



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

IUCN-PACO



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Participants at the Central and West Africa  
Regional Conservation Forum



# ACRONYMS

<b>AfDB:</b> African Development Bank	<b>NCU:</b> National Coordination of Basin Users
<b>AMCOW:</b> African Ministers' Council on Water	<b>NGO:</b> Non - Governmental Organization
<b>BCFP:</b> Congo Basin Forest Partnership	<b>NORAD:</b> Norway Development Cooperation Agency
<b>BIOPAMA:</b> Biodiversity and Protected Area Management Programme	<b>NPAA:</b> National Protected Area Agency
<b>BPAI:</b> Biodiversity and Protected Area Institute	<b>NRFMA:</b> Inter-Village Natural Resource and Fauna Management Association
<b>BRICKS:</b> Building Resilience through Innovation, Communication and Knowledge Services	<b>NRM:</b> Natural Resource Management
<b>BSB:</b> Bi national Sena Oura-Bouba Ndjidda Complex	<b>NTFP:</b> Non timber Forest Products
<b>CARPE:</b> Central African Regional Programme on Environment	<b>OFAC:</b> Central Africa Forest Observatory
<b>CBD:</b> Convention on Biological Diversity	<b>ONAHA:</b> National Hydro-Agricultural Infrastructure Office
<b>CCAFA:</b> Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security	<b>PA:</b> Protected Area
<b>CCRPA:</b> Climate Change-Resilient Protected Areas	<b>PACO:</b> Central and West Africa Programme
<b>CEC:</b> Commission on Education and Communication	<b>PAGE:</b> West Africa Environmental Governance Partnership
<b>CED:</b> Center for Environment and Development	<b>PAP:</b> Population Affected by the Project
<b>CEFDHAC:</b> Conference on Central African Moist Forest Ecosystems	<b>PAPE:</b> Entente Parks Support Programme
<b>CEPF:</b> Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund	<b>PAPECALF:</b> COMIFAC Action Plan for strengthening national wildlife legislation enforcement
<b>CEW:</b> Cameroon Environmental Watch	<b>PARGIRE:</b> Plan d'Action Régional pour la Gestion Intégrée des Ressources en Eau
<b>CILSS:</b> Permanent Inter-States Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel	<b>PES:</b> Payment for Environmental Services
<b>COMIFAC:</b> Central Africa Forest Commission	<b>PHEIC:</b> Public Health Emergency of International Concern
<b>COP:</b> Conference of Parties	<b>PRCM:</b> West Africa Regional Coastal and Marine Zone Conservation Partnership
<b>CREMACO:</b> Regional Committee of IUCN Members in Central and West Africa	<b>PREAO:</b> Politique des Ressources en Eau en Afrique de l'Ouest
<b>CSO:</b> Civil Society Organization	<b>PREZOH:</b> Water Resources and Wetlands Programme
<b>DANID:</b> Danish International Development Agency	<b>RAID:</b> Regional Association for Irrigation and Drainage in West Africa
<b>DRC :</b> Democratic Republic of Congo	<b>RAMPAO:</b> West Africa Regional Marine Protected Areas' Network
<b>ECA:</b> Economic Commission for Africa	<b>RAPAC:</b> Central Africa Protected Area Network
<b>ECCAS:</b> Economic Community of Central African States	<b>RCU:</b> Regional Committee of Users
<b>ECOFAC:</b> Central Africa Forest Ecosystems	<b>RECEAC:</b> Central Africa Communicators' Network for Environment
<b>ECOWAS:</b> Economic Community of West African States	<b>REDD:</b> Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation in Developing countries
<b>EMC:</b> Ecological Monitoring Center	<b>REPALAC:</b> Indigenous and Local Population Network for Sustainable Management of Central African Forest Ecosystems
<b>EOH:</b> Enhancing our Heritage	<b>RERAO:</b> West African Radio Network for Environment
<b>Epic:</b> Ecosystem Project for the Protection of Infrastructure and Communities	<b>RONGEAD:</b> European Non-Governmental Network on Agri-Food, Trade, Environment and Development
<b>ESARO:</b> IUCN East and Southern Africa Regional Office	<b>RRI:</b> Rights and Resource Initiative
<b>ESIS:</b> Environmental and Social Impact Studies	<b>RTP:</b> Regional Technical Programme
<b>EU:</b> European Union	<b>SAWAP:</b> Sahel and West Africa Programme to support the Great Green Wall Initiative
<b>FAO:</b> United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization	<b>SDAGE:</b> Schéma Directeur d'Aménagement et de Gestion des Ressources en Eau
<b>FDA:</b> French Development Agency	<b>SIDA:</b> Swedish International Development Agency
<b>FEM/GEF:</b> Global Environment Facility	<b>SMART:</b> Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool
<b>FEVAC:</b> Central Africa Green Economy Fund	<b>SNV:</b> Netherlands Development Organization
<b>FFEM:</b> French Fund for Global Environment	<b>SODAGRI:</b> Agricultural and Industrial Development Company
<b>FISCAP:</b> Fishing Activity Surveillance and Control ( <i>Fiscalização e Controlo Das Actividas de Pesca</i> )	<b>SRCF:</b> Sub-Regional Commission on Fisheries
<b>GCF:</b> Green Climate Fund (Fonds Vert Climat)	<b>SSC:</b> Species Survival Commission
<b>GFCCP:</b> Global Forest and Climate Change Programme	<b>SSO:</b> Sahel and Sahara Observatory
<b>GIS:</b> Geographical Information System	<b>STN:</b> Sangha Tri-National
<b>GPS:</b> Global Positioning System	<b>TOP-SECAC:</b> Tool Box for the Planning and Monitoring & Evaluation of Climate Change Adaptation Capacity
<b>GSBA:</b> Globally Significant Biodiversity Area	<b>UD:</b> University Degree
<b>GWJ:</b> Global Water Initiative	<b>UEMOA:</b> West Africa Economic and Monetary Union
<b>GWPAO:</b> Global Water Partnership/West Africa	<b>UNCCD:</b> United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
<b>HCNVP:</b> High Commission for Niger Valley Planning	<b>UNDP:</b> United Nations Development Programme
<b>HGBF:</b> Howard G. Buffet Foundation	<b>UNFCCC:</b> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>ICRISAT:</b> International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics	<b>USFS:</b> United States Forest Service
<b>IDC:</b> Institutional Development and Communication Unit	<b>VBA:</b> Volta Basin Authority
<b>IFDD:</b> Francophonie Institute for Sustainable Development	<b>VPA/FLEGT:</b> Forestry Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade in Timber and by-products
<b>IGA:</b> Income Generating Activities	<b>WAP:</b> W, Arly and Pendjari Parks
<b>IGTL:</b> Local Territorial Management Bodies	<b>WAPO:</b> W, Arly, Pendjari and Oti Kéran Mandouri Parks
<b>IIED:</b> International Institute for Environment and Development	<b>WB:</b> World Bank
<b>ILC:</b> International Land Coalition	<b>WCMC:</b> World Conservation Monitoring Center
<b>INN:</b> Illegal Non Declared, Non Regulated Fishing	<b>WCPA:</b> World Commission on Protected Areas
<b>IRD:</b> Research and Development Institute	<b>WHO:</b> World Health Organization
<b>IUCN:</b> International Union for the Conservation of Nature	<b>WRCC:</b> Water Resource Coordination Center
<b>IWRM:</b> Integrated Water Resource Management	<b>WWF:</b> Worldwide Fund for Nature
<b>LCBC:</b> Lake Chad Basin Commission	<b>ZSL:</b> Zoological Society of London
<b>M&amp;E:</b> Monitoring & Evaluation	
<b>MDP:</b> Municipal Development Plans	
<b>MINPEDED:</b> Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development	
<b>MINFOF:</b> Ministry of Forest and Fauna	
<b>MOLOA:</b> West Africa Littoral Observation Mission	
<b>MPA:</b> Marine Protected Area	
<b>NBA:</b> Niger Basin Authority	

# REGIONAL DIRECTOR MESSAGE

This year again, Central and West Africa experienced political unrest that disrupted people's peace and economic growth: failed coup in Burkina Faso, persistent instability in CAR, jihadist attacks in Niger, Chad, Cameroon, Nigeria and Mali, etc. However, the States have not only worked together to resolve the crises and secure their territory, but also pursued their efforts towards economic integration and coordination for natural resource management; we will note in particular the following major meetings :

- the 15<sup>th</sup> session of the African Ministerial Conference for the Environment (AMCEN) was held in March 2015 in Cairo, Egypt;
- the international conference on illegal exploitation and trade in Africa's wild fauna and flora meeting in April 2015 in Brazzaville, Congo
- the meeting of the 15 ECOWAS Ministers in charge of water resources in November in Dakar, Sénégal

At the level of IUCN, the crises in the region led to restricted travels to certain countries and zones with some effects on the smooth running of certain programmes. Luckily, things seem to be getting back to normal in countries such as Burkina Faso, Guinea and Mali.

The year 2015 was also marked by various processes (Review of the results of the 2012-2016 four-year program; analysis and appropriation of the outline of 2017-2020 Quadrennial Program; conducting a situation analysis of the region; drafting of the 2017-2020 Regional work plan; holding a West and Central Africa IUCN Members Forum, etc.) related to the preparation of the IUCN Congress scheduled to take place in Hawaii in 2016.

The present report gives an idea of the resources used and stages reached in the implementation of the IUCN Programme in Central and West Africa over year 2015 ■

**Aimé J. Nianogo,**  
Regional Director  
IUCN-PACO



## OUR VISION

*A just 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.*

## OUR UNION

IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

Created in 1948, IUCN is now the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, harnessing the knowledge, resources and reach of 1,300 Member organisations and some 15,000 experts. It is a leading provider of conservation data, assessments and analysis. Its broad membership enables IUCN to fill the role of incubator and trusted repository of best practices, tools and international standards.

IUCN provides a neutral space in which diverse stakeholders including governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development.

Working with many partners and supporters, IUCN implements a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects worldwide. Combining the latest science with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these projects work to reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people's well-being.

