fund. On that occasion, IUCN position regarding the issue was presented at the high level meeting. Adopted conclusions included: the Central Africa Fund for the green economy, the promotion of woods markets, the promotion of forestry small and medium size enterprises in Central Africa, diplomacy, integration and the governance of the structural transformation of green economy in Central Africa, the energizing of APV/FLEGT in Central Africa. These draft decisions will be submitted for adoption to the 16th Conference of heads of State and of governments of ECCAS.



■ Resilience to Climate change and REDD+

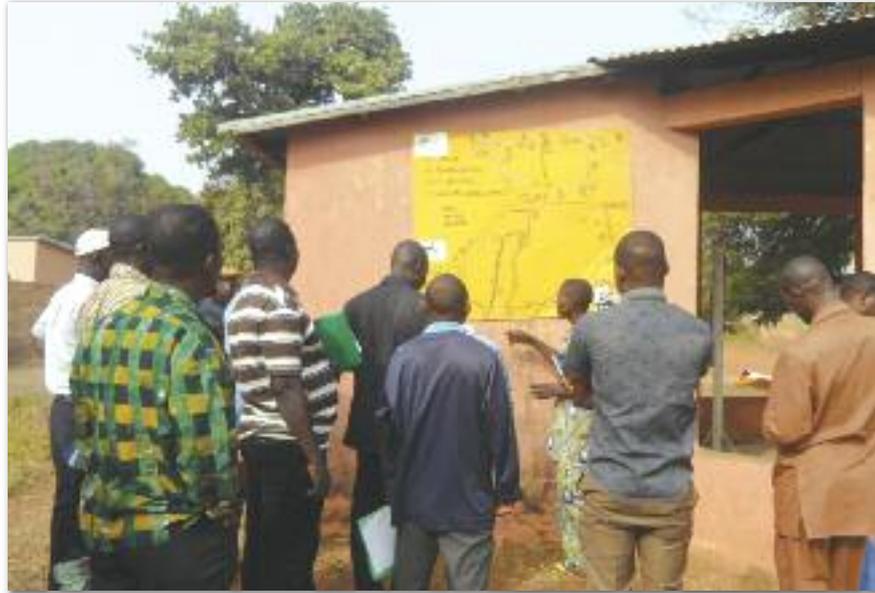
- Environmentalists from 5 West African counties benefited some training in planning the management of PAs regarding resilience to climate change, especially with a view to promoting the resilience of conservation areas and protect their capacity to preserve their habitats, ecosystem services and vulnerable species.
- IUCN contributed to the production of 2 national reports (Sierra Leone, Chad) on the existing links between climate change, protected areas and communities. These two reports and some others which were already available (Mali, The Gambia and Togo) were then synthesized into a regional report.
- Support was provided for the American Facilitation to rally the support of national, regional, and international relevant partners with a view to their participation to future activities of the Congo Basin Forests Partnership (CBFP). IUCN provided technical, administrative and financial support for the organization of several strategic and technical meetings at Oslo, Geneva, Düsseldorf, Bonn, Brussels, Paris, Yaoundé, Kribi, Brazzaville and Kinshasa. IUCN also played a key role in the organization of the 14th meeting of CBFP partners at Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, in October. The theme of that conference which was attended by nearly 450 participants, including 8 ministers and 8 ambassadors, was "Opportunities and challenges: climate and utilization of lands in the Congo Basin". Participants were equipped with strategies for a full involvement in the ongoing preparatory process of REDD+ and in land development in Central Africa.
- A consultation with the Observatory of Central Africa Forests (OFAC) enabled the issuing and publication of the 2014 English and French versions of the State of Forests (SoF). The publication is accessible on line and the hard copy will be available early 2015 latest. It should be noted that IUCN contributed with chapter 10 of that recent edition on rural societies and land multiple utilization practices: perceptions of conservation and development projects with respect to land multiple utilization systems in Central Africa.
- On the interventions sites of the EPIC project in Burkina Faso, communities that are coached by the project in the North Region (Ouahigouya commune) benefited a grant of production equipments and a technical support which enabled them to secure 230 ha of cultivable lands, using stony wind-rows and 430 ha of "zai". In Senegal, in the Fatick region, actions of the project which are in line with actions in Burkina Faso, focused mainly on the construction of 59 ha of salt-control dikelets, the identification and protection of 3 695 plant species in the agro-forestal parks of the intervention zone. These actions aim at significantly increasing the agricultural productivity of lands.



