



# Building the future through nature-based and innovative solutions

2013 Annual Report



CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICA PROGRAMME (PACO)

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**Title:** Building the future through nature-based and innovative solutions, 2013 Annual Report, IUCN-PACO

**Published by:** IUCN - West and Central Africa Programme (PACO), Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

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**Citation:** IUCN-PACO (2014). Building the future through nature-based and innovative solutions: 2013 annual report, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso: IUCN, 36pp.

**ISBN:** 978-2-8317-1671-8

**Layout by:**  
- IUCN-PACO  
- Graphi Imprim - Tel: +226 50 31 12 34

**Printed by:**  
Graphi Imprim - Tel: +226 50 31 12 34

Available from IUCN - West and Central Africa Regional Office: 01 PO Box 1618 Ouagadougou 01;  
Tel: +226 50 36 4979 – 50 36 48 95; paco@iucn.org - www.iucn.org/paco

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## 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



# Acronyms and abbreviations

<b>NBA:</b> Niger Basin Authority	<b>IBAP:</b> Institute of Biodiversity and Protected Areas
<b>AFAUDEB:</b> Burkina Fauna and Development Association	<b>ICCN:</b> Congolese Institute for Conservation of Nature
<b>FDA:</b> French Development Agency	<b>IED:</b> Innovations, Environment, Development
<b>AGEREF/CL:</b> Inter-Village Association for Natural Resource and Fauna Management of Comoé-Léraba	<b>IFDD:</b> Francophony Institute of Sustainable Development
<b>AJSBF:</b> Burkina Faso Association of Scientific Journalists	<b>IIED:</b> International Institute for Environment and Development
<b>PMA:</b> Protected Marine Area	<b>IMROP:</b> Mauritanian Institute of Oceanographic and Fisheries Research
<b>APV/FLEGT:</b> Voluntary Partnership Agreement on the Enforcement of Forest Regulations, Governance and Trade in Timber and Timber by-products	<b>IRD:</b> Institute of Development Research
<b>ASAN:</b> Senegalese Association of Friends of Nature	<b>Kfw:</b> Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (Institution of Credit for Reconstruction)
<b>ATPF:</b> /Friends of Community Land Sector /Les Amis du Terroir de Pays de Filière	<b>MEDD:</b> Ministry of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development
<b>AfDB:</b> African Development Bank	<b>MINFOF:</b> Ministry of Forest and Fauna
<b>CAFE:</b> African Consortium of Environmental Funds	<b>MIKE:</b> Monitoring Illegal Killing of Elephants
<b>CARPE:</b> Central African Regional Environmental Programme	<b>MOLOA:</b> Observation Mission of West African Littoral
<b>CCAFS:</b> Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security	<b>ONAHA:</b> National Office of Hydro agricultural works
<b>CCRE:</b> Water Resource Coordination Centre	<b>NGO:</b> Non Governmental Organization
<b>CEC:</b> Commission on Education and Communication	<b>PACO:</b> Central and West African Programme
<b>CED:</b> Center for Environment and Development	<b>PAG:</b> Development and Management Plan
<b>ECOWAS:</b> Economic Community of West African States	<b>PAGE:</b> Partnership for Governance in West Africa
<b>ECCAS:</b> Economic Community of Central African States	<b>PANA:</b> National Action Programme on Adaptation to Climate Variability and Climate Change
<b>CEFDHAC:</b> Conference on Central Africa Dense Forest and Wetland Ecosystems	<b>PARTAGE:</b> Transboundary Small Scale Fisheries Management Project
<b>CEPIA:</b> Project on "Building Together Fisheries Management that Integrates PMAs"	<b>PCD:</b> Municipal Development Plans
<b>CGIAR:</b> Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research	<b>PDESC:</b> Economic, Social and Cultural Development Plan
<b>CIFOR:</b> International Centre of Forest Research	<b>PEXULAB:</b> Extreme Emergency Anti-Poaching Plan
<b>CILSS:</b> Inter States Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel	<b>UNDP:</b> United Nations Development
<b>CITES:</b> Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species,	<b>UNEP:</b> United Nations Environmental Programme
<b>CMAP:</b> IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas	<b>POAS:</b> Land Use and Apportioning Plans
<b>CNU-Niger:</b> Coordination Nationale des Usagers du fleuve Niger	<b>PRCM:</b> Regional Partnership for Conservation of the West African Coastal and Marine Zone
<b>COMAPROGE:</b> Equatorial Guinea Multiservicios de construccion civil, de mantenimiento, de suministro de materiales y de proteccion del patrimonio socioambiental	<b>PREMI:</b> Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management Initiative
<b>COMIFAC:</b> Central Africa Forest Commission	<b>PREZOH:</b> Regional thematic Water and Wetlands Programme
<b>COSDAL:</b> Commission d'Orientation et de Suivi de la Directive d'Aménagement du Littoral	<b>RACOPY:</b> Network on Concerted Research-Action on Pygmies
<b>CREMA:</b> Community Resource Management Area	<b>RAMPAO:</b> West African Protected Marine Areas Network
<b>CREMACO:</b> Regional Committee of IUCN Members in Central and West Africa	<b>RAPAC:</b> Network on Central Africa Protected Areas
<b>EMC:</b> Ecological Monitoring Centre	<b>CAR:</b> Central Africa Republic
<b>SRFC:</b> Sub Regional Fisheries Commissions	<b>DRC:</b> Democratic Republic of Congo
<b>CTGEN:</b> Transboundary Water Resource Management Committee of Nakanbé	<b>REDD:</b> Reduction of Emissions Induced by Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
<b>CTGS:</b> Transboundary Committee on Integrated Water Resource Management of Sourou Basin	<b>REFADD:</b> African Women for Sustainable Development Network
<b>VCC:</b> Village Consultation Committee	<b>REPALAC:</b> Central Africa Indigenous and Local Populations Network
<b>DANIDA:</b> Danish International Development Agency	<b>REPAR:</b> Parliamentarians' Network for Central african forest
<b>UD:</b> University Diploma	<b>REPES:</b> Parliamentarians' Network for Environmental Protection in Senegal
<b>EOH:</b> Enhancing our Heritage	<b>RERAC:</b> Central Africa Community Radios Network
<b>FAO:</b> United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization	<b>ReSaD:</b> Network on Sahel Desertification
<b>GEF:</b> Global Environmental Fund	<b>RFC:</b> Community Forestry Network
<b>FGEF:</b> French Global Environmental Fund	<b>SDLAO:</b> West African Littoral Master Plan
<b>FIBA:</b> International Foundation of Banc d'Arguin.	<b>NARS:</b> National Agricultural Research Systems
<b>FPP:</b> Forest People Programme	<b>SSC:</b> Species Survival Commission
<b>FPRCI:</b> Côte d'Ivoire Park and Reserve Foundation	<b>U-AVIGREF:</b> Union of Village Associations for Fauna Reserve Management
<b>FSOA:</b> West African Savannah Foundation	<b>EU:</b> European Union
<b>GIZ:</b> German International Cooperation Agency	<b>WAEMU:</b> West African Economic and Monetary Union
<b>GRP:</b> Great Rivers Partnership	<b>IUCN:</b> International Union for Conservation of Nature
<b>GTP-IE:</b> Task Force on Oil and Extractive Industries	<b>UNOPS:</b> United Nations Office for Project Support
<b>GW:</b> Global Water Initiative	<b>USAID:</b> United States Agency for International Development
<b>GWP/AO:</b> Global Water Partnership /WA	<b>WAPO:</b> the e « W », Arly, Pendjari, Oti-Kéran Complex
<b>HCAVN:</b> Haut Commissariat à l'Aménagement de la Vallée du Niger	<b>WCMC:</b> World Conservation Monitoring Centre
	<b>WWF:</b> World Wildlife Fund
	<b>ZOVIC:</b> Village Game Zones



# Technical and Financial Partners



# Foreword

## Pr. Aimé J. Nianogo

Regional Director

Developing knowledge on the status of species and of the ecosystems in which they live, using this data to inform decision-makers on the threats looming on natural resources and the effects that the degradation of these natural resources could have on the communities, helping to identify the tools and the policy, legal, economic and social frameworks to eliminate the barriers, operating behavioral change and turning problems into opportunities, constitute the challenges facing the entire global community.

In a context deeply marked by climate change and its effects, every year comes with its set of new challenges:

- Slaughtering of elephants or rhinos and recrudescence of illegal trade in wild animals;
- Armed conflicts emerging here and there; and
- Extractive industries that are always on the watch, waiting for a chance to set everything back...

Building the future upon nature-based and innovative solutions then becomes a battle to be waged from the local to the global level and vice versa.

This is the reason why international meetings dedicated to conservation in general and to the fight against illegal activities were held recurrently in 2013:

- ECCAS emergency meeting in Yaoundé on anti-poaching in Central Africa;
- Gaborone Summit, referred to as the “Elephant Summit”, organized by the Government of Botswana in collaboration with IUCN;
- Paris Conference organized by the French Government to support Central African States in the fight against large scale poaching;
- 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the PRCM Forum in Dakar, on marine and coastal issues, to mention but a few meetings.

At the local level, a number of actors are joining efforts to give evidence that solutions do exist to address the challenges identified.



In 2013, IUCN has, through the combined efforts of the Secretariat, Commissions and Members, the contribution of many donors and collaboration of several partners, engaged in the three major domains of its four-year (2013-2016) programme : valuing and conserving nature, effective and equitable governance of nature use and nature-based solutions to meet the global challenges of climate, food and development.

This report accounts for the resources mobilized by IUCN in Central and West Africa and for what these resources have made possible to undertake in terms of major actions and significant outcomes and achievements reached in 2013.

# IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME

## Programme Area 1: Valuing and conserving nature

### Well trained executive staff for the management of Protected Areas

IUCN in collaboration with the Senghor University of Alexandria, has established since 2011 two diploma trainings at a professional level in the management of Protected Areas: a University Diploma and a Master's Degree. For year 2013, a total number of 64 young professional officers of conservation have graduated in their University Diploma (UD), or in their Master's Degree in Protected Area Management. With this, 150 trained professional officers (of whom 20% are females) in protected area management made available to 15 countries<sup>1</sup> in West and Central Africa. Some of these graduates are currently working in protected areas and using the knowledge and tools that they have acquired during their training. By providing the States and protected area managers with knowledge on state-of-the-art tools for the monitoring and development of conservation projects to be applied in conservation areas, such trainings go a long way to improving biodiversity management.



Beneficiaries of the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the UD completed in Ouagadougou in May 2013

### Local actors contribute to conservation

IUCN supports local structures that work within and around protected areas in 13 countries in the region (Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger, Togo, Cameroon, Congo, DRC, Mali, Sierra Leone, Chad, the Gambia, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire). About thirty local NGOs and decentralized or community structures as well as some 30 representatives and municipal officials have received customized training in the field of project design and monitoring-evaluation, natural resource management, land planning, financial and accounts management, etc. Out of about thirty local NGOs, six<sup>2</sup> have acquired operational capacity for the monitoring of geographic dynamics in natural landscapes. As a result, they are now capable of designing and implementing small scale projects in the area of GIS, identification, monitoring and mapping of ecologically sensitive zones and other significant structures, using the GPS technology, spatial information interpretation and analysis based on remote sensing and GIS data, and data base creation and keeping techniques. Some conservation micro-projects were funded through 3 regional projects (*Small scale Initiative Programme, phase3, Land Conservation-West Africa, financed by FFEM and Climate Change Resilient Protected Areas* financed by GEF via WCMC (*World Conservation Monitoring Centre*)).