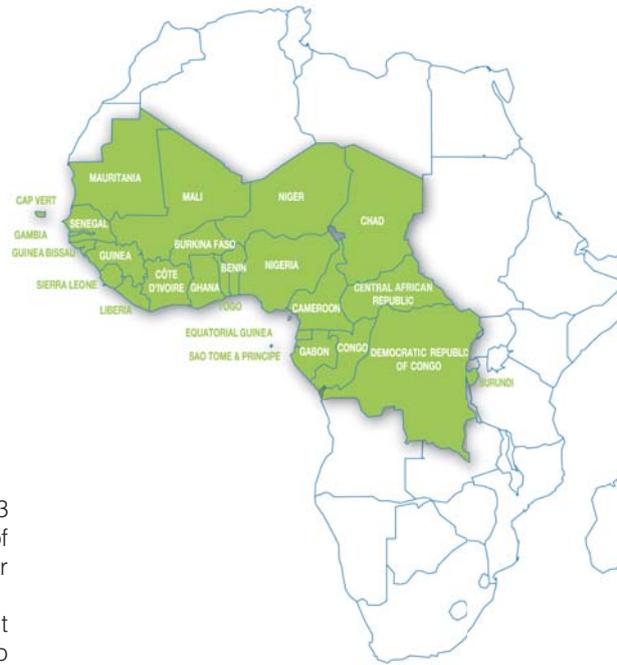
<http://www.uicn.org/fr/>  
<https://twitter.com/IUCN/>



# STRATEGIC ORIENTATION

## Geographic coverage

The Central and West Africa Programme covers 25 countries; it operates through seven Country Programmes offices (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal) and project offices in 3 countries (Ghana, Guinea, Niger) ■



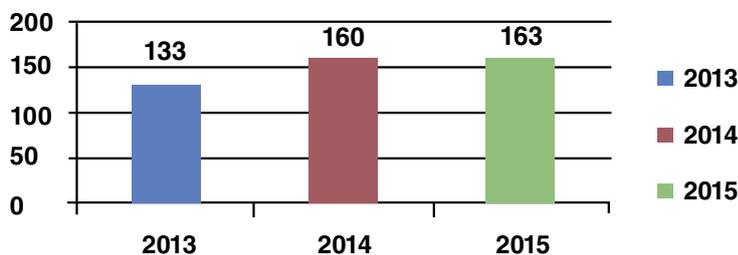
## Human resources

A clear increase from 133 to 163 staff members or 35% of staff between 2013 and 2015 was observed (figure 1). This is due notably to (i) the creation of new projects and (ii) decrease in the number of separations registered this year

This increase is mostly among the support staff and professional officers but in relative terms, an increase in the percentage of support staff (from 46% to 49% between 2013 and 2015) contrary to the professional staff that decreased from 47% to 44% (Fig. 2).

The absolute number of female staff increased from 36 in 2013 to 43 in 2015 (or a growth rate in value of 30%) but the percentage of female staff in the Secretariat of the region has decreased from 28% in 2013 to 26% in 2014 and has not changed in 2015 ■

**Fig. 1 Evolution of the number of PACO's employees**



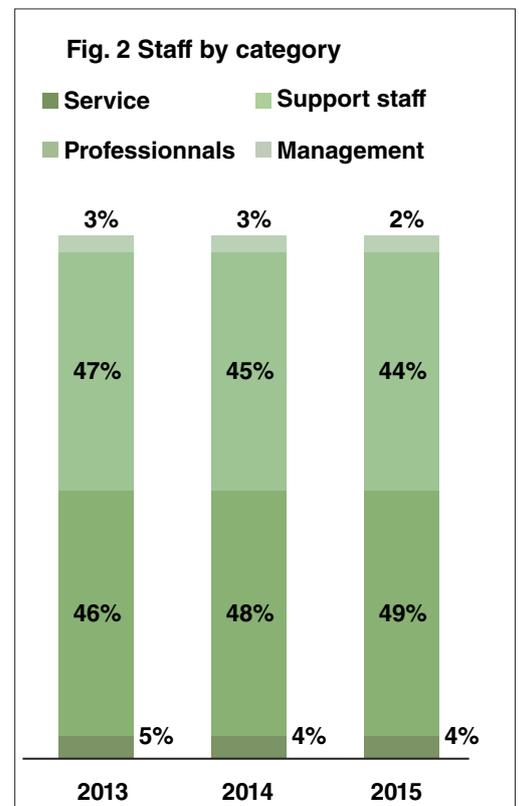
The other progress registered in 2015 in human resources is among other things in terms of:

- Creation of a guideline for hosting or recruiting Junior Assistants. This disposition allows young graduates to have their initial working experience within an international organization thus increasing their chances for prompt insertion in the active life.

- Establishment of a new learning platform called IUCN Online Learning Management System (LMS); this gives the workers an opportunity for training and enhancing their skills, notably in leadership, project management, computer science or language proficiency. It is a customized and self-directed system that can be modified and adapted to the working conditions.

- Expansion of the computerized human resource management system (HRMS) to Guinea where IUCN has an office in Kankan since 2014 ■

**Fig. 2 Staff by category**



## Overview of IUCN Members

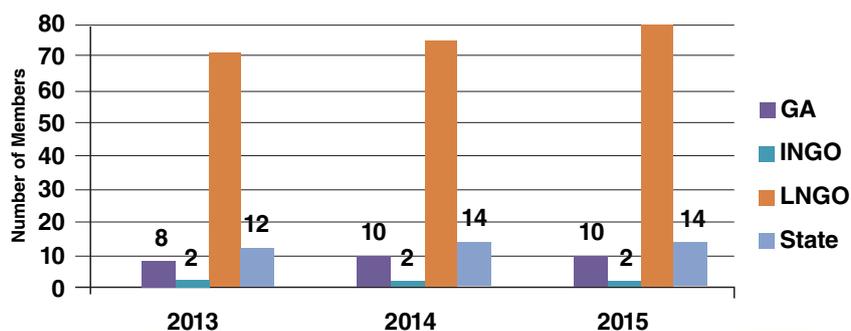
As at 31 December 2015, IUCN had **107 Members** (against **105 in 2014** and **93 in 2013**) in Central and West Africa, apportioned as follows: 14 states, 10 government agencies, 02 international NGOs and 81 local NGOs working in various areas of activities related to the PACO thematic programs (Fig. 1). There are also **7 National Committees** (Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Guinea Bissau, Mali and Senegal) **1 Regional Members Committee** in Central and West Africa (CREMACO), officially recognized, and over 500 IUCN Commissions members.

For year 2015, IUCN registered 5 new members in the Central and West Africa zone: the African Center for Applied Forestry Research and Development (CARFAD) and the Center for Communication and Sustainable Development for All (CECOSDA) in Cameroon, the Union of Village Associations

for Fauna Reserve Management (U-AVIGREF) in Bénin, the NGO AGIR in Mali, and the Association for Advancement and Development in Islands) (*Associação de Promoção do Desenvolvementonas Ilhas*) - NGO NANTINYAN in Guinea Bissau.

However it should be noted that currently only 62% of Members are up to date with their contributions. In fact 41 Members have their rights related to elections, votes and motions suspended because of a year arrears of contributions. The cases of 30 of them (7 states, one government agency and 22 NGOs), with arrears exceeding one year, will be submitted to the World Conservation Congress who will rescind all their rights as Members, unless they pay their arrears by then or at the latest one year after the decision of the Congress. After that time, these 30 members will be removed from IUCN ■

Fig. 1 Evolution of active Members



# THE PROGRAMME

## Highlights

### Regional Coordination Meeting

**February.** The meeting, which brought together all PACO heads of unit made it possible to assess the past year and present the 2015 planning of each unit. It was also an opportunity for participants to have a better understanding of strategies and product generation, management and sharing of IUCN knowledge at the global level and opportunities of ownership / adaptation thereof, in the PACO region.

### 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN)

**March.** The meeting held in Cairo, marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first meeting of this conference. On this occasion, the continent Ministers of environment exchanged on the optimization of Africa's natural capital, to enable the sustainable development and the eradication of poverty in the continent. They also discussed a common approach to the fight against illegal trade of wildlife products and the African flora, and the importance of further efforts for the effective implementation of environmental law.

### International Conference on the Illegal Exploitation and Illegal trade in wildlife and wild flora of Africa

**April.** Gathered in Brazzaville on the initiative of the Government of Congo, African governments have adopted a unified strategy to help Africa fight the scourge of illicit trade; they recommended to do everything possible to accelerate actions and political reforms in order to curb this phenomenon; States were also encouraged to recognize the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities and to increase the participation of the latter in the planning, management and use of fauna and flora resources.

### Local initiatives in the service of conservation of natural resources

**September.** At a regional forum on local initiatives for conservation of natural resources in West Africa, the participants shared their respective experiences and discussed the best strategies for efficiency in field activities. The meeting was organized in the framework of the project *Conservation territory in West Africa*.

### Regional Conservation Forum

**November.** In Bamako, the Members, Experts of thematic Commissions, staff and IUCN partners in West and Central Africa exchanged and reflected on their role to influence the international agenda of conservation and sustainable development. The IUCN delegation took the opportunity to discuss prospects of strengthening collaboration with the Head of State of Mali and with several technical and financial partners, present at the Forum.

### Coastal actors mobilized on climate change

**November.** The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the Regional Forum of PRCM mobilized the various categories of stakeholders of the coastal and marine area who strengthened the technical exchanges and shared experiences from such research and field actions. It leads to a renewed commitment to support and accelerate the adaptation and mitigation measures likely to limit the impacts of climate change in coastal and marine area.

### Ministerial meeting on IWRM

**November.** A total of 15 ECOWAS ministers in charge of Water Resources met for the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Ministerial Committee for monitoring of the integrated water resources management (IWRM) in West Africa. They have thus made resolutions designed to strengthen the implementation of IWRM and sustainable management of natural resources ■



Community marine protected areas of Urok, Guinea Bissau

## Programme achievements

In the three areas of the four-year programme 2013-2016, IUCN carried out actions that yielded progress and concrete results.

### *Biodiversity valuing and conservation*

#### **Knowledge generation and sharing**

- IUCN conducted the 10th edition of the University Degree on protected area management skills development with funds from the World Bank and MAVA, in collaboration with Senghor University of Alexandria. Eighteen new protected area professionals were trained with the

support of this new donor. Bringing to 194 persons (including 136 from West Africa), the total number of persons who improved their knowledge and know-how in protected areas.