Practical phase of a training session on climate change adaptation, Ouahigouya, Burkina Faso

■ Poverty control

- IUCN supported the construction of three storage halls to consolidate the commune's units of non timber forest products processing at Bassiga, Lalgaye and Tenkodogo, in the Central East of Burkina Faso.
- IUCN also promoted income generating activities (IGAs) through bee-keeping, the promotion of Non Timber Forest Products, ecotourism, poultry, fish farming, and biological agriculture on 7 sites in the surrounding areas of protected areas in Niger, Burkina Faso, Togo, Ghana and Benin. A training session was organized for 28 representatives of NGOs and local actors on ecotourism at Tanguiéta, in Benin.



Practical works of the eco-touristic site of Koussoukoingou in Benin



Sorting out mushrooms for selling, Wassa Amenfi, Ghana

1.2. CONSTRAINTS ENCOUNTERED IN THE PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation of activities was delayed at times by the slowness in signing project contracts, or in placing funds at disposal, in approving procurement of equipments, assigning project personnel, or in signing consultation agreements with implementation actors on the field. In some cases, the elapsed time to come to an agreement on concerted operational modalities involving IUCN and some other partners was the reason of delays.

Lastly, there were cases where the political or security context was unfavorable. Thus, in Burkina Faso, a mass insurrection took place on the 30th and 31st October 2014, damaging the premises of the IUCN Regional Office in Ouagadougou. Properties were looted and archives were destroyed, and the Regional Office had to relocate on a new site in Ouagadougou.



2

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

2.1. A NETWORK OF DYNAMIC MEMBERS

In IUCN's situation, institutional development should be understood as the dynamics that correlates its 3 pillars (Secretariat, Members and Commissions) for the implementation of the Unique Programme.

2.1.1 Number of Members

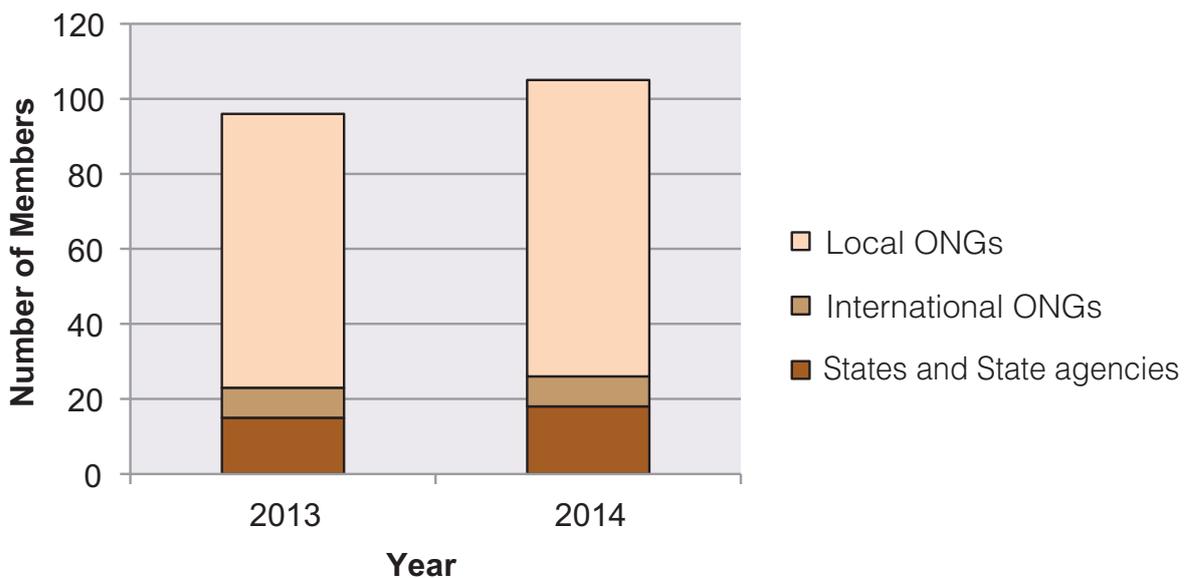
An increasing evolution of the number of the PACO region is visible, going from 93 in 2013 to 101 Members in 2014 (+10%), including 14 States, 10 Government Agencies, 2 International NGOs and 75 local NGOs. Thus, the region has 7 national committees (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Guinea Bissau, Mali, and Senegal).