### Capacity for improved management of world heritage sites

In order to develop the capacity of world heritage site managers and of their collaborators, fourteen training workshops on the application of the Enhancing our Heritage (EoH) tool were organized in the following sites: the Dja Fauna Reserve, the W National Park in Niger, the National Park of Taï, the National Park of Kahuzi Biega and the Trinational Park of Sangha. A total number of 47 persons from technical departments, representatives of local communities, NGOs and research institutes were trained. These trainings have helped the players to ascertain that the extractive industry, gold digging and industrial agriculture constitute the main threats looming on most of these natural goods. This is already visible with the encroachment noted in nearly 50% of the cases surveyed. They have further realized that the objectives of management plans of more than 50% of the sites have not adequately mainstreamed the monitoring of the preservation status of the values that have led to the registration of such property on the list of the world heritage.

Moreover, IUCN supports the African State Parties in refining their proposals for registration in the world heritage list. Support and counseling were thus given for four applications: the WAP complex as an extension of W Niger, the National Park of Azagny (Côte d'Ivoire), the National Park of Ehotilé Islands (Côte d'Ivoire), the National Park of Zakouma (Chad). For now, only the Zakouma and WAP Parks are of outstanding universal value; Efforts are yet to be made and these two sites are urged to improve their management system and postpone until 2015 the submission of their registration proposal.

<sup>1</sup>Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo, Cameroon, Congo, DRC, Gabon, CAR, Mali, Cape Verde

<sup>2</sup>AGEREF/CL, AFAUDEB, U-AVIGREF, ATPF and AGBO ZEGUE and A Rocha



## Knowledge to improve biodiversity management

**In Central Africa**, IUCN in partnership with the university of Oxford (Great Britain) and the Environmental Change Institute (UK), contributes to research work on *“improving the effectiveness of alternative livelihoods to curb hunting for bush meat: lessons from Central Africa”*. Sixty four micro-projects on alternatives to bush meat have thus been analyzed across Central Africa, including small grants of the Central Africa Regional Programme on Environment (CARPE).

**In West Africa**, IUCN has revamped regional collaboration efforts in the area of scientific research and marine turtles conservation in Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau and Senegal, supported local initiatives in pilot sites and contributed to making available to decision makers and conservation practitioners tools that foster anticipated decision-making in view of reducing the impact of littoral dynamics. Thus, using a risk assessment map of coastal zones in terms of turtle reproduction and strengthening the planning and conservation of sites of critical importance, the national and local actors have adopted a roadmap on the continuation of field initiatives, improvement of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and pilot sites and creation of a more conducive environment for the conservation of marine turtles.

**In Mauritania**, IUCN in collaboration with the scientific task force of the support Project on the Management of Transboundary Small Scale Fishing (PARTAGE), has continued collecting data and improving knowledge on the mullet and Atlantic croaker.

This data was compiled in a report summarizing the results obtained in the area of biology and ecology, statistics and stock assessment as well as socio-economy. The results were used in land planning at the national level and will be incorporated at the transboundary level. Moreover IUCN supports research work at the Mauritanian Institute of Oceanographic Research and Fisheries (IMROP). This work has confirmed the fragile status of the bay due to the multiple uses made of it, which justifies the recommendation by the Commission on Orientation Monitoring of the Littoral Planning Directive (COSDAL) to classify it as a marine protected area.

**The knowledge generated** also relates to the tools used for Central and West Africa biodiversity planning and/or management. Thus, a study conducted on the development and implementation of protected area management plans in Central and West Africa has revealed wide content similarities despite the great diversity in the statuses of the respective protected areas. The comparison between these plans and the practices recommended in IUCN guidelines show that the management plans are quite often restricted to actions that can be carried out with the means available instead of paving a more ambitious way to the desired status; it also shows that their implementation is hardly followed up, that labor division is unclear, intervals between assessments too wide and their findings barely disseminated<sup>3</sup>.

## Burkina Faso: fresh water fish species listed

In Burkina Faso, standardized assessment methods of the status of aquatic ecosystems are being tested in view of sustainably managing fish resources. The project on the sustainable management of fisheries and water resources financed by the APPEAR Programme (*Austrian Partnership Programme in Higher Education and Research for Development*) of the Austrian development cooperation (SUSFISH) supports this process through cooperation between Austrian and Burkinabe scientists. In this regard, in collaboration with the fresh water specialist group of the *Species Survival Commission* (SSC), IUCN has coordinated the training of ten national specialists on the application of the assessment criteria of the Red List of fresh water fish species. The Union has also facilitated the establishment of a national interactive data base on fresh water fish species and fisheries in Burkina Faso, as well as the establishment of the list and characterization of 142 fish species which conservation status is currently being assessed.



Training Certificate handed over by Pr Philippe Laleye to a participant

<sup>3</sup>www.papaco.org

## New tools and guides to plan land use and resource management

**In Central Africa**, IUCN in collaboration with USAID, has facilitated the validation by the actors, of four new guides to land use planning and management of the related resources: Guide to land use planning in landscapes; Guide to land use planning in PAs; Guide to extractive resource planning; and Guide to community resource management planning. The expected results under the Central Africa Forest Commission (COMIFAC) have been achieved after several years of endeavor.

**In DRC**, IUCN assists in developing a scheme to formalize small scale forest resource use, which was validated together with an action plan and communication materials that were translated into local languages. The action plan was incorporated in one of the components of the DRC National Environment, Forestry, Water and Biodiversity Programme. A training guide on the REDD process designed for civil society organizations was published. This guide was prepared with the civil society, the National Committee on REDD+, international conservation NGOs and experts from the Ministry of Forestry.

**In Equatorial Guinea**, IUCN supports civil society organizations (e.g. COMAPROGE) in drafting a manual of procedures aimed at enabling the obtaining and management of community forests. The objective is to support the take off of community forestry in Equatorial Guinea.

In view of developing a strategic plan for marine protected areas, IUCN supports the preparation of a baseline status of marine protected areas (MPAs) in six Central African countries (Cameroon, Congo, DRC, Gabon, CAR, Equatorial Guinea). This is an exploratory work on a topic that is relatively new in Central Africa and it has helped to collect a wealth of information and produce a summary map of the six countries at 1/500 000 scale.

IUCN has also produced biodiversity planning and conservation for three Central Africa National Parks and their surroundings. Thus, at the National Park of Mont Allen, the capacity building process of actors for ecological monitoring and sustainable use of the biodiversity has led to:

- the production of two training manuals (one on ecological monitoring and one on sustainable biodiversity use), and
- the training in ecological monitoring of 18 eco guards and other senior staff members of the Forest administration in Equatorial Guinea.

The planning scheme of the Cameroon National Park of Waza has been finalized and shall serve as a guide to developing the

business plan and conservation and sustainable management actions undertaken by the Conservation Service and actors in the peripheral zone. At the Chadian Sena Oura Park, a management plan of wild fires inside the Park and in the transition and peripheral zones has been validated.

**In Burkina Faso**, IUCN has facilitated the validation of the master scheme for the planning of the WAP complex in collaboration with the Ministries in charge of protected areas of Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger and the European Union, the West African Economic and Monetary Union and African Wildlife Foundation. The programme has also supported the drafting and validation of Planning and Management Schemes of Village Hunting Zones in Madjoari, a municipality located in the Burkinabe part of the WAP (**Box 1**). Finally, IUCN has led the development of 6 villagers action plans implementation of innovations identified in the context of Burkina Faso component of the Strengthening Local Climate Change Adaptation Strategies in West Africa (EPIC) project.

**In Mauritania**, IUCN has facilitated the drafting of mullet planning schemes using an innovative approach referred to as ComMod (supportive modeling approach), which were thereafter validated by the actors of fisheries.

In the Baie de l'Etoile (Bay of Star), the Commission on Orientation and Monitoring of the Littoral Planning Directive (COSDAL) has just adopted a Planning and Management Scheme (PMS) of the site the recommended management rules of which will enter into force upon formal classification of the bay by the Nouadhibou Free Trade Area (FTA). The Authority is now operational and constitutes the only relevant body that can endorse the conservation status of the zone.

**In Guinea Bissau**, IUCN supports the adoption of new laws by the State Secretariat for Environment and Tourism, banning the import of plastic bags and construction of settlements and infrastructures in wetlands. The Union has also enabled strong mobilization of the population against illicit trade in wood by organizing awareness raising missions, debates and stand taking at both national and international levels in collaboration with the Institute of Biodiversity and Protected Areas (IBAP) and the European Union Representation.

Furthermore, IUCN supports the facilitation of a training workshop of members of the Parliamentarians' network (REPAR-Central Africa, Equatorial Guinea Section), on issues relating to illegal fishing and sustainable fish resource management as well as updating of fishing rules in protected areas in collaboration with the People's National Assembly.



## Box 1: Conservation efforts of the WAPO complex strengthened

The « W », Arly, Pendjari, Oti-Keran (WAPO) complex is a unique biodiversity reserve in West Africa which effective management depends on several factors including transboundary coordination capacity of the States and the socio-economic situations of riparian communities. Playing a role as a technical assistant, IUCN has :

- supported the concerned States (Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger, Togo) engaged in a project on « Strengthening and catalyzing the sustainability of the WAP Protected Areas System » through a drafting process of a master plan for the planning and management of the complex. The plan which will be consolidated by WAEMU, helps to define a shared vision and guide the various interventions all over the complex, notably in terms of protected area planning and management. It also provides some orientations on the complex financing and conservation, tourism and other forms of development of the complex, regulation of management bodies, management of interfaces (protected area-peripheral areas), research and ecological monitoring.
- promoted actions to build up the resilience of riparian communities to climate change in Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger with the financial support of the African Union (Livestock Breeding as a livelihood).



Village Consultation during a diagnosis exercise

- facilitated the provision to the States of a methodological guide to local planning for improved mainstreaming of protected areas in the development plans of riparian municipalities of the complex. Three model plans (Banikoara in Bénin, Madjoari in Burkina and Kirtachi in Niger) were prepared to serve as model plans.

## Landscapes of ecological and economic interest developed

As part of actions undertaken in the WAP complex, support to the rehabilitation and delineation of 582 ha of Village Hunting Zones (ZOVIC) in Burkina Faso, made it possible to reclaim and secure conservation land areas that were turned into farmlands. In addition to that, two ponds in the Saborga and Madjoari ZOVICs in Burkina Faso were developed so as to increase available water for wildlife and cattle as well.

In Benin, 37 km of cattle routes in four locations and 56km<sup>2</sup> of grazing areas were rehabilitated and secured in view of promoting peaceful co-existence of agro pastoralists and wildlife.

The Ministry for Water, Environment and Land of Burundi has expressed interest in launching a national forest landscape restoration programme and has engaged its country in adhering to the “Bonn Challenge” which aims at restoring 150 million hectares of degraded forests across the world by 2020. This interest was raised through the discussions that the Burundi officials have had with IUCN. It gives an opportunity to Burundi to actively take part in the global effort towards mitigating and adapting to climate change.