The 10<sup>th</sup> batch of protected area professionals

- With the scientific support of WCMC, IUCN trained 40 actors (government and NGO representatives) of the Gambia and 21 actors of Togo, Mali and Chad (Government, NGO and research institute representatives) in systematic conservation planning. These actors became aware of the importance of this approach in selecting the best sites for potential new protected areas.
- A 2015 Central Africa baseline status of the conservation mechanism for the Central Africa Protected Area Network (RAPAC) has been developed in collaboration with the 3CO-MAC (WWF and WCS) coalition. This baseline condition includes (i) a review of all Protected

Areas of marine and /or coastal importance in 5 Central African countries (Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Cameroon, Congo, Sao Tomé & Principe and DRC), (ii) a detailed analysis of the main river-and- marine ecosystems, (iii) data on the other sea sectors (oil drilling and fishing). A detailed map of Central African marine protected areas which backs up this baseline condition and enhances the value of existing protected areas is being produced. In addition to the baseline condition is a strategic plan for Central African Protected Areas developed in conjunction with RAPAC and the various national institutions involved in the process.



Field visit during the training of trainers on fishing in Guinea, 2015

- IUCN's intervention in the Dja biosphere reserve in Cameroon made it possible to determine the qualitative and quantitative condition of wildlife, in collaboration with the teams of the technical department for nature conservation. This situation fills the knowledge gap given that the latest survey of this wildlife biosphere reserve which is ready for registration in the list of endangered sites, dates back from the late 1990s. Already, the findings of the survey are being used in view of the revision of the planning scheme of the site.
- In DRC, IUCN finalized and disseminated to the actors and decision-makers, the compilation of legal texts governing the protection of apes in the form of a CD. A validation workshop of the red list of timber species that can be logged in the country was also organized.
- Facilitated by IUCN in Senegal, the inventory and monitoring of water birds and their habitats in the Ndiael basin helped to document their baseline condition.
- In Guinea Bissau, through scientific research on fishing, conducted through the Rias do Sul Project, helped to identify and list 37 fish species in the Cacheu River and 46 fish species in Buba and Cacine rivers. The behaviors of about ten species of commercial importance are also better known, which could allow improved management of their harvesting.
- In Guinea Bissau, 125 trainers of trainers from 7 countries (Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Mauritania, Senegal and Sierra Leone) acquired knowledge on biodiversity conservation, climate change, waste management, active teaching and many other topics. These academic inspectors and members of NGOs that are active in the field of Environmental Education are now prepared to pass on to primary school teachers, through interactive exchanges, the knowledge acquired in 2015.. As a result, two training of trainer's manuals were developed in the Gambia and in Sierra Leone.
- IUCN facilitated the preliminary drafting of a Manual on the *Governance in view of promoting good governance in sustainable natural resource management Initiative*. Elements and data that made were also produced to prepare the First Draft of the Ghana National REDD+ Strategy (a document that defines options for reducing emissions from land degradation and deforestation) ■

Environmental education visit to the Guinea-Bissau mangroves, in 2015

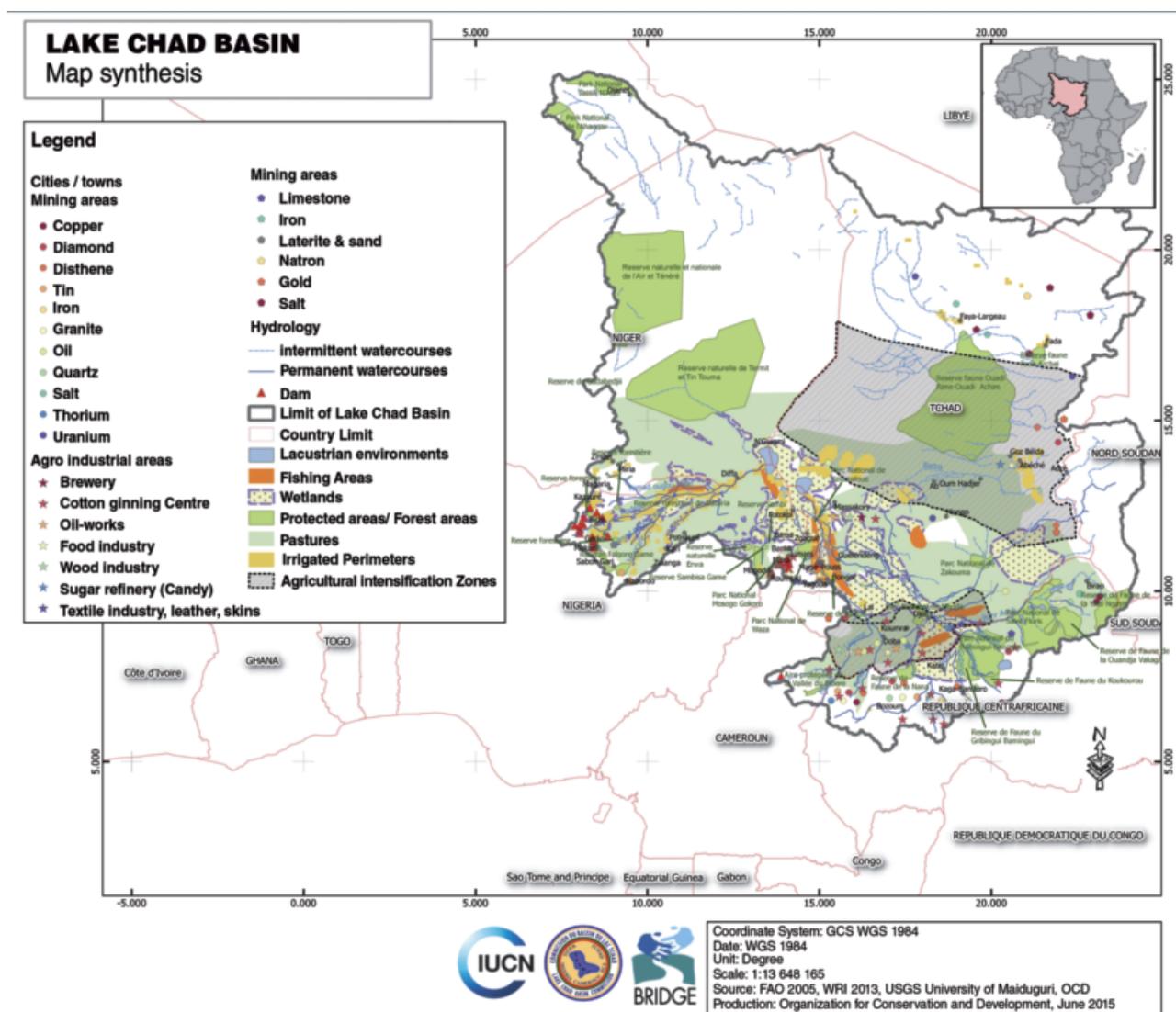


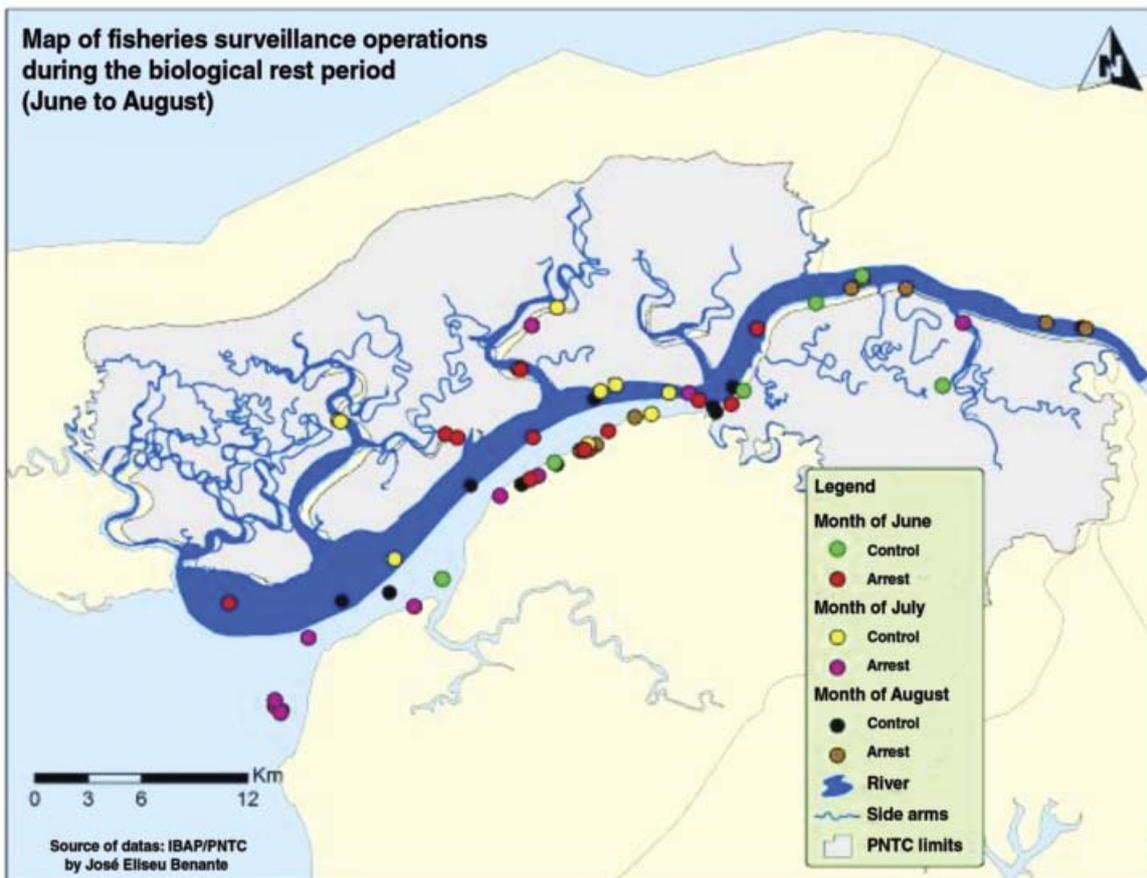
## Production of planning and management tools

Within the framework of the BIOPAMA Programme, two tools were designed for protected area managers in the region: i) The monitoring formula of management and planning effectiveness produced in collaboration with the Joint Research Center (JRC) of the European Commission and the Central Africa Forest Observatory (CAFO), based on the IUCN management effectiveness framework (Hockings 2008) ; and ii) the Protected Area (PA) manager capacity building strategy, together with the teaching box known as COMIT, a new product based on the IUCN strategic framework for capacity development in protected areas (Reynolds et Dudley 2015). These two tools will enable 27 trainers coming mostly from national PA agencies to assist managers of 50 to 80 PAs in the region in collecting

and using data required for the monitoring of management effectiveness and for planning, in view of the decision making at site level, both nationally and globally. It is envisaged during March 2016 an overview of the condition of PAs in 12 Central and West African countries.