A total of 8 new Members joined the extended family of IUCN: The States of Gabon and of Burundi, and two government agencies (Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux in Gabon and Office Ivoirien des Parcs et

Réserves in Côte d'Ivoire) and 4 local NGOs in different countries of PACO (Association pour le Développement de Nguendar et villages environnants in Senegal; Friends of the Nation in Ghana; Association pour la Promotion des Œuvres Sociales in Burkina Faso; and Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society in Cameroon).

Nonetheless, Members' slowness to pay their annual dues is visible; and in some cases, that may lead to suspension or exclusion.

Fig 1. Evolution of the number of Members



2.1.2 Activities of Members committees

In the past year, Members developed and implemented several initiatives, namely:

- The National Committee of Members in Cameroon, composed of 10 Members, advocated for an inclusion of REDD+ aspects in the ongoing processes of reform (land law and framework law on environment);
- The National Committee of Members in Senegal organized “Knowledge Cafés”, in connection with their advocacy for the parliamentary bill on sea coast to be voted;
- The National Committee of IUCN Members in Burundi was officially acknowledged by the 83rd session of IUCN Council. Established on the 8th of 2014, this National Committee immediately validated and launched its 2014-2016 action plan.
- The Bureau of the Regional Committee of IUCN Members in West and Central Africa (CREMACO) held a meeting at Dakar in October. This was an opportunity to take stock of Members, and plan for the 2015 regional forum on conservation and discuss perspectives regarding the 2016 Congress.

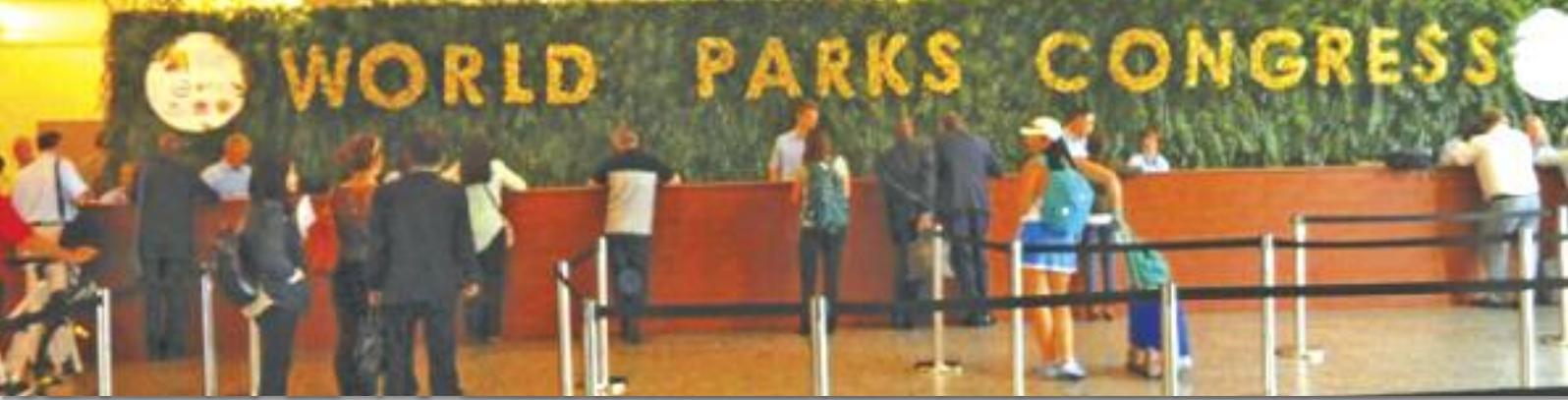
2.1.3 Members-Secretariat jointly planned activities

Several consultation or planning meetings were held between the secretariat, the committees and Members in several countries, specifically in Senegal, in Mali, in Cameroon, in Burkina Faso and in Guinea Bissau. Thus, in Guinea Bissau, several joint project ideas were identified, including the “Riz et Mangroves” project with IBAP and the

Action et développement NGO. In Mali, the “Renforcement de la résilience des systèmes forestiers des sites d’orpillage des cercles de Kéniéba, Bougouni, Yanfolila et Kolondiéba” project, which aimed at contributing to the establishment and dissemination of a system of sustainable management of natural resources was identified.