## Forest legislation reform in Cameroon: the civil society supported

After more than a decade of implementation, the shortcomings observed in the 20 January 1994 law n° 94-01 governing the Forest, fauna and fisheries regime have led the Ministry of Forests and Fauna (MINFOF) to initiate a revision process of the said law. To facilitate the engagement of all stakeholders in this process, areas of focus were defined in consultation with development partners. To respond to that, the civil society mobilized to give their contribution through position papers on the key themes, notably the rights of the indigenous people of the forest, REDD+ and community forestry, land tenure and forest rights of women and harmonization of the law with the APV/FLEGT.

IUCN has provided technical and financial support to the civil society networks and organization at various levels: sensitization and consultations at the grassroots level; organization of workshops to prepare and validate proposals emanating from the consultations carried out; formulation of the concerns expressed by the people using the template proposed by the Ministry of Forest and Fauna; and organization of the ceremony to hand over the official documents on the advocacy directed to the body in charge of the law revision process.

The main actors of the civil society having coordinated advocacy actions include: the Réseau Recherche-Actions-Concertées Pygmées (RACOPLY) (Pygmee Concerted Research Action Network) which has facilitated the indigenous people's action, the Community Forestry Network (CFN), the African Women's Network for

Sustainable Development (Cameroon Chapter (REFADD-Cam)), a coalition made up of the IUCN Secretariat, the Centre of Environment and Development (CED) and the Forest People Programme (FPP). The key advocacy points were specific to each group of actors:

- The indigenous people focused on the need to clarify the ambiguity between riparian communities on one hand and local and marginalized indigenous communities on the other hand; fulfillment of the customary rights of the local and indigenous people living in the forest zone; protection of the right to use resources in ancestral lands transformed into permanent forests.
- The actors interested in community forestry and REDD+ wanted a clarification of the equitable benefit sharing concept as related to community forest management taking into consideration REDD+; the necessity for ensuring technical assistance to the communities during the signing of contracts with forest loggers; and the importance of separating community forest cession mechanisms from management and /or exploitation mechanisms.
- Women's groups focused on the recognition of women's land tenure and forest rights in the law, thus introducing provisions that relate to land tenure, decision-making on resource use, equitable sharing of the income generated from forest exploitation among the various social segments, etc.

Adimbia Forest in Cameroon



## Anti-poaching activities: IUCN sides with partners to save the African Elephant

The transboundary area shared among Cameroon, Chad and Central African Republic is located in the Northern zone of Central Africa and covers more than one million hectares. It is one of the few savannah landscapes in the Congo basin hosting about twelve protected areas where relatively large populations of emblematic wild species such as elephants, lions and giraffes are found. The integrity of these protected areas is however being seriously threatened over the past few years by a new type of poaching with incursions of well organized groups of poachers often equipped with war arms. According to conservation organizations, nearly 400 elephants were killed in this zone since January 2012.

In addition to the adverse effects on biodiversity, this situation represents a threat to the economy and to the well-being of the riparian communities, to peace and security as well.

To address the situation, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) and the Central African Protected Area Network (RAPAC) have organized an emergency meeting on poaching. The ECCAS ministers in charge of defense, security, external relations, integration and wildlife protection and their experts, agencies of the United Nations System and various national, regional and international organizations and institutions attended the meeting.

At the end of the meeting, the Ministers adopted (i) an Extreme Emergency Anti-Poaching Plan (PEXULAB); (ii) and a Declaration



on Poaching Control in Central Africa. Thailand was quoted as a good example for its recent decision to ban the trade in illegal ivory, and other ivory destination countries are urged to step up efforts towards combating the illegal trade in ivory, sensitizing more effectively their fellow citizens on the consequences of this trade.

The three countries concerned have further signed a transboundary cooperation agreement aimed at coordinating their anti-poaching actions in transboundary savannah ecosystems. IUCN acted as the technical secretariat of this meeting and made the commitment with its partners to support ECCAS in their efforts to save the African elephant. The technical and financial partners also mobilized in support of anti-poaching actions.



Signing a Trinational anti-Poaching Contract among Cameroon, Chad and CAR, Ndjamenas November 2013



## Sustainable financing systems for protected areas

One of the major problems in protected areas is the lack of sustainable funding, which makes them dependent on successive and yet discontinued projects that are not necessarily consistent with each other. In Benin, IUCN supports the inception of Foundation for West African Savannahs and hopefully this will assist in ensuring the continuity of actions and sustainability of conservation achievements.

### West African Savannah Foundation (FSOA): an initiative to be replicated

In Benin, the Pendjari and W Parks have recorded significant progress over the past few years with the support of many partners (EU, KfW, FDA, GEF, ...), specifically in the area of management and business plan development, engagement of the local communities, improvement of ecological surveillance and monitoring.

However, despite the substantial Government contribution and steady increase in tourist revenue, the management costs of the parks are not fully met. The Government has therefore undertaken to establish a Trust Fund to generate income on a regular basis. IUCN has been closely supporting and co-financing the process since 2009 and year 2013 stands out with a number of concrete achievements:

- The FSOA has been formally registered in England and in Benin, thus enabling the setting up of an investment fund;
- KfW has allocated a grant worth EURO 12 M to supplement the funds already allocated by the State (about EURO 1,2 M);
- The Executive Board of which IUCN is a member has been established and is operational with a majority of private sector representatives in its membership;
- the Executive Director has been recruited and is developing the required procedures for the full operationalization of the FSOA Foundation.

FSOA will henceforth be a key actor of nature protection in Benin, positively impacting on the local development. Just like other members of the African Consortium of Environmental Funds, (CAFE), such as the Côte d'Ivoire Parks and Reserves Foundation (FPRCI), it will continue receiving support from IUCN.

## Niger Inner Delta: ecosystems recovered

Recovery of Degraded Ecosystems in the Niger Inner Delta (REDDIN), the rehabilitation of forests in the municipalities of Konna, Boroundougou and Kounari, and that of the Diangoudié channel to ensure water supply to vegetable gardens and forest downstream.

The M'bibba forest which covers 8 hectares, is a shared resource among the municipalities of Konna, Boroundougou and Kounari in Mopti region. It has served as the main restoration site for enhancing agricultural practices and increasing crop yields. The stone belt and half-moon building technique was used to that effect with the aim of increasing rain water penetration as well as tree planting with plant species that are useful to the population and for fencing the developed land.

Two years after the restoration of the forest the following was observed: i) renewed soil biological activity with improved grass cover recovery level; ii) occurrence of rodents notably squirrels ; iii) a trend towards improved farming practices in peripheral family farms ; and iv) collective efforts by municipalities for concerted management of this shared resource.

Historically, the channel of Diangoudié is a shared property of great economic interest for the populations of Farimaké, Bimbéré, Tama and Youwarou. Its rehabilitation within the framework of the project represents a great relief for the populations of Farimaké who used to walk more than 17 km to reach the said zone, a water source for many cattle herds.

The works on a 2600m distance, were carried out with the support of the Village Management Committee and the Inter-Village Association for the Management of the Channel, under the supervision of the Regional Directorate of Civil Engineering. With this achievement, the following was observed : i) early water supply of ponds and flood plains; ii) rapid access of local populations to the flood plain; iii) biodiversity regeneration (fish breeding zone; massive return of migratory birds, regeneration of Bourgou fields, etc.); and iv) development of flood zones (agriculture, animal husbandry, fishing).

Many actions were initiated for the benefit of women notably in terms of diversification of income generating activities. Thus, eight female groups have received: i) micro-credits by joining the micro financing institution called Kondo Jigima; ii) market gardening through provision of seeds, phytosanitary chemicals and introduction of fruit trees in market gardening perimeters; iii) cereal banks with 13900kg of millet and 5700kg of husked rice and 58 bags of 100kg of paddy rice. These activities have helped to improve the living conditions of women, specifically by increasing their income.

## Programme Area 2: Effective and equitable Governance of nature's use

### Actors engage in increased intersectoral dialogue on nature use

**In Cameroon**, IUCN has organized a meeting of experts of the issue of extractive activities, focusing on oil exploration and drilling in the Waza Logone flood plain. At the end of the deliberations, participants recognized the need for adopting good practices in the extractive industry and setting up a consultation framework in order to build complementarity and synergy in the interventions. IUCN should accompany the actors in following up the outcomes of this workshop.

At the country level, strong recommendations were made including the establishment of an independent expert committee to revise environmental impact assessments. The meeting made it possible to lay the foundation for an IUCN sub-regional programme on extractive industries; it also created awareness in a Chinese oil company working in the Waza Logone plain about the need for opening a dialogue with other actors.

At the level of the **Lake Chad Basin**, the Union has given support for the organization of the General Assembly meeting of the Central Africa Cattle Breeders' Confederation. The objective of the session was to put in

place a leading team and endorse the statutes of the Confederation which aims at ensuring equitable access to pastoral resources for livestock breeders.

**In Guinea Bissau**, the programme has facilitated meetings and training sessions on mining and petroleum exploration with various stakeholders involved in the extractive industry. Through the project on the Task Force on Oil and Extractive Industries (GTP-IE), IUCN has played a critical role in the facilitation of public hearings organized within the framework of social and environmental impact assessments of mining fields in the Varela region.

**In Ghana**, sensitization and development of standards for *Allanblackia* oil production has raised interest among Ghanaian small and medium size enterprises in the use of the species. This development will certainly lead to the sustainable use of the plant species and many other non timber forest products. Actors now see the *Allanblackia* as a resource that can be used to create an enabling environment for sustainable economic, social and environmental growth.



IUCN and civil society organizations in a working session



## Concerted planning of landscape and natural resource management

The programme has continued consolidating water resource governance in the Volta Basin, focusing on the following aspects:

- Revision of the statutes and by-laws of the Transboundary Committee on Nakanbe Water Resource management (CTGEN)<sup>4</sup> which was so far composed of Burkina Faso and Ghana but includes actors from Togo henceforth;
- In the Niger Basin and in Upper Niger more particularly, four Village Consultative Committees (CVC) were put in place in the Upper Basin of Tinkisso (Guinea) with the support of IUCN and their rules and regulations were finalized.

In addition to water governance, IUCN has carried out actions aimed at strengthening the mainstreaming of climate change adaptation into decision making processes in West Africa, at different levels and through various approaches:

- A methodological note on the climate change mainstreaming in local planning in Senegal was drafted for use by local actors with the contribution of national technical directorates (national planning, land planning and Local Decentralization), the national climate change committee, the National Programme on Local Development and the Union of Local Representatives' Associations in Senegal;
- Four Municipal Development Plans (PCD-Burkina Faso) and /or Economic, Social and Cultural Development Programmes (PDESC-Mali) have been revised in Burkina Faso and in Mali, with the aim of including adaptation to climate change in these local strategy documents. The revision was undertaken with the actual involvement of the leaders of the Sio Municipality, the Regional Council of Mopti (Mali), regional technical services, the city councils of Lalgaye, Tenado and Korsimoro (Burkina Faso);
- As part of the Global Water Initiative (GWI), the IUCN/IIED Consortium has facilitated the signing between Burkina Faso and Mali, of two transboundary agreements on concerted

water resource management in the Sourou Basin. These are the Agreement on the setting up of a Technical Joint Committee on Integrated Water Resource Management (TJC-IWRM) on one hand and the Agreement on the establishment of a Transboundary Committee on Integrated Water Resource Management of the Sourou Basin (TCMS). This outcome will enable regular consultations among actors of the two countries in view of concurring on how to manage this shared resource. At the level of the Inner Delta of Niger River, IUCN supports the drafting of three local agreements on natural resource management in Diangui Mody forests (rural municipality of Fatoma), in Tofiol (rural municipality of Bassiro) and in M'Bibba (rural municipality of Borondougou) and the Tofiol Pond (rural municipality of Bassiro);

- The participatory process used in drafting the Charter on the irrigated land area in the Anambe Basin in Senegal under the GWI had led to a draft text that will be submitted to local and national actors for validation in 2014: this Charter is designed to serve as a reference legal framework for sound and sustainable water and land use by all users of the Basin. A methodological note was produced for the purpose of finding the ways and means to transform and expand the Charter on sustainable mangrove management which was finalized some years back, making it an addendum to the Abidjan Convention. The idea was included as an agenda item at the next Conference of Parties planned to be held in March 2014 in Cape Town;
- In DRC, IUCN supports the evaluation of the implementation of the national strategy and action plan for the protection of big monkeys. The stakeholders have now received an updated overview of the implementation status of these two instruments. A poster in Lingala, Swahili and French languages was produced and disseminated in the provinces (Bas-Congo and Equateur). IUCN assists the national REDD+ Coordination in analyzing forest governance frameworks and supported the production of a compilation of legal environmental texts in partnership with the NGO *Avocat Vert*.