In the area of water resources, the BRIDGE Africa project supported the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) to produce thematic maps of the Basin, as tools required for biodiversity and natural resource development, conservation and sustainable use. The process of developing the thematic maps led to the production of a first set of maps with a data base.





Detention of illegal fishing boats on Rio Cacheu from June to August 2015

- The "Partnership for West Africa Environmental Governance Programme - PAGE" collaborates with the Niger Basin Authority (NBA) and the Volta Basin Authority (VBA) for the setting up and strengthening of data collection systems of their Environmental Observatory. In this regard, the NBA organized 5 national workshops to formalize the Niger Basin environmental and socio-economic data and information management network and establish data warehouses at the level of national focal structures in Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Burkina Faso and Benin. The VBA on the other hand conducted a series of thematic trainings to develop the technical capacity of National Hydrological Service workers of Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and Togo, in the area of hydrological data collection and processing. The VBA also installed or restored data collection platforms in Côte d'Ivoire and Togo.
- In Cameroun, 10 Local Development Plans (LDPs) were finalized for the benefit of riparian villages of the Nouabalé Ndoki National Park (Congo segment) in the Sangha Tri-National landscape (STN). Such LDPs which were validated by all stakeholders constitute genuine planning instruments made available to the local people and other development and conservation actors living in the villages close to the park. In the same vein, IUCN also supported in Cameroon, the finalization of the development and business plans of the Waza National Park. The production of these tools is part of the expected outcomes and outputs from the implementation of the "Livelihoods Security for

*Sustainable Development of the Waza National Park and its surroundings*" Project financed by the Cameroonian Government (HIPC funds). These actions were taken with the financial assistance of the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) as part of the Support Programme for Congo Basin Forest Ecosystem Conservation (PACEBCo), and in close collaboration with the Ministry of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development of Congo.

- In Guinea Bissau, the zoning and concerted delineation of fishing areas and definition of rules which were facilitated by IUCN led to the enforcement of sustainable management measures of fish resources in Cacine, Buba and Cacheu rivers. For instance, following compliance with the three-month biological rest, the technicians and fishermen noted an increase - both quantitatively and qualitatively- in fish catches in the rivers. A total number of 150 participatory surveillance missions in 13 villages were conducted by fishermen's associations (over 1,135 fishermen involved), the directorates of the Secretariat of State for Fisheries and IBAP. These missions helped to carry out consistent checks on compliance with fishing rules and regulations in the 3 rivers. They further led to the dismantling of 50 illegal foreign fishermen's camps and withdrawal of 1,484 monofilament nets in 2015. As a result, more fish populations are observed in the rivers with less pressure on the mangrove and fish resources, less intercommunity conflicts, improved checks on the principles of access rights reserved for residents and



Local planning session with communities in the Yangambi Biosphere Reserve, DRC

better monitoring of the health status with the prevention regards to the Ebola virus disease epidemics.

- In DRC, IUCN facilitated the drafting and validation of a local development plan in the periphery of the Marine Mangrove Park (MMP) and provided the riparian communities with a best practice guide and manual of procedures for the implementation of community-based projects. The communities were trained in the use of these two tools which are designed to ensure the sustainability of project achievements. In the Yangambi Biosphere Reserve in East Province, eleven local development plans were prepared in a participatory manner, validated and made available to the communities. These local plans that embrace all concerns expressed by the people and also biodiversity conservations needs in the reserve, constitute reference frameworks for all future actions by development partners, the people themselves and local government in the site and surrounding areas.
- In terms of promotion of Participatory Monitoring-Evaluation (PM & E) at landscape level, the Forest Programme supported the scientific group named «*Sangha Group* » in completing the data on impact indicators of biodiversity conservation, socio-economic development of local and indigenous people and forest governance between 2013 and 2015 in the transboundary landscape of the Sangha Tri National (STN) which includes Cameroon, Central African Republic and Congo. The results of this monitoring were presented at the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the COMIFAC Working Sub-Group on Protected Areas and Wildlife (WSGPAW). This provided an opportunity to the Protected Area Managers from different countries for recommending that the PM & E tool be used in other transboundary protected areas of the Congo Basin.

- IUCN assisted RAMPAO in the establishment and operationalization of its task-force on fisheries and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). This Task-Force composed of a multi-disciplinary pool of experts in the fisheries sector intervenes at the request of RAMPAO member MPAs and fishing actors on practical issues relating to fish resource monitoring, fishing surveillance, enhancement of the intersectoral dialogue, governance and management systems between MPAs and fishing. The task-force intervened twice in the Joal-Fadiouth MPA in Senegal and in the Urok MPA in Guinea-Bissau. Many intervention requests to the task-force from MPA managers or their national directorates were registered by RAMPAO.

- To facilitate decision-making for vital ecosystem conservation and restoration, the PAGE project undertook to build a geo-referenced data base on West Africa gallery forests and source heads. The first data were collected in Burkina Faso and the process is due to be gradually extended to cover more countries like Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Senegal and in the longer run the whole of West Africa ■



Catching of *Polydactylus quadrifilis*, with longlines, a fishing engine authorized during the biological rest, Guinea Bissau, 2015

## Promoting landscape planning

- IUCN initiated a data base on all marine and coastal protected areas for Central and West Africa. This data base already comprises over 1700 documents, mainly (i) management and planning documents, (ii) documents on international registration of sites (Ramsar, World Heritage), (iii) national legislations and rules and

regulations on the classification of such zones and, (iv) PA management effectiveness evaluation documents. The list of protected areas that were identified and the documentary base are sent to the various countries for their information and complementation and also to the regional PA networks (RAMPAO and RAPAC). ■

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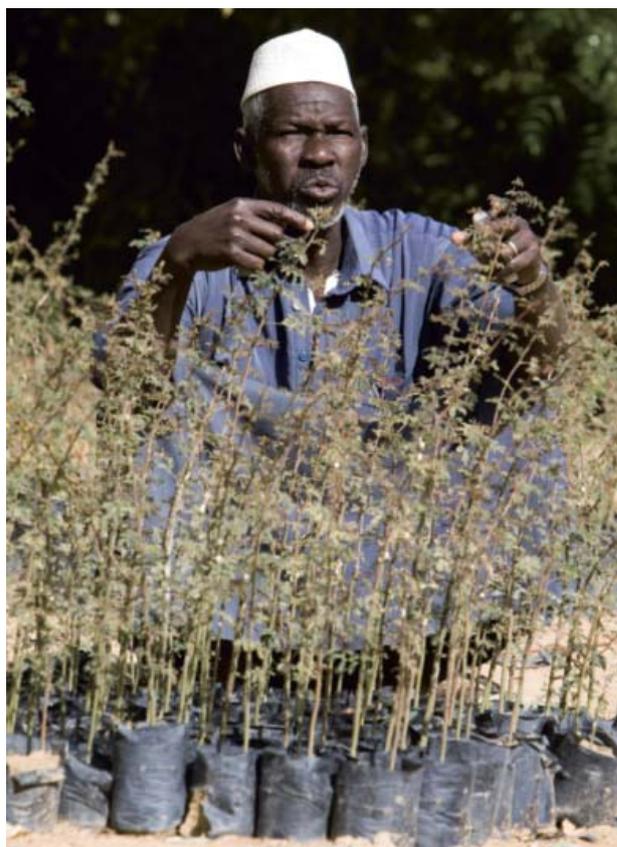
## Promoting the alleviation of pressure on biodiversity through poverty reduction

- The Protected Area Programme conducted a series of trainings and workshops for field actors' capacity building in the area of preventing and resolving conflict arising from Natural Resource Management (NRM) in and around PAs. A total of 40 NGO participants from Niger, Burkina Faso, Benin, Togo and Ghana, and neighboring municipalities, inter-municipality structures, farmer and stock breeder organizations, village wildlife reserve management association unions, park directorates, decentralized environmental and security services were trained in conflict prevention and resolution.

In Central Africa, a workshop on man/fauna conflict at the periphery of the Lopé Park in Gabon brought together 49 persons living or working in the periphery. Experiences on plantation protection against elephants were reviewed during this workshop.

- IUCN made available to the people living around the Sablogo forest in Center-East Burkina Faso, three sets of conservation and transportation equipment (200 liter plastic barrels, plastic bags, bottles, buckets, packing equipment, carts...) The materials are basically meant for female organizations as they are more vulnerable to climate change effects. This will enable such organizations to significantly improve the performance of the three shea butter production plants given to them by IUCN over the past few years within the framework of the project on «*Increasing the adaptive capacity in local communities*».
- The periphery of the Cameroon Waza National Park, IUCN continued providing guidance to 120 grassroots community organizations active in the implementation of income generating activities (IGAs) initiated with the subsidies given by the project on «*Securing the livelihoods of communities for sustainable development of the National Waza Park and its surroundings*». The achievements so far include the fattening of about 500 cattle heads (bovines and sheep and goats) and the

production and sale on local markets of 130 tons of cereals and nearly 16 tons of cotton. The monitoring exercise showed that IGAs have helped to increase household incomes by about 30% while reducing pressure on the park resources.



Nursery farmer



Beneficiaries of support for beekeeping materials (Kenyan beehives) in Zakouma, Chad

- At the Dja Biosphere Reserve, IUCN's support for local development and promotion of IGAs enabled the grassroots communities to establish four fishing areas, rehabilitate seven fishing ponds to increase fish productivity and oriented the planning of ten hectares for market gardening. These initiatives conducted within the framework of the project on "Support for conservation and riparian community involvement in the co-management of the Dja biosphere reserve natural resources" visibly contribute to poverty reduction among the local population. These local communities are now less inclined to tapping on the reserve resources. Already, positive impacts are perceptible given that the fishing areas that were created (with the construction of modern fish dryers) have made it possible to reduce by more than 80% firewood needs and by nearly 90% the time used for drying the same amount of fish. The income of the households engaged in market gardening has more than doubled<sup>1</sup>. The conditions are gradually

being created for the sustainability of such initiatives with the collaboration of Government technical services (Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Forestry) which provide the required monitoring and technical support services to the beneficiary communities.