Partners of the future rice and mangrove project during an exchange session with IUCN and IPAB



2.2. WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA AT THE WORLD PARKS CONGRESS

Scheduled for every ten years, the World Parks Congress updates on progress achieved with respect to the conservation of biodiversity at large, particularly through the utilization of existing systems of protection and promotion.

Nine hundred participants from Africa, including 350 from 22 countries of West and Central Africa journeyed for the 6th World Parks Congress convened in Sydney in 2014, to announce a new inspiration for parks, populations and the planet.

Thus, Africans could share their experiences and contribute to the “**Sydney Promise**”¹¹ whereby they promise to **ENERGIZE** their efforts for a qualitative and quantitative progression of protected areas; to **INSPIRE** all mankind with a view to engaging them to experience the wonders of nature; to **INVEST** in nature-based solutions which will help halt biodiversity loss and mitigate the impacts of the present threats that are besetting the planet.

A special attention could be on the president of Gabon, H.E. Ali Bongo Ondimba, who promised the creation of a network of new marine protected areas equivalent to 23 % of his territorial waters and, the enunciation of the promise of the Congolese minister Henri Djombo, to reinforce the mainstreaming of indigenous peoples in the management of parks.

Thanks to the support of IUCN's partners including France, the European Union, the MAVA Foundation and the African Development Bank, participants from Africa could set forth their experiences. They multiplied their interventions to call attention on poaching and faunal criminality, and seek coordinated responses between Africa and Asia. African networks of protected areas such as the Network of Marine Protected Areas of West Africa (RAMPAO), the Collaboration transfrontalière des Grands Virunga (CTGV), the network of protected areas of Central Africa (RAPAC), shared their experiences and highlighted the importance of regional cooperation approaches.

Through such messages, Africa showed that the problems it is faced with and its expectations were totally concordant with those of the global community, which first of all brings to focus the urgent need to rebalance man and nature relationships and to acknowledge that ecosystems are at the base of the existence of societies and of their cultural and spiritual identity, their economies and their wellbeing. Lastly, it is a matter of using the opportunities offered by new technologies of communication to improve understanding, and involve new actors such as the youth and women in a fast changing world.



President Rajaonarimampianina with the representatives of South Africa, Australia, Comoros, France and IUCN Director General

¹¹ http://www.worldparkscongress.org/about/promise_of_sydney.html

2.3 COMMUNICATION



Communicators during a work session

Besides the production and dissemination of several communication tools, IUCN worked at setting up communication components of several major initiatives, including:

- the project of resilience reinforcement through services linked to innovation, communication and BRICKS knowledge (reinforcing communication activities of 12 projects of the Sahel and West Africa Programme in support of the Great Green Wall Initiative (SAWAP), through the formulation of a communication strategy with the contribution of members of IUCN's Commission on Education and Communication (CEC);
- And the biodiversity and protected areas management programme (BIOPAMA) (formulation of the biennial communication plan).



Participants to the workshop



2.4 PARTNERSHIPS

IUCN is an alliance, and thus, considers partnership as a vital tool for the reinforcement of the relevance, ownership, and impact of its actions, and for reaching out to a larger number of actors in a broader geographical field. Henceforth, various partnerships were built by the programme at national and regional levels.

With the United Nations systems, we can make reference to the Global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Lands Degradation, FAO, and UNEP.

With the regional/interstate institutions, we can mention the ECOCAS and COMIFAC in Central Africa, ECOWAS and UEMOA and CILSS in West Africa and the management agencies of international rivers and lake basins.

With the international organizations, we have the World Bank and IFDD.

Partnerships were also developed with several training and research institutes, including the Universities of BOKU, of Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit, of Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso (Burkina Faso), Université Senghor d'Alexandrie, ICRISAT, etc.