<sup>4</sup> The Nakambé is a tributary of Volta River

Community working session in Ghana



## Drafting and implementation of customized policies, legislations and agreements

**In Central Africa**, the CARPE Programme has mobilized the Country teams (made up of the widest range of actors of the environmental sector) to support numerous initiatives in the field of environmental policies and legislations:

- through ten planning and implementation workshops of policy and legislative reforms in five countries (Cameroon, Congo, CAR, DRC and Chad), actors have played an active advocacy role with government bodies, embassies, parliaments and COMIFAC;
- consultation work among government agencies and civil society in Congo for the revision of the 2008 Law on Fauna and Protected Areas and its enforcement decrees. In this respect, IUCN has facilitated a Commission in charge of finalizing the dossier for its validation by the Ministry of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development (MEDD) before submission to the parliament;
- ground work of the first Fauna and Protected Area policy;
- drafting of the Congo civil society inputs to the revision of the Forest Law which has become obsolete. The civil society has understood its role and is requesting support to participate in the national consultation process;
- meetings between the General Directorate of Fauna and Protected Areas of Gabon and actors involved in wild resource use in view of sensitizing them to make them abide by the Gabonese laws on fauna and by the Regional Directive on Fauna and Protected Areas in view of preparing them at country level for the COMIFAC.

It should be noted that after a long regional forest dialogue process conducted by ECOWAS with the support of FAO and IUCN, the Ministers of Environment of the fifteen countries in West Africa have endorsed a convergence plan for sustainable management and use of forest ecosystems in the region. The convergence plan will help ECOWAS in mobilizing its member States and partners for the implementation of consistent regional programmes aimed at improving forest knowledge, policy and governance.

**In Nigeria**, IUCN has contributed to the review of the final version of the National Strategy for integrated water resource management and to the preparation of the national water efficiency plan. This plan provides a framework for water resource management taking into consideration biodiversity conservation. It also determines the direction of efficient water use but does not impose a stringent national plan.

**In Niger**, IUCN has been assisting the Niger authorities since 2009 under the GWI, in formulating a model emphyteotic lease contract and its terms of reference in order to address the notion of fair compensation of affected communities living in the riparian

area of the Kandadji dam which traditional lands have been flooded by the future reservoir or transformed into developed rice fields. This participatory work has helped to develop a model lease contract to secure the farmers. The contract determines the rights and duties of the parties (local populations, dam managers and local government) in compliance with the law on expropriation for reasons of public convenience. The proposal was validated through local and national workshops and through an independent panel of legal experts of Niger, Burkina Faso (Environmental Law Commission) and Mali. The Ministry of Agriculture is now interested in this approach and has requested to collaborate with GWI and reflect at the national level through the national office of hydro-agricultural works (ONAHA), a government agency in charge of managing the existing public irrigation system.

With the T21<sup>5</sup> Model, IUCN has positioned itself in **Burkina Faso**, as a stakeholder for the green economy by actively contributing to a training workshop in support of the national transition towards the green economic. The Union was also involved in the preparation of the national Policy on wetlands together with a 2013-2015 action plan. The positioning of the programme in Burkina as a facilitation partner for transboundary collaboration and consultation in the area of wetlands management also makes it play a useful role at this level.

IUCN and IFDD have, with the technical support of the Burkina Faso Environmental Law Specialists, contributed to the reform of the environmental code of the country; they have also supported the writing of the bill on sustainable development and draft policy on sustainable development of the country.

With the final adoption of the R-PP (Readiness Preparation Plan), **Cameroon** has made a giant leap in the REDD+ process. However, one of the challenges to this process remains the identification of relevant policy and institutional reforms. To assist the country in taking up these challenges, IUCN has implemented three studies on (i) the analysis of natural resource management policies and legislation, (ii) the mechanisms for sharing profits generated from natural resource management and (iii) participatory analysis and formulation of proposals in view of customizing environmental legislations and policies. These studies have served as a basis for the preparation of positions taken by the respective actors. At the sub regional level, the support given by IUCN covered the revision process of the COMIFAC Convergence Plan. It has notably helped to focus on emerging subject matters to be included in the revised convergence plan such as REDD+, climate change, green economy and gender.

**In DRC**, IUCN supports the government in drafting the enforcement texts of the environmental code. The Union has also provided support to the coalition of NGO networks in the environmental sector for the production of a community educator's guide on REDD+ and climate change.

<sup>5</sup> Threshold 21 (T21) is a dynamic simulation tool designed for facilitating integrated, long term and comprehensive planning of national development

## Promotion of civil society and private sector participation in national and regional processes

Through the small grant programme for civil society organizations under CARPE, IUCN has financed 14 micro projects for a total budget of US \$ 250,000 in five Central African countries (Cameroon, DRC, Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon). These projects have made it possible to foster the engagement of civil society organizations in REDD+ processes; management of community forests; alternative livelihoods; gender and natural resource management. In Cameroon, the civil society supports parliamentarians and councilors in their engagement in the REDD+ preparatory process and management of income generated from forest exploitation. These projects have provided an opportunity for training Baka and Bantu women on the REDD+ preparatory process.

In DRC, women were involved in forest landscape restoration actions while the local communities of Gabon and Congo were engaged in the management of the national parks of Moukalaba-Doudou and Odzala Kokoua.

IUCN has continued assisting the ECOWAS Centre for Water Resource Coordination (CCRE) as follows:

- organization of an electronic forum to reflect on the concrete implementation of the Guidelines for the development of water infrastructure in West Africa. Axis 2 of these guidelines entitled « Involving affected communities as project actors, partners and recipients », was selected to develop two underlying themes: i) Compensation and benefit sharing in view of achieving local development, and ii) Representativeness and Consultation. The main conclusions and proposals that emerged from the discussions were compiled in two thematic documents.
- holding of a regional conference within the framework of the CCRE/IIED/IUCN/GWI partnership to discuss the social aspects relating to the implementation of ECOWAS recommendations on large dams. The meeting served to share West African experiences and lessons learned in terms of displacement/resettlements and sharing of benefits with the local communities, and to propose consensus approaches to address planned measures. It also served to take up the challenges encountered in the field.

Concerning the promotion of civil society and private sector participation in decision-making or legal instrument development processes in relation to natural resource management, IUCN assists in the restructuring of CEFDHAC networks. This is the case of the Central Africa Indigenous and Local Populations Network (REPALEAC) which ultimately organized a General Assembly meeting with the support of IUCN, GIZ and COMIFAC. The General Assembly allowed the validation of the statutes and by-laws and the setting up of a new leading team.

At country level, the Union coordinated the reorganization of the CEFDHAC national fora in Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Chad which led to the preparation and validation of the operating texts and adoption of triennial action plans of the fora. Through Radio Environnement, IUCN has also facilitated the structuring of the Central Africa Community Radio Network (RERAC) (**Box 2**). This has led to the holding of the General Assembly meeting for elections, setting up of a new coordinating team, preparation and approval of a triennial action plan and new organic texts. The Network was also expanded in 7 Central African countries (Cameroon, Congo, DRC, Rwanda, Burundi, CAR and Gabon) and technical and material capacity of the members were further strengthened (1 computer, 30 audio headsets and 15 multidirectional microphones) for the production and broadcast of programmes on climate change and REDD+.

The restructuring of networks was combined with a set of capacity building actions for the benefit of three networks (REPALEAC, REPAR, REFADD) focusing on access and equitable sharing of benefits derived from natural resource use and the REDD+ mechanism.

These actions were quite successful in the sense that increasingly, the rights and interests of vulnerable groups are taken into consideration in policy processes relating to natural resource management in Central Africa. This includes notably the consideration of the CEFDHAC position and that of its networks in the decisions made at the COMIFAC Council of Ministers as well as its positions on REDD+ and gender aspects in the roadmap of the Partnership for the Congo Basin Forests.

In the same vein, the DRC programme has completed and published a commented and annotated forest code document. 750 copies of the said document were circulated to the stakeholders. The document constitutes a reference tool appreciated by the local communities, the main users of it.

In Niger, IUCN supports as part of GWI implementation, the revival of the National Coordination of Niger River Users (NCU-Niger) in view of the revision and adoption of its statutory and regulatory texts. A General Assembly meeting of its members was facilitated so as to enable the Coordination to put in place dynamic and consensus-based organs. The main outcome of this support is the fact that NCU-Niger has obtained an authorization from the government and is now actively participating in advocacy activities for natural resource conservation and improvement of the living conditions of the communities affected by the current construction of the Kandadji dam.



## Box 2: The RERAC, a specialized network of CEFDHAC

The Central Africa Community Radios' Network (RERAC) is a sustainable natural resource management tool. It aims at contributing to good governance, conservation and sustainable and equitable management of natural resources through communication. With the setting of the branches in Congo, Rwanda and Burundi in 2013, the RERAC is now present in 7 countries (Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, CAR, DRC and Rwanda).

This expansion was made possible thanks to the financing by the Canadian International Development Agency in an amount of about CAN 100 000.

The project which has 3 components has helped to formalize the branches in the above countries, build the capacity of the journalists in the new branches in the areas of networking, climate change and REDD ; and provided the public educators with small media programme production equipment.

The RERAC was already meeting one of the essential criteria for being a CEFDHAC network i.e. being present in at least 4 countries.

During the meeting of the CEFDHAC Regional Steering Committee (RSC) an integrated forum of the COMIFAC held in October 2013, the RERAC was definitely recognized as a specialized network of CEFDHAC.

With about 121 member radios in the 7 countries of the region (45 in Cameroon, 20 in DRC, 15 in Rwanda, 15 in Congo, 15 in Burundi, 5 in CAR and 6 in Gabon), the RERAC represents one of the bodies that the CEFDHAC will use to roll out its new vision of «rural CEFDHAC ».

In fact, at the 6th forum held in Kigali, Rwanda in October 2012, it was recommended to create more linkages among the various target groups by engaging the grassroots populations as stakeholders. The integration of the RERAC will certainly help in achieving this objective as the network is an outreach information and mass communication tool.

## Promoting gender and indigenous people mainstreaming

USAID Washington, in collaboration with IUCN has developed and finalized a Central Africa gender analysis document which is meant to guide most of the conservation projects in the sub region over the next 5 years. In order to produce a greater impact, the Forest Programme has agreed with the IUCN Gender Unit and USAID to build up a regional action plan on Climate Change and Gender. In addition, IUCN has developed a strategy for involving women and indigenous communities in the REDD+ process in Cameroon, CAR and Congo.