- In the peripheral zone of the Zakouma National Park, IUCN's support for developing productive activities (financed by PADL/NRM-EU)<sup>2</sup>, in partnership with the Youth Association for Renaissance and Progress of Salamat (AJRPS), includes the promotion of alternatives to poaching such as beekeeping (31 beneficiaries), training of 6 local artisans in improved metal cooking stove making techniques (the trainees made 100 metal cooking stoves which are used as samples for the dissemination), and then women (293) in improved earthen cooking stove making techniques.



Girls and women in a hands-on session of improved earthen cooking stoves making in Gozdjarat and Ibir villages, Chad

<sup>1</sup>IUCN, June 2015. Final Report of the project.

<sup>2</sup>Support Programme for Local Development and Natural Resource Management (financed by the European Union and Chadian Government)



Training session with fishermen of Buba River on how to set fishing nets, Guinea Bissau



- Around the Cacheu, Buba and Cacine Rivers in Guinea Bissau, 415 women fish processors and traders have improved the quantity and /or quality and sales of their commodities such as smoked fish, salted fish and salt. They were able to do so using more efficient processing techniques (improved cooking stoves of the «tchorkor» type, sun-dried salt, time saving), more hygienic practices (less polluting for health) and through revolving micro-

credits managed by the female associations with the support of the COAJQ Cooperative and ADIM NGO. In addition, 3 fishing material shops were opened for the fishermen and 2 ice production units (5 tons/day/unit) were put in place which increased the time allocated for fishing in the sea. The consumption of fuel wood and vulnerability of women processors and traders due to the erratic fish supply were thus reduced ■



Women processors of *Bubacalhau*



Micro credit given to women processors and “*Bideiras*”



Communities identifying livelihood strengthening options to curb deforestation and forest degradation, Cameroon

## Support for the inclusion of conservation requirements in local development planning

The Protected Area Programme works with field actors that have strong influence on local development, notably at the periphery of Protected Areas, while taking the need for natural resource conservation into account. Hence: - 4 specific natural resource management plans were drafted and validated for the benefit of the Kirtachi, Tamou, Falmei and Kouré municipalities in Niger.

Field partners from Ghana, Burkina Faso, Togo, Niger and Benin met for a regional capitalization workshop of the experiences acquired from the West Africa Area Conservation Project. They were workers from 7 NGOs (including 4 IUCN Members), city council members and PA managers, representatives of communities and wildlife and protected area management groupings. A total number of 29 participants from 7 project sites shared the knowledge and experiences of their capitalization work per site in the

areas of support to actors identified through decentralized management, improved local governance of natural resources and conservation area management. Following this capitalization workshop, the Conservation Area Project organized in September 2015 in Ouagadougou, a West Africa regional forum on local conservation initiatives of natural resources. The aim was to enable participants to exchange and value their respective experiences. The forum brought together about one hundred participants from 7 countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Niger, Senegal and Togo) including NGO and conservation association representatives, local representatives and local government technicians, Government workers and protected area managers, community representatives and traditional chiefs, resource persons and technical partners ■

# Effective and Equitable Governance of Nature Use

## Promoting dialogue among the various natural resource use actors

- As part of the BRIDGE Project, two national multi sectoral dialogue platforms were put in place in the national portions of the transboundary Chari Logone Sub-Basin in Cameroon and Chad. These platforms are the outcome of an information, sensitization and consultation process among national actors. The national consultation platforms are a prerequisite for the operationalization of the transboundary Committee on integrated water resource management of the Chari-Logone sub-basin.
- In collaboration with the ECOWAS Water Resource Coordination Center (WRCC), IUCN disseminated the ECOWAS Guidelines on West Africa large hydraulic infrastructure development. National workshops for the domestication of the guidelines were organized for 75 actors from Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Mali. The meetings contributed to promoting best practice at both country and transboundary levels in the areas of large hydraulic infrastructure building and management.
- For improved water resource governance in Volta Basin, IUCN supported VBA in organizing a regional water governance forum on the theme «*Is water, a source of conflict or cooperation?*». The forum provided the 38 main water sector actors with a platform for sharing knowledge and opening targeted and in-depth discussions on issues relating to water governance in the Volta Basin around the following thematic areas: (i) water at the international level and the Post-2015 UN sustainable development goals; (ii) water as a national / regional policy issue in the Volta Basin and (iii) Strategy for wide dissemination of transboundary policies on good governance of water.
- As part of the *Global Water Initiative/WA (GWI/WA)*, IUCN supported the BAGREPOLE company and Rice Producer Union around the Bagré dam in Burkina Faso, in the implementation of a rapid assessment process for improved performance of hydro-agricultural programmes. The members of the national monitoring committee of this participatory process are the BAGREPOLE team, representatives of the various categories of actors (producers, Ministry in charge of Agriculture and Hydraulics, NGOs, research and extension services). Similarly, specific multi sectoral working groups were set up to develop and monitor the implementation of detailed action plans for enhancing agricultural advisory and support services for small holders (governance, dialogue, etc.) The plans were prepared in collaboration with BAGREPOLE representatives, technical departments, farmer organizations and other agricultural research and development actors at both national and local levels. The expected long term outcome of this process is improved agricultural advisory services and organization of producers and mostly the culture of dialogue and accountability among stakeholders in order to achieve sustainable value enhancement of the Bagré developed hydro agricultural area.
- In Cameroon, mining is one of the economic growth drivers. To help in minimizing the adverse environmental impacts of mining activities, IUCN used the opportunity of the current revision of the mining code to support the Parliamentarians' Network (REPAR) in organizing a workshop to identify their contributions to this revision. The activity which is part of the *Ecosystem Alliance (EA)* financed by the Netherlands Committee of IUCN, raised interest among other partners such as WWF and the Center for Environment and Development (CED) which participated both financially and technically.

Recommendations were made on the required inclusion of aspects relating to good governance and transparency in the mining sector and clarification of the rights and interest of the local communities. The REPAR network therefore put in place a working group with experts of the sector to thoroughly review the bill and suggest amendments or articles to be tabled by the network members.
- In Guinea Bissau, the influence of IUCN, through the Working Group on Petroleum and Extractive Industries (WG-PEI) contributed to the suspension, by the government, of heavy sand extraction activities in the Varela coastal area, following consultations with the local populations and mining companies, because of the coastal erosion risk and its effects. In the face of the increased illegal and abusive logging observed from 2012 to 2014 and as recommended by the two national conferences organized by the WG-PEI, the government issued a decree on a five-year moratorium on precious wood logging and export. IUCN also contributed to the documentation and awareness raising of actors on best

practice on petroleum drilling, the need for preserving the biodiversity in protected areas, withdrawal of monofilament fishing net, biological rest and access rights of the various actors to fish resources. Given the great impacts of a rather modest financing, a new 24 month- phase (Phase V) was approved and started in December following the completion of Phase IV of the WG-PEI work in June 2015.

- In Guinea Bissau also, the fishing management plans and rules defined through consultations between the State Secretariat for Fisheries and fishermen, were applied. Requests for change in the rules were made by a group of non-resident fishermen to the State Secretariat and Parliamentarians. IUCN and IBAP were requested by the President of the Republic and the National People's Assembly to explain the situation and give advice.

This led to a dialogue process that confirmed the rules set, while recommending the continuation of consultations

among the different interest groups of fishermen, the government and parliamentarians, more particularly on the access rights and biological rest principles, based on scientific, technical and empirical knowledge, beyond political and short term survival considerations.

Moreover, consultations on the access requirements and modalities in the Bijagos archipelago protected areas led to the commitment made by tour operators to comply with the tourism principles defined by IBAP.

- In close collaboration with FAO and the Congolese Institute of Nature Conservation (ICCN), IUCN facilitated the setting up and operationalization of a multi-actor consultation platform around the Marine Mangrove Park in Bas-Congo Province in DRC. This platform is part of the main expected outcomes of the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between IUCN and FAO, within the framework of the participatory marine mangrove park management Project.



Female fish processors and traders, Guinea Bissau

Framework for exchange and discussions among actors on key issues relating to the conservation of the park, the platform includes rules and regulations that define its mode of functioning, roles and responsibilities of each category of actors in the integrated park resource management and sustainability of project achievements. For improved involvement of the local communities in the management of the Yangambi Biosphere Reserve, IUCN developed the intervention capacity of more than 50 ecoguards who are volunteers recruited from among the riparian communities, provided them with field equipment and trained them on the status and management of biosphere reserves. The houses hosting these ecoguards and the members of the local committee named Man and Biosphere (MAB) were also refurbished and four surveillance posts were put in place in the most exposed sites to poaching and uncontrolled resource use.

- In the Dja-Odzala-Minkebe Tri National Landscape (TRIDOM), IUCN continued establishing a change monitoring system around the Ngoyla Mintom forest as part of the GEF/MINFOF project jointly financed by the World Bank (WB) and the Cameroon Government. This system aims at strengthening the multi-institutional

dialogue, building scientific bases that could influence decision-making of actors and stakeholders and ensure sustainable management of the Ngoyla-Mintom forest massif. This approach is drawn from the experience of the Sangha Tri National (STN) which multi-institutional dialogue framework has been operating for the past 10 years.

- The forest conservation programme facilitated the holding of the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Scientific support Group of the STN in October, 2015 in Libongo, Cameroon. The workshop was organized with the financial support of the French Development Agency within the framework of the partnership between France and IUCN, and the contribution of GIZ (COMIFAC support project), WWF, ICRAF, PACEBCo, SEFAC and WCS. It appeared that the natural assets in the STN were facing an alarming trend in the illicit exploitation due to the flourishing ivory market, circulation of arms of all sizes and the migratory flow. Strong actions were recommended towards social communication, forest law enforcement, community development and development of profitable forest product value chains.