Major international NGOs (WWF, WCS, WRI, etc.) and regional networks (RAPAC, RAMPAC, APPEL, networks such as CEFDHAC...) are also partnering with IUCN.

These partnerships which are for more or less long term enable the implementation of joint or concerted initiatives and the undertaking of actions in such fields as desertification and land degradation control, environmental law, research and training, environmental education and communication, coastal erosion control, forests and water resources policies and governance, the mobilization of civil society, etc.



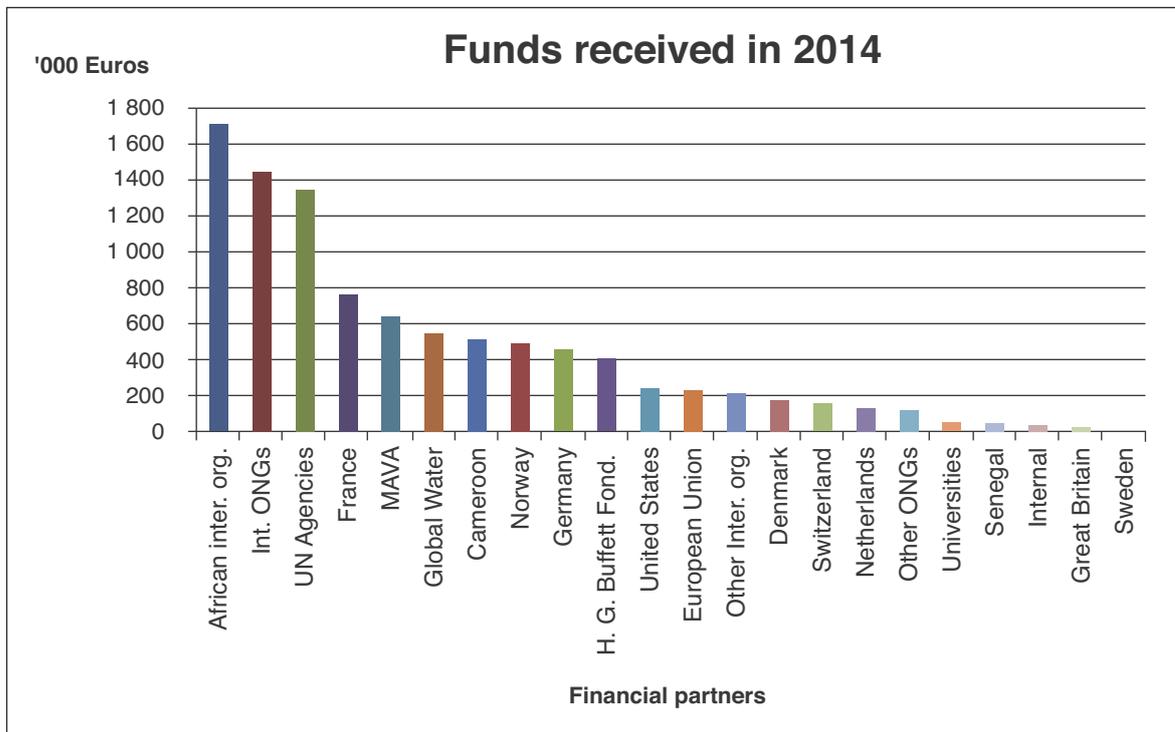
3

RESOURCES

3.1 FINANCES

IUCN activities in the region are supported by about forty financial partners, including 14 bilateral government agencies (31%), 16 multilateral donors (UN agencies, interafrican agencies, the European Union and other

international organizations (36%) and 16 international foundations and NGOs (33%). The total budget of implemented projects was 13.2 million Euros for 2014.



In the aggregate the total amount of expenses of the Secretariat and of projects of IUCN-PACO was 13.5 million Euros out of a 16.3 million budget; that is 83% implementation in 2014. The actual implementation ratios of IUCN Secretariat own budget in 2014 are 90% for revenues and 93% for expenditures. Regarding the ratio of implementation of IUCN-PACO projects, it was

relatively low (78%) compared with precedent years. It should be noted that the IUCN-PACO Regional Office was affected by the political events in Burkina Faso in October 2014. The value of materials and fittings that were lost or destroyed at the mass insurrection is valued at 254 000 Euros.