The promotion of the mainstreaming of vulnerable groups has resulted in increased participation of such groups, particularly in the workshops organized within the framework of the CEFDHAC and REDD+ (in average more than 40% of participants in all meetings were women and indigenous people). IUCN intends to build the capacity of the populations through vocational training sessions.



Baka woman (Yenga village, South-East Cameroon) making fishing materials



## Planning tools to strengthen shared governance

The Global Water Initiative implemented by the IIED/IUCN Consortium has facilitated multi-actor processes that have highlighted a range of issues relating to good governance of water and related resources in a number of dam sites in West Africa, including the following notably:

- prevention of land tenure conflicts between livestock breeders and crop farmers through the dissemination of land use schemes around the Niandouba reservoirs and the Confluent and irrigation schemes in the Anambe Basin in Senegal. Following the intervention led by the GWI programme in four rural communities, the number of stray animals caught in crop fields has considerably reduced.
- Assistance to the Irrigation Development Project in Bani and in Selingue (PDI-BS) at Djenne, Mali, financed by the African Development Bank (AfDB), concerning local agreements and the allocation of irrigated plots to crop farmers. The AfDB and the national Coordination of Niger Basin users in Mali (CNU-Mali) have recommended to the PDI-BS project to adopt the approach advised by the GWI initiative, following the regional GWI/ECOWAS meeting that took place in January 2013. A field mission was conducted in December 2013 to initiate a tripartite GWI/PDI-BS/CNU-Mali collaboration.
- Support to the Kandadji Programme in Niger, which will require the relocation of 38000 persons, through research action, information, sensitization and capacity building activities directed to the civil society. IUCN supports a process aimed at setting up a new mechanism for intensive irrigation through support to the legal rights of the 38,000 persons. GWI has further assisted in formulating a proposal for a local development fund that would be replenished with a percentage of electricity sales by the future power station of the dam. This proposal is supported by the local population, the local government, national stakeholders, the independent expert group of the NBA (an initiative financed by the World Bank) and HCAVN; what remains to be done is obtaining the formal endorsement by the Minister of Energy. GWI also provides support to the local media (print press and radio stations) for field visits and direct interaction with local beneficiaries.
- Support by the General Directorate of the Fomi dam Project to ensure the best preparation possible for the social transformation that the 48,000 persons to be displaced will experience. GWI is facilitating the quest for ways and means to implement some of the recommendations derived from the ECOWAS guidelines and from the Water Charter particularly i) an innovative contract signed between the

Government and the local communities with the aim of making each party fulfill their respective commitments while protecting the rights of each and everyone and ensuring long term local development, and ii) a local development fund financed with 3% of the income generated from the hydroelectricity to be produced by the future power station. These two principles have been validated at both local and national levels with the participation of concerned actors.

- After the publication of an atlas on fisheries regulations, analysis of PMA governance, analysis of the fisheries environment in PMAs, the development of indicators for participatory monitoring of fisheries and design of modeling tools for land planning, IUCN has published a comprehensive literature review on the co-management of fisheries. Using these tools, specialists from the IUCN Commissions in collaboration with West African country teams have established analysis and classification criteria to guide the setting up of new PMAs and build consistency among fisheries and PMA management systems in various environments under pressure (**Box 3**). A final workshop has brought together institutions in charge of fisheries and PMA management in West Africa to look into approaches to be included in their respective work plans as well as the tools and other systems that were developed.

### Box 3: For marine protected areas that are useful to the fisheries sector

In collaboration with the Sub Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC) and the Institute of Development Research (IrD), IUCN has been leading since 2009 the CEPIA project financed by the French Development Agency (FDA). The project is designed to assess the contribution of marine protected areas to the fisheries sector. Often perceived as fish resource management tools, PMAs do not really document the benefits that they generate for small scale fishermen and the latter see PMAs as rights that they cannot enjoy. The CEPIA Project has delivered a range of tools for analyzing the pressure exerted on fish resources, the categories of fishermen, the consistency in "fisheries and environment" policies, MPA governance and the monitoring systems of the effects of PMAs that have been jointly established by scientists and fishermen.

A "MPA & Fisheries" Task Force has been institutionalized by the SRFC and the West African Marine Protected Area Network (RAMPAO). A new initiative will be launched in 2014 with seed funds from the 3rd France-IUCN Framework Agreement. This will enable West African MPAs to use simple tools for receiving assistance from a task force to revise their zoning and redefine governance and management rules so as to increase their contribution to the fisheries sectors for the priority benefit of riparian communities.

## Programme Area 3: Nature-Based solutions to global challenges in climate, food and development

### Adaptation to climate change and REDD+

IUCN has played a key role in the setting up of the bodies and committees required for building up REDD+ processes in Central African countries.

**In Congo**, the CARPE Programme has organized an inaugural session of the National Committee on Climate Change during which participants reviewed and adopted the decree governing the appointment of the members of the said Committee, the Terms of Reference of the National Authority of the Clean Development Mechanism and for the establishment of the Climate Change Secretariat.

**In Equatorial Guinea**, IUCN assists in the implementation of a process that led to the setting up of a National REDD+ Commission, designation of a national REDD+ Coordinator, design of a priority plan of action and various work plans of the National REDD+ Commission and of the National Forum of the CEFDHAC.

In Sablogo, Silly, Cassou and Pouni villages **in Burkina Faso**, the resilience of agro-sylvo-pastoral surface areas was greatly increased with a 750 km green fence, 90 ha of stone belts, 658 manure pits, 1264 improved cooking stoves built of which 85% are being used, assisted nature regeneration operations and reforestation using multi-purpose plant species.



Shea nut value enhancement in a village game zone (ZOVIC), Burkina Faso

### Poverty reduction

In order to provide the communities with nature-based solutions and address the poverty issue, the Burkina Faso Programme supports the establishment of five non timber forest product processing units and the provision of management tools (manual of procedures and terms of reference) to the beneficiaries. Adding to this is the installation of a Balanites oil production plant in the Centre-East region (Garango) and thirty rural enterprises which are

currently operational, generating income for 497 producers of whom more than 90% are women.

Also, research action was conducted on the place of small farmers in irrigated schemes focusing on the well-being of households and how to strengthen their livelihoods (innovations, local dynamics, governance, etc.). The findings of the research were presented at a regional workshop held in July 2013 in Ouagadougou.

## Capacity building

**In West Africa, IUCN is collaborating with the Ecological Monitoring Centre and WAEMU to develop a regional cooperation instrument designed to reduce littoral risks**

### **The MOLOA: a regional cooperation instrument at the service of littoral risk reduction**

Following the adoption of the West African Littoral Master Plan, (WALMP) (WAEMU) 2011), IUCN-PACO was requested to support the establishment of an Observation Mission of the West African Littoral (MOLOA). Financed by WAEMU and placed under the responsibility of the Ecological Monitoring Centre (EMC) a Member of IUCN, the MOLOA is a regional cooperation instrument for the monitoring of coastal dynamics and reduction of littoral risks. It is built upon a network of observers and aims at updating the status of West African littorals of the WALMP. This instrument will enable the identification from Mauritania to Benin, of major risk situations and formulation of

recommendations to decision-makers and territorial communities facing coastal erosion and coastal line shrinking issues. The notions of anticipating and predicting constitutes the basis of this approach to decision-making information. For the technical work, the Ecological Monitoring Center and IUCN are assisted by the Coastal Specialist Group of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management. The MOLOA shall be institutionalized to become a permanent body in the future. It is also envisaged to translate the WALMP recommendations into community regulations and mainstreamed in regional policies on coastal zone development.

### **West Africa: learning how to identify natural resource use technologies adapted to climate change**

IUCN through several projects implemented in collaboration with National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) of Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali, Ghana and Senegal and the CGIAR, has promoted the use of a toolkit for the planning and monitoring-evaluation of climate change adaptation capacities. The objective is to develop and promote climate-smart agricultural practices at community, sub-national and national levels.

Hence, forty groups of actors per country are now capable of conducted a climate change vulnerability analysis, identify the related adaptation strategies and define a clear vision for their village or community:

- At the local level, the members of village development committees or similar committees, rural development technical services at the devolved level, devolved administrative departments, and local governments at the grassroots level have been empowered to undertake an adaptation process that sustainably value the livelihoods of crop farmers.
- At the central level, the meteorological services, agricultural research, central services in charge of environment and sustainable development and Non-Governmental Organizations as well as International Organizations have better incorporated the linkages among the various types of livelihoods and the erratic climate as well as the need for working in partnership to successfully address the climate change adaptation process which involves not only the use of climate smart technologies but also behavioral change.

- In addition to knowing how to plan, monitor and evaluate the use of technologies and their effects on agricultural production, the actors have learnt how to plan, monitor and evaluate behavioral change. Indeed, the dissemination of techniques cannot be undertaken without behavioral change. Nature-based solutions help to take up the challenges inherent to climate, food and development when the people, institutions and societies are ready to adopt new behaviors.

Planning exercises have made it possible to identify technologies such as assisted natural regeneration in five countries that can henceforth build the technological capacity of crop farmers for adapting to climate change. This technology that fosters the regeneration of trees in farmlands has the capacity to mitigate the effects of violent winds, of floods and drought while ensuring carbon storage. Its large scale adoption will require new attitudes on the part of crop farmers and new relationships among the actors.

In addition to the learning -by doing process conducted in these five countries, the planning and monitoring- evaluation tools as well as the results obtained so far have been the topics of presentations in two regional workshops organized by IUCN or its partners (CCAFS, CARE International and ENDA) for the benefit of Government structures, Non Governmental Organizations and International Organizations from seven other West African countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Togo, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Chad, the Gambia) which have acquired knowledge on the use of the tools and on their role in enhancing climate change adaptation actions.



**Developing the capacity of actors for adaptation to climate change remains a priority and diverse activities have been carried out at local, national and even regional levels.**

**In Burkina Faso**, a number of categories of actors have been trained on Monitoring & Evaluation tools of behavioral change induced by climate change adaptation actions. The trained categories of actors include grassroots communities, technical service staff, and local authorities in the intervention zones of the project on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFA). Overall, more than 4355 producers with women accounting for 37.5%, were sensitized and trained on themes including good practices of adaptation to climate change. This training on the use of appropriate tools (ToP-SECAC) was scaled up to cover Senegal, Ghana and Niger. **(Box 4)**.

The programme has disseminated for the benefit of communities living in the riparian area of the Sena Oura National Park **in Chad**, a guide of procedures on the financing mechanism of income generating activities. Moreover, the programme has established a list of 34 promising micro-projects to be supported by IUCN.

**In Guinea Bissau**, the Fisheries Centers of Buba have been refurbished and fishing materials that meet ecological standards and fair trade principles have been made available to small scale fishermen working in Cacheu, Buba and Cacine rivers. Women active in fish processing and selling have also received loans from a microfinance project.

**In Central Africa** (Cameroon, Congo and CAR), the IUCN Programme has trained and sensitized about 2169 people (66.9% of women and 77.3% of indigenous communities) on the REDD+ process. Diverse learning materials were produced and disseminated at large scale. These include a leaflet on REDD+ and climate change produced in 4500 copies and edited in three languages (French, Sangho and Lingala), a document to capitalize on lessons learned from IUCN and REDD+ actions entitled « Comment aborder la REDD+ au Cameroun », a training manual on simplified REDD+ tools produced in 500 copies and a manual of procedures on the management and implementation of the activities of the REDD National Technical Secretariat.