Building rehabilitated by IUCN and used as office premises for the MAB Committee and ecoguards, DRC



IUCN-Yangambi (DRC) project Coordinator with ecoguards wearing uniforms provided by IUCN and Austria

## Concerted landscape and natural resource management planning

- In support of degraded land restoration actions in Northern Burkina Faso, IUCN assisted the local communities in developing and validating six concerted community plans to strengthen the resilience of natural ecosystems in view of reducing natural disaster risks. The plans which cover the six villages of the project on «*Ecosystems Protecting Infrastructure and Communities*» (EPIC) were drafted and implemented with the APROS NGO an IUCN Member.
- As part of the project on «*reducing transhumance pressure for improved conservation of the WAP complex protected areas*» (PRPT-WAP), IUCN also coordinated the finalization of the legal guide to the laws governing the transboundary management of pastoral resources. The guide which preparation process was initiated in 2014 under the coordination of the IUCN programme in Burkina Faso and the Commission on Environmental Law helps to better understand the agreements on pastoral resource management transhumance in the WAP complex. The use of the guide by the respective actors will allow improved enforcement of the laws which people are not so far really aware of.
- As part of the collaboration with the VBA, IUCN contributed to the process started by this institution to develop its water charter for the Volta Basin. The partnership led to the design of a "*methodological guide to the preparation and implementation of Water Charter of the Volta Basin*". This technical document is designed to orient actors in the preparation and implementation process of the Water Charter of the Volta Basin ■



Village planning workshop in Sillia, Burkina Faso

## Promoting customized policies and agreements

- With the American Facilitation of the Partnership, IUCN has coordinated the organization of the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) held in June 2015, Cameroon, with the support of Norway, the United States, France, Cameroon and Germany under the theme of «*Congo Basin Ecosystems: promoting the natural capital, green growth and regional development*». The main conclusions of the meeting are in the form of strategic and technical recommendations on ecosystem services, fauna conservation in the face of game demand, enforcement of rules and regulations and forest governance as related to land use and REDD+, to Central Africa's preparation for the Conference of Parties to the Climate Convention in Paris, to green economy and creation of an enabling environment for growth and sustainable financing.
- The Global Water Initiative (GWI) supported the preparation of the technical document and adoption of the Water Resource Planning and Management Scheme (WRPMS) of the Malian portion of the Sourou flood area shared between Burkina Faso and Mali. Following this adoption, the Malian State made the decision to finance 15% of the implementation cost (84 billion CFA) over 20 years. The Netherlands also offered to finance transboundary cooperation meetings between Mali and Burkina Faso (national technical committee and local management committee) within the framework of the new IWRM programme. Adding to this adoption is that of the WRPMS of Comoé and Mouhoun Basins in Burkina Faso. These different schemes aim at promoting socio-economic development in the basins by meeting the needs of all water users while preserving the ecological balance.
- To prepare the implementation of the ECOWAS guidelines on large dam economic aspects, the GWI is supporting the operationalization of the future directive

on West Africa large hydraulic infrastructure while feeding the debate at the level of dam project actors (States, NGOs, civil society ...) so as to learn lessons from economic results achieved in the region which are far below project expectations. This initiative aims at improving practices in order to build hydraulic infrastructure that fit more into field realities and meet the needs of the populations, particularly the local populations. The process culminated with the Dakar meeting on November of the 15 ECOWAS Ministers in charge of water resources for their 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Ministerial Monitoring Committee (MMC) on West Africa Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM).

The MMC session gave the opportunity to review the implementation of IWRM in the region, discuss the initiatives carried out by the Water Resource Coordination Center (WRCC) and its partners, define future activities and build synergy in the actions. Organised for the first time since 2008, this statutory meeting of the IWRM Permanent Framework for Coordination and Monitoring (PFCM), made it possible to take important resolutions including: strengthening coordination for IWRM promotion in West Africa, improved protection of the resource and validation of the ECOWAS development guidelines.

The MMC session was organized by the ECOWAS Department of Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources through the WRCC, with the support of IUCN and IIED, within the framework of GWI and PAGE projects. It was co-financed by the ECOWAS Commission, the British and Swedish Cooperation offices (UKAid and SIDA) and the Howard G. Buffett Foundation.



Awareness raising of actors for the ownership of ECOWAS Guidelines

- On 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2015, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea gave an advisory opinion on the request submitted by the Sub- regional Commission on Fisheries (SRCF) a founding member of PRCM with IUCN, on illegal, non declared and non regulated fishing (INN) and common interest or ordinary stock management. This is the first time in history that an advisory opinion is given by the International Tribunal in full house. This advisory opinion further strengthens the SRCF in its fight against INN fishing which has considerable impacts on fisheries in the sub region. IUCN supported the SRCF particularly in the writing of its request and participation in the hearings held in September 2014.
  - IUCN supported the COMIFAC in Douala on April 2015 for the organization of a preparatory meeting of Central Africa countries for the 11<sup>th</sup> United Nations Forest Forum held in New York on May, 2015. The meeting helped to draft a common strategy document for the countries to facilitate the negotiations in New York.
  - In Guinea-Bissau and as part of the PREE 2, working audiences with five Ministers of Education of the countries involved in the Programme (Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Guinea, the Gambia, Senegal) helped to strengthen and accelerate the revision of the curricula to introduce a subject matter on the environment.
- Parliamentarians and Senators in charge of the Committees on Environment, Natural Resources and Sustainable Development in Guinea-Bissau, the Gambia, Guinea and Mauritania made the commitment to follow up on the policy and institutional stages of the PREE. The meeting of Ministers in charge of Education in the countries covered by the programme was a side event of the meeting of experts of the 7 countries held during the 8<sup>th</sup> Regional Forum of the PRCM in Praia, in November 2015.
- To further develop the human capital for the Environment in Africa, IUCN continued providing support for the Master degree on « *Environmental Law and Policy* » that it initiated with the *Francophonie* Sustainable Development Institute (FSDI) at the Senghor Campus, Burkina Faso. The first batch of 15 students including 9 women has graduated.
  - For improved promotion and ownership of water and environmental policies in West Africa, IUCN collaborated with ECOWAS, UEMOA and CILSS to produce policy briefs and presentation videos of these regional policies. These visual aids will facilitate access to the contents of the said policies for a larger number of actors, particularly the implementation stakeholders and decision-makers ■



ECOWAS Ministers of Water meeting in Dakar for IWRM in West Africa, 2015

## Production of planning tools

- In Guinea, IUCN organized a national feedback workshop on the study on land tenure security for the populations affected by the Fomi dam (Guinea, Niger River Basin). The workshop was followed by a strategic meeting of Permanent Secretaries of the Ministries of Energy and Hydraulics, Agriculture, Town and Territory Planning. Both meetings were part of the support provided by the Global Water Initiative (GWI) to the Guinean State for the development of a rigorous method for eviction, compensation and land tenure security of the people affected by dams and any other projects that produce land related impacts in full compliance with the principles embodied in the Guinean constitution (fair and prior compensation principle), and in accordance with the NBA reference framework (Water Charter) and that of ECOWAS (Guidelines).
- In Niger, the GWI gives technical and financial assistance to the Government through the National Office of Hydro-Agricultural Land Development (ONAHA) for the implementation of land tenure security on the pilot site of *Namardé Goungou* and drafting of a national practical guide to scale up the process to all 79 hydro-agricultural sites in the countries. The objective of the project is to further preserve the rights of producers in irrigated land areas through securing title deeds based on formal numbering of plots in the name of the State.
- The Union continued using the Forest Poverty Linkages Tool Box to measure the link between the forest and poverty among the local and indigenous people in Ghana and in Cameroon as part of the Pro Poor REDD+ II Project (financed by DANIDA). The results of these analyses were communicated to the international community at the XIV<sup>th</sup> World Forestry Congress in Durban.
- In Guinea Bissau, the national ecotourism strategy is in the process of being validated by the Ministry of Tourism and Handicrafts. Consultations are underway with the operators about the charter on responsible tourism in protected areas which was developed with the participation of the Government Environmental Impact Assessment Unit.
- In Mali, through the PAGE project, IUCN contributed to the revision of Law of 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2002 on the water code and its enforcement texts and to the implementation of the institutional study of the water development fund instituted by this law. The revision of the water code aims at enabling Mali to reorganize the management of the water sector, taking into consideration all the guiding principles of IWRM. IUCN also supports the institutional study of the water development fund intended to provide the fund with an appropriate institutional, legislative and regulatory framework that would help it to better fulfill its missions to develop access to safe drinking water and achieve sound and sustainable management of water resources ■



Local partners trained on the use of the Poverty-Forest Tool Kit, Ghana

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

- As part of the revival of the Central Africa Ecosystem and Dense and Humid Forest Conference (CEFDHAC) and its networks initiated since two years ago, IUCN launched in collaboration with the actors of the process, the «*Rural CEFDHAC*» concept which aims at decentralizing down to the grassroots level, the revival process which was so far focused on the national and regional levels. In line with this effort, the Union facilitated the setting up of a dialogue and exchange platform on issues relating to the management of the STN landscape forest ecosystems, involving the actors in the three segments (Cameroon, CAR and Congo). Furthermore, the Cameroon National CEFDHAC Forum received support from IUCN for building its engagement and preparing the participation of its members in the CoP21 on climate change.
- In the Lake Chad Basin, IUCN facilitated the establishment process of multi-actor consultation platforms for Basin natural resource management in both Chad and Cameroon. This action is conducted with the participation of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), the Ministries concerned and civil society organizations.
- In Guinea Bissau, exchange and study visits were conducted with 7 parliamentarians, 3 technicians (IUCN, IBAP and the NGO Palmeirinha) and the Bauxite-Angola Company to the Beli-Boe. They helped to know the situation on bauxite and enhanced the engagement of parliamentarians and companies on environmental protection. A feedback was given during a session of the

National People's Assembly to make all parliamentarians understand the issues in extractive industries.

To improve the participation of the actors in the implementation of national and regional water policies, IUCN, undertook to inform/sensitize 73 actors on the West Africa Regional Water Policy (WARWP) and its implementation action plan. The actors concerned are basically involved in water resource management in the Volta Basin, Mékrou Basin in Niger and the Sourou Sub-Basin in Mali. This action was conducted in collaboration with the countries and the ECOWAS Water Resources Coordination Center (WRCC).