3.2 HUMAN RESOURCES

On 31st December 2014, PACO was employing 160 salaried workers (against 133 in 2013), including 16% expatriates and 27% women.

At the regional coordination meeting held in Ouagadougou in March 2014, the region acknowledged the exceptional contribution of several managers: Leonard Usongo (Cameroon programme), Moumini Savadogo (Burkina Faso programme), Aboubacar Awaiiss (Water and Wetlands Programme), Jacques Somda (Planning, Monitoring-Evaluation and Learning), Félicité Mangang (Communication) and Adama Tarzongodo (driver going on retirement).



The Director Regional and the recipients



The IUCN Programme for West and Central Africa met several of its objectives included in the 2014 annual plan and collected supplementary funds for the continuation of its four year Programme implementation; all despite various difficulties, including the Ebola epidemics which seriously hampered field activities and sub-regional exchanges with negative impacts on development plans.

Nonetheless, extra efforts are necessary, for an acceleration of the programme implementation.

LIST OF MAJOR PUBLICATIONS



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ISBN : 978-2-8317-1670-1 (french) :
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<https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2014-021.pdf>



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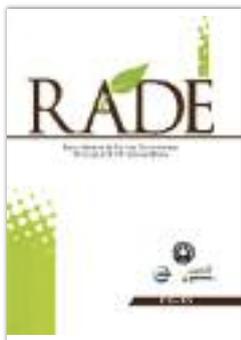


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PUBLICATIONS WITH IUCN CONTRIBUTIONS



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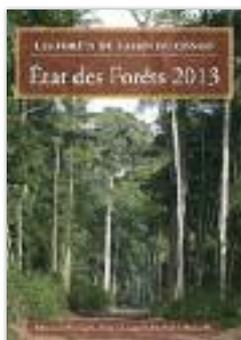


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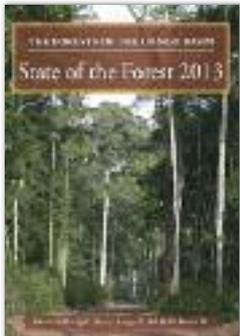
French : http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/parcc_cc_pas_communities_fr.pdf

English : http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/parcc_cc_pas_communities_en.pdf

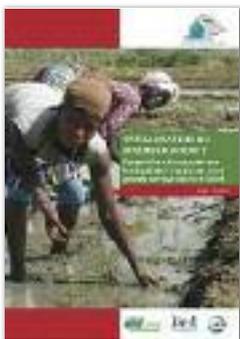


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<http://www.observatoire-comifac.net/edf2013.php?l=fr>



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IUCN MEMBERS IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

In total, **101** Members including:

14 States

10 State Agencies

2 International NGOs

75 Local NGOs

BENIN: 5

- Centre National de Gestion des Réserves de Faune
 - Nature Tropicale
 - Association Vive le Paysan Nouveau
 - Benin Environment and Education Society
 - Centre de Recherches et d'Action pour le Développement des Initiatives à la Base
-

BURKINA FASO: 10

- Ministry of Environment and Water Resources
 - Fondation des Amis de la Nature
 - Association Nodde Nooto
 - Association pour la Gestion de l'Environnement et le Développement
 - Association Nationale d'Action Rurale
 - SOS Sahel International Burkina Faso
 - Africa's Sustainable Development Council
 - Association inter villageoise de Gestion des Ressources Naturelles et de la Faune de la Comoé-Léraba
 - Green Cross Burkina Faso
 - Association pour la Promotion des Œuvres Sociales
-

BURUNDI: 6

- Organisation de Défense de l'Environnement au Burundi
 - Association burundaise pour la protection des oiseaux
 - Association Tubane de Gikuzi
 - Forum Burundais de la Société Civile du Bassin du Nil
 - Association de Protection des Ressources Naturelles pour le Bien-être de la Population
 - Office Burundais pour la Protection de l'Environnement
-

CAMEROON: 11

- Ministère de l'Environnement de la Protection de la Nature et du Développement Durable
- Forêts et Développement Rural
- Cameroon Environmental Watch
- Organisation pour l'Environnement et le Développement Durable
- École pour la formation de spécialistes de la faune de Garoua
- Centre d'Appui aux Femmes et aux Ruraux
- Chaire de Services Cameroun
- Save The Nature
- Centre International de Promotion de la Récupération
- Cameroun Ecologie
- Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society