**In Mali**, IUCN has facilitated a training of parliamentarians on the management of wetlands and on their economic value. Also, members of three livestock breeder cooperatives in the Inner Delta of Niger River were trained on bourgou field regeneration techniques. The aim was to improve cattle feed. Thirty members of fishermen's associations and cooperatives have received training on fish

farm management and maintenance and pond stocking techniques.

IUCN has contributed to the production of country reports of the Gambia, Mali and Togo, on the linkages existing among climate change, protected areas and the communities. The idea was basically to understand how the communities living around PAs can have an impact of such PAs and how PAs can influence the actions of riparian communities because of climate change impacts.

To make progress in the understanding of issues relating to the identification and setting up of mechanisms for the sharing of benefits in African countries engaged in REDD+, the Forest Programme in collaboration with the Forest Dialogue (TFD) has established a community of practice among actors in charge of developing tools backing up effective and equitable mechanisms for the sharing of REDD+ benefits. The dialogue among actors originating from 22 countries is aimed at promoting the emergence of institutional policies and arrangements at the local, national and regional levels, for equitable implementation of the REDD+ process.

**In Equatorial Guinea**, IUCN has published and disseminated climate change data; the Union has also facilitated the ownership of key climate change concepts during the revision process of forestry policies.

A capitalization exercise was undertaken with the assistance of IED Africa, to gather the experiences acquired by the partners in the implementation of the Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management Initiative (PREMI) in West Africa. The exercise made the actors understand the importance and the scope of actions undertaken through clearly defined long term partnerships. This has led to the establishment of more partnerships for communication which resulted into the creation of an on line environmental knowledge sharing platform<sup>6</sup>, the scientific blog Science 2D<sup>7</sup>, all of which in collaboration with the Burkina Faso Association of Scientific Journalists (AJSBF) and Radio Environnement<sup>8</sup>; facilitation of an e-forum of civil society organizations for the Sahara and Sahel Great Green Wall Initiative with RESAD and Global Drylands Initiative; organisation with GWP/WA of capacity development workshops for West African media on the themes relating to mining and water financing. The outcomes of these workshops were published in the newsletter *Inf'O*.

<sup>6</sup> [www.iucn.org/dialoguenvironnement](http://www.iucn.org/dialoguenvironnement)

<sup>7</sup> <http://sciences2d.org/>

<sup>8</sup> [www.radioenvironnement.org](http://www.radioenvironnement.org)

#### Box 4: Support for the inclusion of climate change in local planning guides

Many West African countries have undertaken a decentralization process with each local government gradually learning how to plan and manage their own development; However, the current context is characterized by the adverse impacts of climate change. Such impacts are quite visible, especially in Sub Saharan Africa's poor rural zones which economies are highly dependent on natural resources and climate factors.

In Burkina Faso, the National Action Programme on Adaptation to Climate Variability and Climate Change (PANA) has identified the main productive sectors namely agriculture, livestock, water and forestry as being the most vulnerable to climate change. The mainstreaming of climate change adaptation into development planning appears to be a prerequisite for sustainable improvement of the livelihoods of the population, more particularly in poor rural areas.

The IUCN programme has contributed to the implementation of national policies by generating knowledge. In this perspective, the Union has provided technical and financial assistance for the inclusion of climate change adaptation into

the Methodological Guides to Local Planning (Municipality and region).

The various steps observed in this process are the following:

**Step 1:** Tests carried out on two climate change mainstreaming (Climate Proofing and Toolkit for Planning and Monitoring- Evaluation of Climate Change Adaptation Capacity -TOPSECAC) using three municipal development plans and three regional development plans. These tests have helped to identify the TOPSECAC tool as being the most suitable to achieve the defined objective;

**Step 2:** Promotion of TOPSECAC by developing the capacity of actors at the national, regional and municipal levels;

**Step 3:** Proposal for a utilization methodology of TOPSECAC to mainstream climate change into local plans;

**Step 4:** Development in collaboration with all partners of a booklet on climate change mainstreaming in local plans, describing the approach and the tools to be used.



Stone belts



## CONSTRAINTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME

The level of implementation of the program is found to be generally satisfactory. However, some projects have been delayed due to various factors (too long procedure for contract approval or signature, late receipt of funds, inadequate administrative staff).

Adding to these inhibiting factors are armed conflicts (Mali, CAR) and tense electoral contexts (Mauritania, Burkina Faso).

Also, the pace of development of the program has been slowed down by delays in the implementation of some major new initiatives.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

Year 2013 was marked by reorganization measures aimed at streamlining the operating expenses of the IUCN Secretariat, in order to fit them into the scope of its financial resources while ensuring improved efficiency of the services. This restructuring resulted inter alia into merging the Communication Unit with the Institutional Support and Development Unit to form the Institutional Development and Communication Unit (IDC); the idea is to further engage Members and Experts of the Commissions in the implementation of the regional programme through strengthening exchange and communication mechanisms, adding the duties initially assigned to the Institutional Support and Development Unit.

The staff numbers of the region were 150 persons at the end of 2013, or a decrease by 22% compared to 2012. The staff size should however expand very rapidly, given the recruitment in process for several new initiatives. It should be noted that these staff members work in close collaboration with a number of IUCN Member Organizations, experts of different IUCN world Commissions and independent experts.



Some members of the IUCN-PACO team at the end of a regional meeting



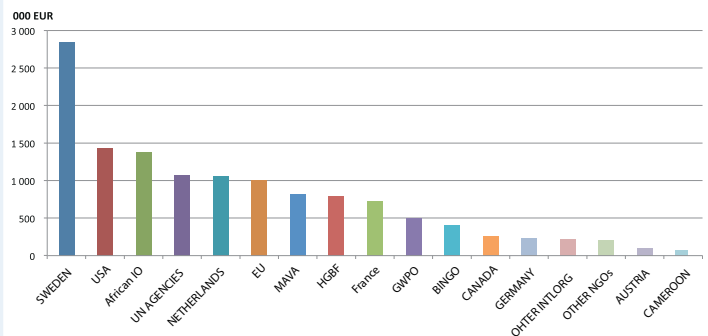
# FINANCIAL RESOURCES

## Financing Sources

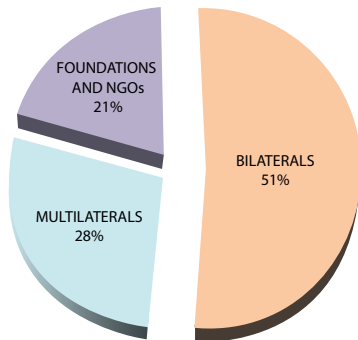
In 2013, the funds received for projects amounted to a total of EURO 13.2 million for the entire PACO region against EURO 13.4 million in 2012. These funds were allocated by some forty donors including 9 bilateral donors, 13 multilateral donors and 17 Foundations and NGOs.

The bilateral donors contribute 51% of the portfolio with the top three namely **Sweden**, the **United States** and the **Netherlands**, account for 41% of the funds allocated to PACO. **Sweden** has even become the major donor by disbursing EURO 1.2 million for the new PAGE programme in addition to the other on-going projects.

2013 revenue per donor



Percentage of funds per group

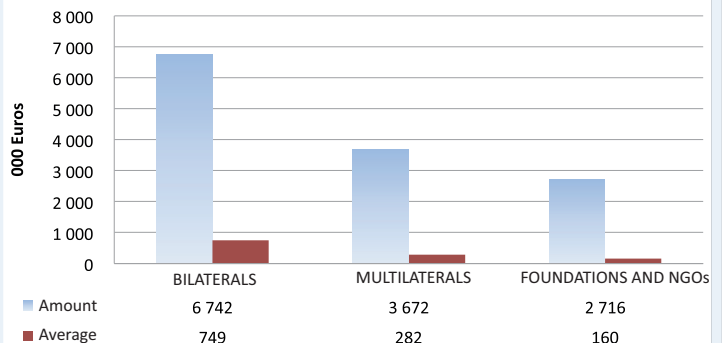


Multilateral funds rank second with 28% of the contributions. **WAEMU**, is financing activities in Guinea-Bissau and in Senegal and the funds received in 2013 for these countries amounted to EURO 0.84 million or 6% of the total portfolio of PACO. In this financing effort, the **inter African organizations** (AfDB, WAEMU, AU, RAPAC, COMIFAC) together constitute the largest multilateral donor.

As for Foundations and NGOs (21% of funds allocations), the MAVA Foundation and Howard G Buffett Foundation (HGBF) are the main donors with allocations in the range of EURO 0.8 million each.

An analysis of funds allocations and number of donors by type of donor ratios shows that the most significant funding comes from bilateral donors (an average EURO 0.75 million par donor). Although foundations and NGOs represent 44% by number, they provide the most modest amounts (millions of euro 0.16 per donor).

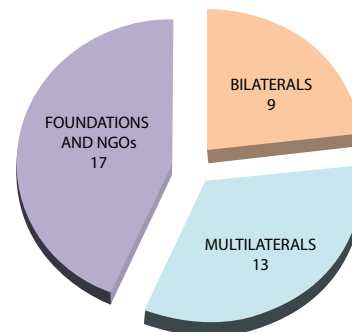
2013 revenue per type of donors



Compared to 2012, **the trends** are as follows: a substantial increase was registered in funds received from Sweden (+€1 766 744, due essentially to the financing of the new PAGE project and disbursement of balances for the PREMI and climate change projects), France (+€519 166 due to funds disbursement for all current projects) and the European Union (+€1 000 000 received for new projects in Cameroon, Chad and for the WAP Complex).

On the contrary in 2013 the funds allocated by some donors have significantly declined: Netherlands (decrease by 52%) ; MAVA (60% decrease) ; Inter African Organizations (28% decrease).

### Number of donors per group



## Implementation of the budget

The budget execution rate in 2013 was of 82% for Secretariat revenue, 89% for Secretariat expenses and 81% for project expenses. Overall, the projects and the Secretariat have spent EURO 15 857 675 from a budget of EURO 19 067 200 which represents an absorption rate of

83%. This inadequate absorption rate is the reason why revenue forecasts (management fees and staff time) were not reached and a net gap of EURO 206 584 was recorded at the end of the year.



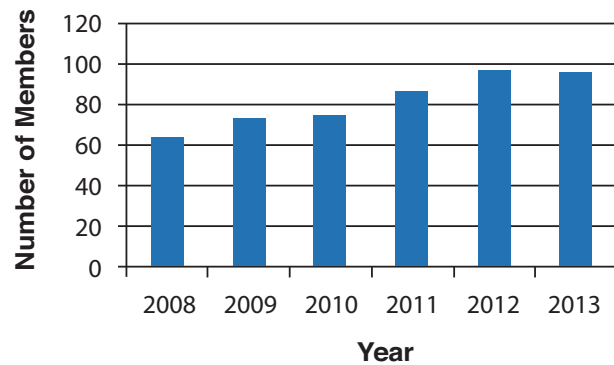
# INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATION

## Membership development

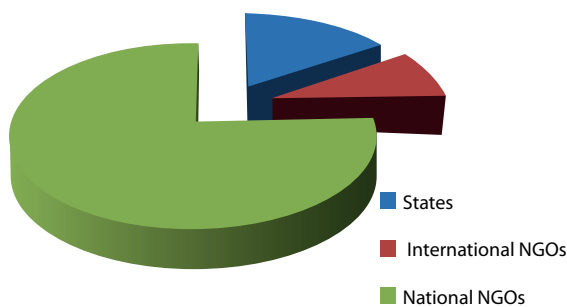
In 2013, IUCN has accepted several new members including 6 from Central and West Africa: *Forum Congolais de la société civile du bassin du Nil* (DRC), *Synergies & Développement* (Republic of Guinea), *Centre de Recherches et d'Action pour le Développement des Initiatives à la Base* (Benin), *Forêts et Développement Rural* (Cameroon), *Actions pour les Droits, l'Environnement et la Vie* (DRC) and *Centre d'Animation et Appui Technique aux Initiatives de Développement* (DRC).