- In Guinea, IUCN trained 25 representatives of water management structures in Upper Guinea on different topics: the Water Code of Guinea and implementation texts, the NBA Water Charter, water management funding and planning mechanisms in Upper Niger Basin.
- In Burkina Faso, the skills and capacity of the members of the General Assembly of Local Water Committees (LWC) and Water Agencies of Mouhoun, Liptako and Nakanbé were strengthened on the key principles that guide the organization and functioning of the members of the General Assembly of a LWC and preparation of multi-annual programmes. This work was conducted by the Permanent Secretariat of the IWRM Action Plan (SP/PAGIRE) in collaboration with IUCN ■



Workshop to establish rural CEFDHAC in STN

# Nature-based solutions to take up the global challenges of climate, food and development

## Environmental policy and legislation

- In Cameroon, the National Committee of IUCN Members produced two position papers, one on land tenure legislation and the other on the environmental framework law. These papers were used for advocacy for the consideration of the concerns expressed by local actors, the civil society and vulnerable populations in the current revision of these two legislative texts.
- A development process of the synergy between two global mechanisms for sustainable forest management was launched: REDD+ and APV/FLEGT. At a workshop

organized by IUCN to this effect, experts from the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF), Ministry of the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) and civil society identified five priority areas: benefit sharing; governance, notably the reform, legislation and policy implementation; participation and stakeholders' capacity building; communication; and social and environmental protection<sup>3</sup>. They also identified a potential institutional framework for operationalizing this synergy ■



Participants in the workshop on the restoration of forest landscapes in Burundi, Bujumbura

## Climate change adaptation and REDD+

Burundi undertook to restore 2 million hectares of forests by year 2020 as part of the Bonn Challenge. It is in the framework of this commitment that the Ministry of Water, Environment, Land Planning and Urban Development (MEEATU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate with IUCN for the promotion of initiatives

related to landscape restoration. This MoU aims at creating a collaboration framework in the area of forest ecosystem conservation and development, climate change, poverty reduction and mobilization of the resources required for the materialization of the related joint initiatives ■

<sup>3</sup> Environmental and social safeguards

## Tools for mainstreaming climate change in development planning

As part of the Partnership for Environmental Governance (PAGE), 90 senior staff members (including 15 women) were trained in the use of planning and monitoring & evaluation tools of climate change adaptation capacity (TOP-SECAC). Of the senior staff trained, 16 constitute a regional pool of trainer experts and the remaining being representatives of national structures in charge of development planning. These senior staff members were from the Ministry in charge of the Environment, the Ministry of Planning, National Meteorological Services, Universities, the private sector and Civil Society Organizations (CSO) of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger and Togo.

In Niger and Guinea, the training involved 26 local actors (including 2 women) of members of decentralized technical services, local governments and CSOs in view of the revision of Municipal Development Plans (MDP).

Following the promotion of the TOP-SECAC in three countries from 2012 to 2013, an evaluation of the level of utilization of the tool was conducted. In Burkina Faso, it was found that the tool was incorporated in the local planning methodological guide dedicated to local planning. In Mali and in Senegal, it has not yet been actually incorporated but efforts are being made by some trained senior staff to use the tool to develop the knowledge and skills that they have acquired in the revision process of local government planning documents. Through the EPIC project executed in two countries in the region (Burkina Faso and Senegal), the

Burkina Faso programme carried out a number of actions aimed at strengthening the climate change adaptation capacity of grassroots communities by improving their livelihoods. Project activities have significantly contributed to:

- Improving water availability with the construction of 2 pools in Basnére and Birdininga and rehabilitation of one pool in Tibtenga. With a capacity of about 3000 m<sup>3</sup>, each pool will contribute to increasing available water in the villages concerned for cattle watering and for certain domestic uses in part of the dry season;
- Improving the nutritional capacity with a financial support from the World Food Programme (WFP) to complement the EPIC project actions, based on a partnership agreement with IUCN. A total amount of EURO 66,467 was distributed to more than 1000 households in the form of incentives for their labor to build stone bunds, uprooting of trees, rubble stone gathering and transportation which require intense physical efforts.

In Guinea-Bissau, rice fields cultivated in the mangroves are threatened by the rising sea level. IUCN and its members are supporting the communities to implement sustainable solutions. Also, the productive capacity of soils has been improved with the construction of 59 salt control dikes and development of assisted natural regeneration which helped to protect 3,695 species in the agro-forest parks of 6 target villages of the project ■



Construction of a *bouli* in Basnére, Burkina Faso



Women's participation in the construction of a *bouli* in Basnére

<sup>4</sup> Water reservoir meant essentially to provide drinking water to livestock during the dry season



## Capacity building

Executed by the IUCN- Burkina Faso programme based on an MoU with the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), the project on Empowerment of science-policy exchange platforms for climate change mainstreaming in national plans of agricultural and food security policy (SPEP) has provided the national platforms on « *climate change, agriculture and food security* » (CCASA) of Ghana, Mali and Senegal, with the required capacities for the use of various tools enabling them to conduct activities that influence the national and local policies of their respective countries.

Thus, 13 male and 5 female members of the Mali platform have acquired theoretical knowledge on policy influence frameworks and combined monitoring and evaluation tools. And also 11 members in charge of monitoring and evaluation of the platforms of Ghana (5 persons), of Senegal (3) and of Mali (3) were trained in monitoring and evaluation of climate change effects on agriculture and food security, with hands-on exercises in seven administrative districts (Nandom, Jirapa and Lawra Districts in Ghana; Kaffrine and Bambey Prefectures in Senegal; Ségou and Koutiala Circles in Mali).

Using an M & E guide which was designed, validated and shared with the platforms of the countries concerned, behavioral change stories (33 in Ghana, 26 in Mali and 17 in Senegal) were collected from the members of 7 out of 9 platforms.

Within the framework of the ILVB-CIAT Project (*Improving livelihoods in landscapes in the Volta Basin through strengthening farmer-led approaches to ecosystem-based management*), 40 key actors in Northern Ghana, from a wide range of institutions (UDS, ACDEP, GWP, MOFA, WIAD, GIDA, IWMI), were trained (in Bolgatanga

and Jirapa) on the concepts and approaches developed in this project such as landscapes/ecosystems linkages, ecosystem services, ecosystem-based management and gender-related implications.

Thanks to the EPIC project, a training session was organized in Burkina Faso on Partnership for environment and disaster risk reduction. The training brought together various actors representing the local administration (Governor's office and high Commissioner's office), the local communities (special delegations of municipalities and regions), specialized structures (Permanent Secretariat of the National Council for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation and Permanent Secretariat of the National Council for Environment and Sustainable Development), the IUCN Commissions (Ecosystem Management and Protected Areas) and the IUCN Members (Association for the Promotion of Social Welfare, National Association for Rural Action and SOS Sahel International), research institutes (National Institute of Environment and Agronomic Research), technical services, local associations and NGOs. The EPIC project also developed the capacity of:

- 15 nursery farmers in the area of seedlings production techniques; the trainees thereafter produced 9000 seedlings mostly of *Moringa oleifera*, *Sclerocarya birrea*, *Acacia nilotica*, *Adansonia digitata*, *Adzadirachta indica* and *Khaya senegalensis* ;
- 100 persons on stone bund construction, zaï techniques and permeable rock dams.

Co-facilitated by IUCN experts and two national trainer experts per country, these training sessions were an opportunity for the trainers to refresh their knowledge.



In Senegal, the management and social mobilization capacities of the communities were strengthened in view of improved implementation of the EPIC project activities. Thus, nearly 50 village management committee members were trained in the management of associations. In addition to this, 6 boreholes were drilled in the beneficiary villages (Foundiougne Department) to enhance the production capacity of tree nurseries to enrich the agro-forest parks. The project also helped to diversify household income by introducing 120 breed reproducer cocks in the 6 villages covered.

In Cameroon, the IUCN programme started the practical phase of the population support process for the domestication of timber species and non-timber forest products within the framework of the IUCN/FFBC Project on REDD+. Thus, 40 persons from the following locations: Efoulan (TRIDOM-Cameroun), Nkang (TRIDOM-Gabon), Kabo (STN-Congo) and Mossapoula (STN-CAR) received technical and material support for the creation of 16 hectares of greened and/or intensive farming plots. These plots constitute demonstration fields of the implementation of measures to combat deforestation and forest degradation.



Shaft boring in village tree nurseries

IUCN developed the capacity of State and Non State actors of DRC and Burundi in two workshops on forest landscape restoration. The forest landscape restoration concept and its link with national and international policies were the main domains dealt with. The Burundi workshop was attended by 110 persons including 21 women while that of DRC had 83 participants of whom 10 were women.



Demonstration of row seeding and grafting technique



In the SEP establishment process in the forest Massif of Ngoyla Mintom in Cameroon, IUCN trained 21 persons on data collection and analysis techniques for the monitoring of change in conservation and development at landscape level.

As part of the support to development and eco-tourism promotion in Guinea Bissau protected areas, local jobs were created in the area of non-timber forest product processing and local food value enhancement (for 21

women), tour guiding and interpretation of the natural and cultural heritage (20 young eco-guides and 4 guards).

Accommodation conditions in Cantanhez and Orango Parks were improved with the opening of a community house, a restaurant and interpretation centers. This infrastructure has a direct impact on job creation and alternative income generation at the local level while fostering efforts towards biodiversity and natural resource conservation in Guinea Bissau ■

Anôr community house for accommodating visitors, built for the villagers in Orango National Park, Guinea-Bissau

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## Emerging capacity for improved management of extractive industry impacts

The interest for sustainable governance of the sea and its resources is growing in Mauritania. Thus, the Mauritanian Government launched in 2012, the Biodiversity, Gas and Petroleum (BGP) Programme which is built upon a strategy that is based on partnership among the State, the civil society and the private sector. With technical and financial support from UNDP, the German Technical Cooperation, IUCN and WWF, the BGP Programme is operational around three components: (i) research, (ii) capacity building and (iii) tri party dialogue among the civil society, the Government and the private sector.

To support the implementation of the «*capacity building*» component of BGP, IUCN initiated with funds from MAVA, a large training programme at Master's Degree level, of national and regional senior staff on the impact management of extractive activities (IMEA). This training programme should in the longer term help to close the gap in senior staff capable of interacting in the interface where many actors are present (companies, civil society organizations, riparian communities). Such staff profile is also useful for monitoring environmental standards, for

undertaking the sensitive exercise of reconciling often opposed visions and interests and directions that are difficult to anticipate in the sea actors and users.

Handled by the Nouakchott University of Science, Technology and Medicine (USTM) (Mauritania) and Gaston Berger University (GBU) of Saint-Louis (Senegal), the IMEA training programme has just recruited its third batch at the time when the first is near graduation. The IMEA Master's degree was characterized in 2015, by the diversity of both implementers who are from institutions known for their high expertise and nationalities of students from Mauritania, Senegal, Chad, Niger, Cameroon, Guinea Bissau, Burkina Faso and Mali.