COTE D'IVOIRE: 2

- Réseau pour l'Environnement et le Développement Durable en Afrique
 - Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves
-

GABON: 3

- Réseau des Aires Protégées d'Afrique Centrale
 - Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux
 - Ministère de la Forêt, de l'Environnement et de la Protection des Ressources Naturelles
-

GHANA: 5

- Green Earth Organization
 - Institute of Cultural Affairs
 - Nature Conservation Research Centre
 - The Development Institute
 - Friends of the Nation
-

GUINEE: 2

- Ministère Délégué à l'Environnement, Eaux et Forêts
 - Synergies & Développement
-

GUINEE-BISSAU: 9

- Ministério dos Negócios Estrangeiros
 - Centro de Investigação Pesqueira Aplicada
 - TINIGUENA
 - Gabinete de Planificação Costeira
 - Acção para o Desenvolvimento
 - Centro de Estudos Ambientais e Tecnologia Apropriada do Instituto Nacional de Estudos e Pesquisa
 - Direction Générale des Forêts et de la chasse
 - Grupo de Apoio à Educação e Comunicação Ambiental "PALMEIRINHA"
 - Instituto da Biodiversidade e das Areas Protegidas
-

GUINEE EQUATORIALE: 1

- Ministère de la pêche et de l'environnement

MALI: 9

- Ministère de l'Environnement et de l'Assainissement
- Association Malienne pour la Conservation de la Faune et de son Environnement
- Groupe d'Appui Environnemental
- ONG DONKO
- Femmes et Développement
- Association Malienne pour la Protection de l'Environnement
- Œuvre Malienne pour le Développement des Zones Arides
- Association pour le Développement et l'Appui aux Communautés
- Groupe Action pour l'Enfance au Sahel

MAURITANIE : 4

- Parc National du Banc d'Arguin
- Club des Amis de la Nature et de la Protection de l'Environnement
- Association Naforé pour la Protection de la Nature
- Nature Mauritanie

NIGER : 2

- Ministère des Affaires Étrangères, de la Coopération et de l'Intégration africaine
- Réseau d'Appui aux Initiatives Locales

NIGERIA : 5

- Federal Ministry of the Environment
- Nigerian Conservation Foundation
- Nigerian Environmental Study Action Team
- Savannah Conservation Nigeria
- Centre for Environmental Resources & Sustainable Ecosystems

REPUBLIQUE DU CONGO: 5

- Ministère du Développement Durable, de l'Economie Forestière et de l'Environnement
- Alliance Nationale pour la nature
- Alliance-Homme-Environnement d'Afrique
- Conservation de la Faune Congolaise
- Réseau International Arbres Tropicaux au Congo

REPUBLIQUE CENTRAFRICAINE: 1

- Ministère des Eaux, Forêts, Chasses et Pêches

REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO: 8

- Institut Congolais pour la conservation de la Nature
- Réseau pour la Conservation et la réhabilitation des Ecosystèmes Forestiers du Nord-Kivu
- Association pour les Victimes de la Répression en Afrique
- La Voix de la Nature
- Forum des Organisations Non Gouvernementales pour la Conservation de l'Environnement en RDC
- Forum Congolais de la société civile du bassin du Nil
- Actions pour les Droits, l'Environnement et la Vie
- Centre d'Animation et Appui Technique aux Initiatives de Développement

SENEGAL: 9

- Association Sénégalaise des Amis de la Nature
- Ministère de l'Ecologie et de la Protection de la Nature
- ENDA TM
- Groupe de Recherche et d'Etudes Environnementales
- Réseau des parlementaires pour la protection de l'environnement au Sénégal
- Association Action Citoyenne
- Centre de Suivi Ecologique
- West African Association for Marine Environment
- Association pour le Développement de Nguendar et villages environnants

SIERRA LEONE: 1

- Environmental Foundation for Africa

TOGO : 3

- Les Amis de la Terre-Togo (Friends of the Earth- Togo)
- Les Compagnons Ruraux (The Rural Companions)
- Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement (Young Volunteers for Environment)

Further information on web site: www.iucn.org/annuairepaco



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