However, 7 Members were suspended for reasons of non-payment of arrears of membership dues. They will be readmitted if they clear their arrears by end of 2014.

**Trends in the number of Members**



**Number of IUCN Members per category**



As of 31 December 2013, IUCN had 96 Members (against 97 in 2011) in 20 countries in Central and West Africa, including 15 States and 8 International NGOs; there are also 6 national committees (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Guinea Bissau, Mali and Senegal), 1 regional committee and more than 300 members of IUCN Commissions.



# Implementation of the “One Programme” approach

The Members and specialists of the IUCN Commissions are the primary beneficiaries of all IUCN projects. In addition, the “One Programme” is being implemented in various ways in Central and West Africa:

- Joint annual planning among the Secretariat, Members and Commissions (Burkina Faso, Guinea Bissau);
- Identification of projects and programmes that would be financed by donors (WAEMU, FEM, AfDB, etc.) for the benefit of Members (States of Guinea Bissau and Cameroon) or their organizations (Volta Basin Authority, VBA);
- Identification, promotion and implementation of joint projects (Burkina Faso, Senegal);
- Task shifting by the Secretariat to Members for the implementation of projects or project components;
- Negotiation of subsidies with donors (USAID/CARPE, FFEM, PRCM, DANIDA, Sida, etc.) for Member NGOs (Forest Programmes, Protected Areas, Burkina Faso);
- Organisation of joint activities such as advocacy with decision-makers, sensitization of communities and of their organizations etc;
- Capacity building of State officials and technicians and of civil society organizations (CSOs), IUCN Members and non Members, in various areas (management of protected areas, REDD+, identification and promotion of projects, Environmental Economy, Environmental Communication, etc.);
- Provision of various information on diverse topics to IUCN Members and partners: opportunities for partnership, fund raising or training, IUCN activities at the regional and global levels;
- Support to National and Regional Committees (CREMACO) of IUCN Members in their activities.

## SOME ACHIEVEMENTS

**The CREMACO** was supported in the implementation of its communication and visibility strategy. To this effect, information on the activities and outcomes of PACO, of IUCN Members, Commissions and partners were shared on a regular basis. Similarly, the utilization rules of the logo were disseminated to IUCN Members.

**In Cameroon**, the Members and the Secretariat have jointly carried out a number of activities including the production of the document entitled “Comment aborder la REDD+ au Cameroun”, the implementation of the advocacy process on the mainstreaming of REDD aspects into the land tenure legislation and on the environmental framework law, the structuring of the REDD and Climate Change platform of Cameroon CSOs. The Members have also benefitted from multi-faceted support in the area of REDD and climate change training; facilitation of the inclusion of policy briefs developed by Recherche-Actions-Concertées Pygmées (RACOPY), the Community Forestry Network (CFN), the African Women’s Network for Sustainable Development, Cameroon Chapter (REFADD-Cam), the Centre for Environment and Development (CED) and the Forest People Programme (FPP), in the revision process of the forest law; and media support by *Radio Environnement*.

**In Burkina Faso**, IUCN is following an approach which is based on a joint and participatory planning process early every year, with the Members and Commission Specialists residing in Burkina Faso. Thus, in January 2013, the programme facilitated the organization of a joint workshop with the Members and Commissions on the 2012 review and year 2013 concerted planning. Part of the outcomes of the workshop was the empowerment of certain Members to lead the implementation of some activities in several projects of the Secretariat on the basis of their respective capacities and areas of competency.

**In Senegal**, a reverse situation has prevailed. A Member i.e. the Centre of Ecological Monitoring has entrusted the implementation of part of the activities of its project on the West African Littoral Observation Mission (MOLOA) with the IUCN Secretariat. In addition, a visit by parliamentarians to the Senegalese NGO GREEN works on the littoral (Rufisque, Saly and Joal) was co-organized by two Members (GREEN Senegal and REPES) within the framework of the climate change adaptation Fund project. IUCN has also participated in the celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASAN and 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Chairperson of the Association, Mr. Alioune Diagne Mbor. The Union also took part in a visit to the Members (GREEN Senegal-work sites in Rufisque and ASAN-Petit Mbao Headquarters) by the judge Benjamin Herman Antonio, Chairman of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law.

**In Mali**, IUCN has developed since 2010, an experience of interest on the involvement of Members, which is entrusting the full implementation of field activities of a Secretariat project to two local Member NGOs (Donko and Walia) with IUCN just providing support and facilitation.



**In Mauritania**, IUCN has focused on the identification and joint design of two projects with the Member NGO Naforé: one on adaptation to climate change through integrated water resource management of three watersheds and the other on integrated resource management and local development in the Tamourt En-Naaj. With this approach, the Member is engaged in the various stages of the project (design, fund mobilization and implementation).

**In DRC**, IUCN has collaborated with the Species Safeguard Commission in developing the Red List of usable forest species and with the Environmental Law Commission under the ARCUS project and the Mayombe project. Furthermore, the Members have participated in a feedback workshop on 10 years of activity of the CREF Network, an IUCN Member.

**In Ghana**, the NGO “A Rocha” with the support of IUCN has developed a guide on the fauna and flora of the Mole National Park, assisted in setting up provisional Councils of community conservation Areas (CREMA)<sup>9</sup> of Yazori, Wawato, Grubagu, Bawena and Kpulumbo and produced a map of the boundaries of these CREMA.

In the peripheral area of **the Burkina Faso WAP complex**, the NGO AFAUDEB with the support of IUCN has prompted the creation of the Matiacoali ZOVIC through an inter-municipality

decision defining the management modalities of the area. Also, the 27km of perimeter pathways were built in the Kompienbiga ZOVIC to facilitate access to and management of the area.

**In Guinea Bissau**, a most successful use of the “One Programme” approach was noted. In this country, all Secretariat projects are implemented by the Members, the main role of IUCN being limited to accompanying, facilitating and coordinating the work.

The following **major international NGOs** were also engaged in the implementation of joint initiatives: WWF (anti-poaching, land management, conservation in marine and coastal zones, etc.), FIBA (protected areas, conservation in marine and coastal zones), GIZ (support to CEFDHAC networks), CIFOR (forests), WCS (UD protected areas training).

Several **Commissions** were involved in PACO programmes, particularly : the Ecosystem Management Commission (coastal specialist sub group), the Species Survival Commission (marine turtle specialists, antelope, African Elephant, primate and cat specialist groups and the sub group on conservation strategies), the World Commission on Protected Areas and the World Commission on Environmental Law the Chair of which visited four countries in the region (Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Nigeria and Senegal).

Landscape in Cape Verde

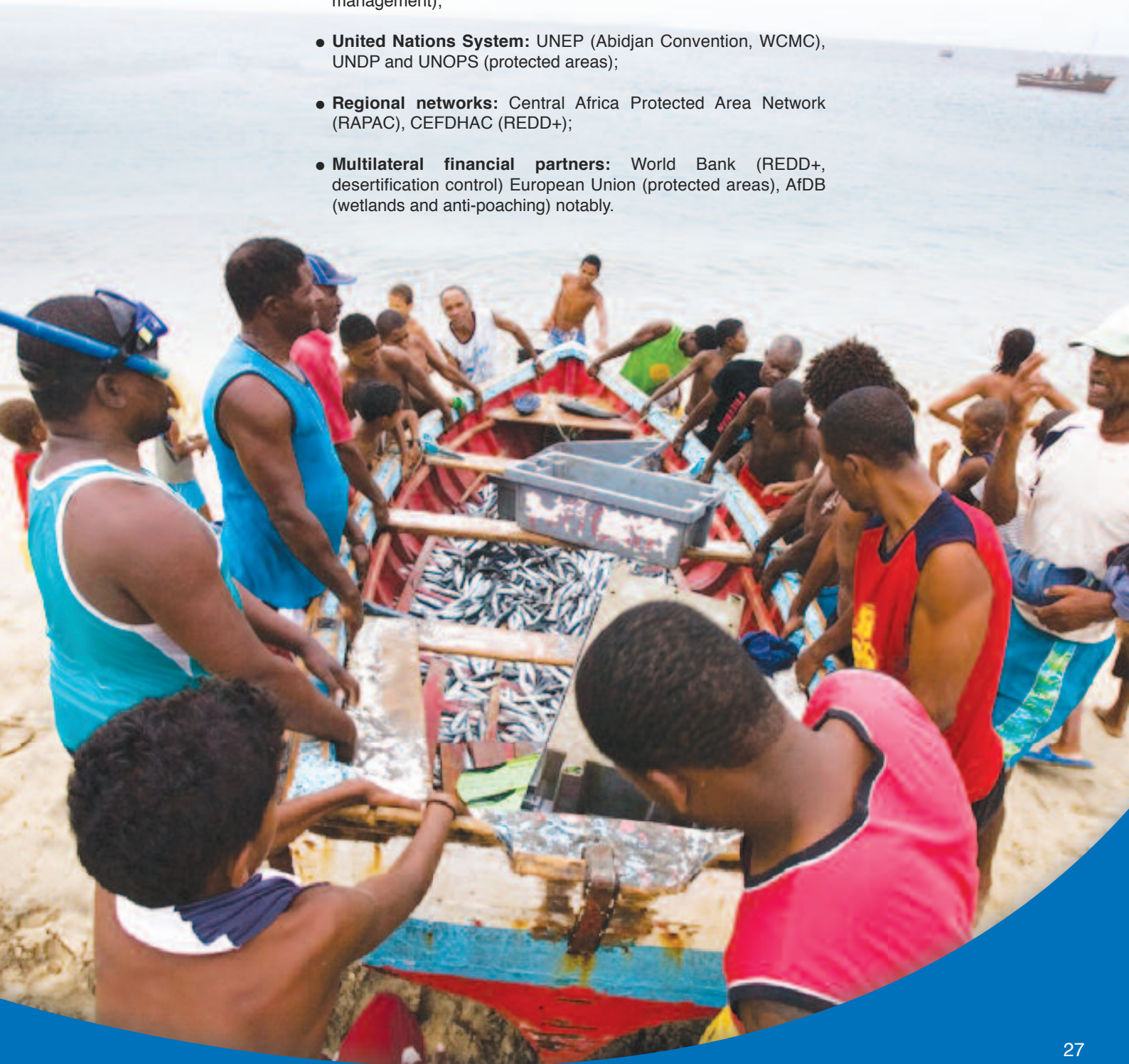
<sup>9</sup> Community Resource Management Area



## Partnerships

The key institutional partners of IUCN were the following during the year:

- **Integration organizations:** WAEMU (protected areas), ECOWAS (water resources and forest dialogue), ECCAS (anti-poaching);
- **Specialized inter-states organizations:** Volta Basin Authority, Sub Regional Fisheries Commission (SRFC), COMIFAC (convergence plan for ecosystem management), Senghor University in Alexandria (diploma training on protected area management), CILSS (climate change and ecosystem management);
- **United Nations System:** UNEP (Abidjan Convention, WCMC), UNDP and UNOPS (protected areas);
- **Regional networks:** Central Africa Protected Area Network (RAPAC), CEFDHAC (REDD+);
- **Multilateral financial partners:** World Bank (REDD+, desertification control) European Union (protected areas), AfDB (wetlands and anti-poaching) notably.





# IUCN SPECIALISED COMMISSIONS IN THE FIELD

## Commission on Education and Communication



### CEC touches base with Central and West Africa

The IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (IUCN CEC) is a global network of more than 1,000 volunteers from 119 countries. CEC members contribute expertise on strategic communication, education, capacity development and knowledge management in support of the IUCN Programme and IUCN vision of a just world that values and conserves nature.

The CEC has the ambition to actively engage regional members internationally and create opportunities for dialogue where possible. The year 2013 was no exception as Dr Juliane Zeidler, the CEC Chair, had the opportunity to engage with CEC members in Togo, Burkina Faso and Sierra Leone.

These meetings were aimed at getting more insight into their scope of work with regards to environmental education and touching base with key challenges that they face.

Enthusiastic and looking to grow their networks, the members were keen to find out more from the newly elected Chair about plans to increase engagement, strategies on networking and some examples of best practices from other parts of the world.

### CEC supports environmental education Centre in Sierra Leone

CEC has been engaged by long standing Member Tommy Garnett, the founder of the Biodiversity and Renewable Energy Learning Centre (BRELC), Banga Farm, in Sussex, Sierra Leone to offer expert advice on expanding the capacity of the Education Programme there. The centre provides interactive learning experience for people of all ages which includes education programme that has indoor and outdoor activities. The main aim of the centre is to foster a connection between people and the environment.

An agenda which is close to one of the Commissions key focus areas which are to lead IUCN's work on Aichi Target 1 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Additionally, Frits Hesselink, a CEC Steering Committee member has been instrumental in offering advice and support with regards to the establishments of the center and development of operational strategy.

### Growing the network: CEC to widen global reach

With the aim of engaging members globally with a widely accessible platform, the CEC aims to launch its new blog by early May 2014. This new blog will allow members to share updates on the good work that they are doing with regards to environmental education and create more dialogue centered around new and best practices in cutting edge communication approaches.

The CEC also plans to host one regional meeting for its West and Central African members, looking into gauging their insights on various environmental education concepts. A focus will be on promoting the 'Love Not Loss' campaign which looks into delivering more positive messaging with regards to conservation and behaviour change towards nature.

# Species Survival Commissions (SSC)

The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) is an international network of experts constituting the largest of the six IUCN volunteer Commissions. It has over 8,000 members and the majority of its members are deployed in more than 120 Specialist Groups (SGs), Red List Authorities (RLAs) and Task Forces (TF).



Within the region of West and Central Africa the SSC currently has 144 members. The SSC and some of its SGs have been involved in a number of diverse conservation projects throughout West and Central Africa.

## Red listing

- A three-day Red Listing and conservation planning workshop for the tortoises and freshwater turtles of Sub-Saharan Africa (including West and Central Africa) was held with active participation of the *Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle SG* in Lomé, Togo, in August 2013.
- In collaboration with more than 50 regional and international scientists, the IUCN Marine Biodiversity Unit conducted one IUCN Red List Assessment Workshop (in Accra in May 2013) to assess more than 700 species of marine fishes present in the Eastern Central Atlantic. To complete the remaining assessments for the approximately 1,400 species of marine fishes that are present in the region, a third and final workshop is planned for either Gabon or Cameroon in July 2014.
- The results of recent IUCN Red List assessments for the marine gastropod genus *Conus* by the University of York, UK, showed an exceptional cluster of threatened species off the West African coast and in particular Cape Verde. An analysis of the results will be published in the near future. (*Mollusc SG*).
- The IUCN SSC Giraffe and Okapi Specialist Group, the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), the *Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature* (ICCN) and the Provincial Governor hosted a multi-stakeholder workshop in Kisangani, central Democratic Republic of Congo, in May 2013, where the participants reviewed the okapi's status, carried out an okapi Red List assessment and drafted the first-ever okapi conservation strategy. This resulted in the okapi being officially announced by IUCN as 'Endangered', based on an observed population size reduction of  $\geq 50\%$  over the last three generations.
- In DRC, SSC specialists have assisted in finalizing and validating the report on the status assessment of 44 used forest species. This report enabled the various players involved or interested in forest exploitation (private sector, forest administrations, NGOs and scientists) to build a consensus on the status of these vulnerable and endangered species, as well as on their distribution areas and the required conservation measures.
- In Burkina Faso, IUCN is facilitating with the support of the fresh water fish Specialist Group of the Commission on Species Survival (SSC), the setting up of a national data base and establishment of a red list of fishes. To achieve this, the partners in the initiative were given in May 2013, a training on the assessment methodology of species conservation status. Ten national specialists of the project have thus acquired capacity that will henceforth enable them to conduct the development of a national red list of fish species. Further to the identification and description of 142 fish species, the team has set up an interactive data base and assessments are currently going on for each of these species.



## Studies & Knowledge generation

- The SSC, in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme, *Save our Species*, and BioPAMA, has initiated a comprehensive situation analysis on large terrestrial and freshwater vertebrate fauna of West and Central Africa. The study serves as a partial response to Resolution 022 (Supporting regional initiatives to conserve mammal diversity in West and Central Africa) adopted by IUCN's members at the 2012 World Conservation Congress, and will provide an evidence base for future conservation efforts in West and Central Africa. Involving extensive consultation with stakeholders in region, including IUCN State and Government Agency Members, the study should be completed in the first quarter of 2014.
- Preliminary field surveys in Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea and Mauritania revealed scattered populations of Black Crowned Cranes, including new breeding areas, though the birds face a number of local threats. These results are from a new programme that was launched by Wetlands International and BirdLife International with the support of Chester Zoo and the MAVA Foundation.
- Between May 2012 and March 2013, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (South Africa) carried out and funded a study on the Ankobra River, Ghana, to assess the extent to which mining operations in the basin affects the ecology of the river. The study found that mining activities have adversely affected the abundance, distribution and community structure of fish and algal species as well as the quality of water, and highlighted the need for habitat restoration and prevention of illegal mining activities. (*Freshwater Fish SG*).
- Several initiatives on turtles are currently underway in various countries:
  - a community-based marine turtle conservation project to address fishing by-catch, erosion of nesting beaches, turtle meat and eggs consumption, as well as raising awareness in Sierra Leone, by the Reptile and Amphibian Program-Sierra Leone (RAP-SL), with funding support from the USFWS;
  - monitoring of nesting beaches and by-catch in Congo-Brazzaville and in the DRC;
  - a programme to establish a new marine protected area at the Pointe Indienne foraging ground along with a programme to assist government agencies enforce the industrial fishery regulations;
  - an ecotourism programme in Sao Tome & Principe, and the monitoring of four nesting beaches in the north of the island;
  - monitoring of the conservation status of sea turtles at critical nesting beaches of the Bijagós archipelago (mainly João Vieira and Poilão Marine National Park and Orango National Park) by *Instituto da Biodiversidade e das Áreas Protegidas* (IBAP) with the support of several projects and assistance from international partners (USFWS, World Bank, GEF, IUCN, FIBA, MAVA, European Union, ISPA).
  - A CEPF profile for Upper Guinea was launched during the last quarter of 2013. It seeks to compile current information on the Hotspot on biodiversity, Protected Areas, civil society engagement, threats, and policies. This will then orient the next 5 years of funding in the Hotspot. Although the project is led by PACO with the Global Species Programme (GSP), the data being used in part comes from SSC efforts in the region and sometimes working with SSC members themselves.



Black Crowned Crane, plaine de Monchon



# MAJOR PUBLICATIONS



Performances économiques des activités d'adaptation au changement climatique dans le bassin de la Volta, UICN-PACO, 2013, 40p.



Rapport annuel 2012 UICN-PACO : D'un programme quadriennal à l'autre, UICN-PACO, 2013, 24p.



Rapport annuel 2012, PRCM, 2013, 27p.



Les bonnes pratiques dans le cadre de la gouvernance des réservoirs de grand barrage en Afrique de l'Ouest diffusées: cas du barrage de Komienga (BF), UICN, 2013, 24p.



Guide juridique de gestion des ressources en eau au Burkina Faso, UICN, 2013, 44p.



Faire des politiques environnementales régionales un outil de gouvernance et d'intégration en Afrique de l'Ouest, UICN, 2013, 18p.



Evaluation économique des fonctions et services écologiques des écosystèmes naturels, UICN-PACO, 2013, 36p.



Comment aborder la REDD+ au Cameroun, UICN-PC, 2013, 109p.



Intégration de l'environnement dans les politiques de lutte contre la pauvreté : influencer les politiques et les pratiques par le dialogue et la diffusion des réponses innovantes, UICN-PACO, 2013, 64p.



Vers un complexe d'aires protégées transfrontalières dans les écosystèmes forestiers du Mayombe : Plan stratégique

## PUBLICATIONS WITH IUCN CONTRIBUTIONS



Stratégie genre en matière de REDD+ et adaptation aux changements climatiques en Afrique Centrale, REFADD, 2013, 41p.



Capitalisation de bonnes pratiques en matière de gouvernance autour des grands barrages : Cas de Niandouba et du Confluent au Sénégal, 2013, 28p.



Code forestier commenté et annoté - Version complétée - Mai 2013, 153p.

# IUCN MEMBERS IN CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICA

## **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 : 9**

- Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
- 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 Oeuvre Sociales

## **BURUNDI : 5**

- 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

## **CAMEROUN : 10**

- Ministry of the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development
- 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 : 1**

- Réseau pour l'Environnement et le Développement Durable en Afrique

## **GABON : 1**

- Réseau des Aires Protégées d'Afrique Centrale
- \* Agence Nationale des Parcs Nationaux

## **GHANA : 4**

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

## **GUINEE : 2**

- Ministry in charge of Environment, Water and Forest
- Synergies & Développement

## **GUINEE-BISSAU : 9**

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Communities
- Centro de Investigação Pesqueira Aplicada - TINIGUENA
- Bureau de Planification Côtière
- Accao 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**

- Ministerio de Pesca Y Medio Ambiente

## **MALI : 9**

- Ministry of Environment and Sanitation
- Association Malienne pour la Conservation de la Faune et de son Environnement
- Groupe d'Appui Environnemental
- ONG DONKO - La promotion du Savoir Traditionnel
- Femmes et Développement
- Association Malienne pour la Protection de l'Environnement
- Oeuvre 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**

- National Park of 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**

- Ministry of Sustainable Development, Forest Economy and Environment
- 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 : 8**

- Association Sénégalaise des Amis de la Nature
- Ministry of Ecology and Protection of 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

## **SIERRA LEONE : 1**

- Environmental Foundation for Africa

## **TOGO : 3**

- Les Amis de la Terre-Togo
- Les Compagnons Ruraux
- Jeunes Volontaires pour l'Environnement

More information on web site:

[www.iucn.org/annuairepaco](http://www.iucn.org/annuairepaco)

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