The first evaluation of the IMEA Master's Degree conducted in February 2015, reviewed all training activities so as to strengthen the positive trends and take corrective measures as required. In general terms, the teaching method used was found satisfactory. In this respect, the evaluators feel that the range of teaching methods and techniques used are relevant and effective ■

## Knowledge sharing

In Burkina Faso, the IUCN programme has undertaken to capitalize on the achievements of the project on «*Increasing the adaptive capacity of local communities to climate change*». The focus was on (i) improvement of the knowledge and technical capacity of actors for adaptation to climate change in the project intervention zone; (ii) strengthening people's livelihoods as a contribution to the reduction of climate change effects; (iii) socio-economic impacts in terms of reduced climate change effects on people's living conditions and poverty levels; (iv) adaptation to climate change through improved land productivity, ecosystem restoration and slowing down the pace of natural resource degradation; (v) social performance (including gender mainstreaming) of climate change adaptation actions.

The use of the Tool Kit on Forest-Poverty Tool Kit in Central and West Africa has generated a wealth of knowledge on the importance of forests on rural household economies. An expose on the topic was presented at the XIV<sup>th</sup> World Forestry Congress.

In Guinea-Bissau, a newsletter and two DVDs compiling documents on extractive industries were made available to decision-makers. Interpretation signboards on marine turtles were used to disseminate the scientific research findings in the MPA of *Joao Vieira Poilão* for visitors. Posters on scientific research findings and works of the *Rias de Sul* project presented on the occasion of the World Fishing Day, helped to widely disseminate the results of scientific and socio-economic activities of the project to the general public. Finally, the PREE project created a Facebook page and a blog to share the experiences in Environmental Education.

IUCN organized two regional meetings on experience sharing and reflection on integrated ecosystem management attended by 26 senior staff members from Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. The reflection led to an agreement in principle on the design of a "Regional consultation mechanism on integrated ecosystem management" (RCM-IEM). The objective of this mechanism is to serve as a regional platform for promoting dialogue among the various consultation frameworks in view of sharing, validating and standardizing approaches,

innovative tools for enhancing the value of ecosystem services (payment for environmental services, nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation, IWRM...). IUCN is serving as the temporary technical Secretariat until its actual establishment. ECOWAS and IUCN were also mandated to be the Project Owner and Project Implementer respectively, for the implementation of the roadmap. This approach was validated in November 2015 in Dakar by the 15 ECOWAS Ministers of Water Resources meeting for the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Ministerial Monitoring Committee on Integrated Water Resource Management in West Africa.

In line with the consultation frameworks already put in place under the aegis of ECOWAS, namely "The Forestry Convergence Plan" and the "Permanent Framework for IWRM Monitoring in West Africa", the deliberations of the thematic groups were started and the result and indicator chain of the logical framework of the West Africa Forestry Convergence Plan validated. For each priority intervention domain, the main activities to be undertaken at short and medium term have been identified for multi-annual 2016-2020 Plan.

In view of establishing *Payments for Environmental Services* (PES) in the upper Niger Basin in Guinea, IUCN conducted an exploratory study which gives evidence that the setting up of PES mechanisms remains the best option if we are to improve the living conditions of the local population and protect and restore natural ecosystems. It further revealed that there exist some of the required conditions while others are yet to be created for the establishment of effective and equitable PES mechanisms. The existing required conditions include ecological, economic, social, institutional and legal aspects. Those to be met are: (i) adaptation of PES to the institutional and customary land tenure setting, (ii) consideration of the ecological relevance of PES and benefits for the population, (iii) information of beneficiaries and land managers, (iv) sustainability of actions, (v) mainstreaming of ethics and justice, (vi) transaction and administrative cost reduction, (vii) ensuring the compliance of PES with the customs and traditions, and (viii) Minimizing the transposition of pressure. Four pilot projects were proposed ■



## Constraints encountered in the implementation of the programme

The implementation of the Programme was delayed for various reasons:

- The political change that occurred in Burkina Faso with the civil upheaval on October 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014 and the missed coup on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015
- Similarly, the elections organized in Benin and Togo in 2015 delayed some field activities.
- Some projects registered delay in their start or implementation due to late disbursement of funds, or change in donor focus, or slow justification of the funds allocated to executing partners; hardship experienced (Ebola epidemic, jihadist attacks...) in some countries also restricted IUCN staff travels ■





View of the High table at the opening ceremony

## Significant events

### Central and West Africa Regional Conservation Forum

From 2nd to 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2015, Bamako hosted the deliberations of the 2nd Central and West Africa Regional Conservation Forum under the theme «Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change Control: sources of progress, stability and development in Central and West Africa?»

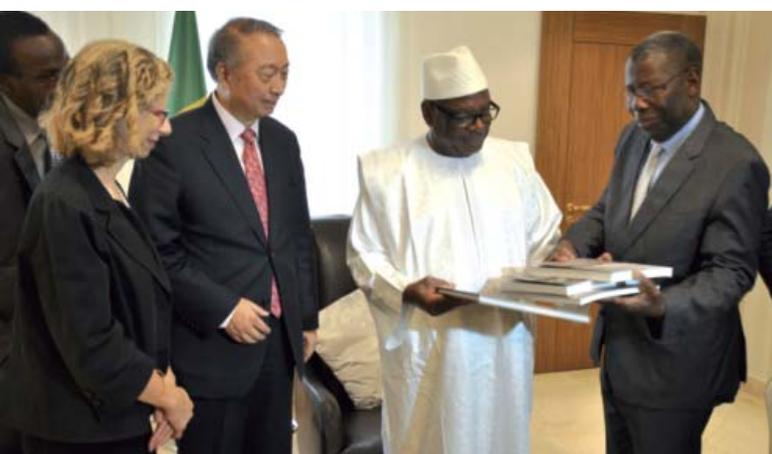
A total number of 331 participants representing States, NGOs, IUCN partner institutions and resource persons were in attendance.

Technically, the Forum gave the opportunity for comprehensive discussions on issues relating to (i) biodiversity conservation policies and strategies, (ii) green economy, resilience and adaptation of communities to climate change, (iii) conservation and climate change financing and (iv) contents of the draft four-year (2017-20) programme.

At the institutional level, the following themes were discussed, especially: the 2016 World Conservation Congress, the IUCN's governance, the Union's thematic Commissions. Otherwise, a general assembly meeting of IUCN Members in Central and West Africa was held.

Some of the results achieved through the deliberations were:

- Identification of major challenges: continued biodiversity loss in the region at both species and ecosystem level; multiple national and regional policies that do not adequately and consistently include biodiversity conservation issues and are slowly implemented. Oversized environmental policies that do not match the technical and financial capacities of States and poor capacity of the countries for addressing climate change in terms of both adaptation and mitigation.
- Proposed responses to take the numerous challenges: (i) develop conservation policies and field actions based on the most reliable knowledge possible about the status of biodiversity; (ii) adopt realistic policies that mainstream biodiversity and are likely effectively to be implemented; (iii) IUCN to provide support to the countries in the region to establish the Red List of ecosystems, genuinely tap on multilateral and bilateral funding available for biodiversity conservation and climate change; (iv) strengthen operational collaboration among the various components of IUCN and with the other actors and build synergy in biodiversity conservation and climate change control actions. Example of synergetic actions between the IUCN Secretariat and Members were given through the France –IUCN Framework Agreement that makes it possible to raise funds for improving forest management;
- A Call on CoP21 negotiators to imperatively make the Paris negotiations a success and ensure that mitigation and adaptation go together for both Africa and the rest of the world;



The IUCN delegation received by H.E Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, President of the Republic of Mali

- Identification of several ideas of motions to be submitted at the upcoming World Conservation Congress in Hawaii. When these ideas will be enriched and finalized, they will constitute one of the tangible tools for the African contribution to the Hawaii Congress;
- Ownership of the 2017-2020 global four-year programme as the contribution of the Union to the resolution of biodiversity conservation and climate change challenges;
- Acknowledgement of the relevance of the Union's proposed actions in the region as materialized in the 2017-2020 PACO draft workplan.

The Forum was also an opportunity for the IUCN delegation discussing the prospects of strengthening collaboration with the State of Mali and with several technical and financial partners present at the Forum ■

## Central and West Africa at the COP21

Africa was well represented at the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (CoP 21) held in France from 30th November to 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2015. For Africa, a continent known for being less polluting but more affected than any other part of the world by climate change, the idea was mostly to ensure that its vision and interests are taken on board in all discussions and in particular in the draft global agreement. It was also an opportunity to make a step forward in the reflection on effective strategies that could meet the environmental, economic and policy expectations of African communities.

Africa was thus visible in the negotiations and through the side events, conferences and discussion workshops.

About forty IUCN Member organizations in West and Central Africa were present and supportive of the negotiations by countries in the region.

UEMOA of which some IUCN Member States are part of, used the opportunity to organize a «UEMOA Day» where a number of regional programmes to be executed by 2020 were launched (clean energy; rehabilitation of the Bamako regional solar center; solar energy stations; forest ecosystem management/PAPE ; promotion of a territorial approach to adaptation; etc.) and launch of the regional facility for access to sustainable energy (RFASE) with SABER for the promotion of renewable energy, through BOAD which will be the funds receiver ■



Animation at the IUCN - Blue Zone stand

## Forum Régional Côtier et Marin

Organized on the theme «*Actors the Littoral, let us mobilize in the face of climate change*», the 8<sup>th</sup> Regional Coastal and Marine Programme (RCMP) Forum brought together 218 participants from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> November in Praia, Cape Verde. The Forum was a unique event in the region that mobilized the actors of the RCMP member countries (Mauritania, Senegal, the Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Cape Verde), sub regional institutions and partners from elsewhere. It was opened by the Speaker of the National Assembly of Cape Verde, Hon. Basilio Mosso Ramos, in the presence of the Director General of the MAVA Foundation for nature, the Director General of Wetlands International and the regional programme coordinator of the IUCN in Central and West Africa.

The Forum is the time when policy and mobilization priorities are reviewed for actors to undertake coordinated actions. It was built around three types of meetings. Leaders' conference that helped to hear prominent figures from the communities in the region, political institutions and also organizations dedicated to action or scientific research. All these took a step backwards reflecting on governance issues of the marine and coastal zone, political and fund raising and advocacy for conservation. Eight thematic workshops were then used to deepen the introductory themes through 26 presentations on fishing, mobilization of actors, governance of protected marine areas and marine and coastal resources, littoral dynamics, resilience of communities and biodiversity conservation; these topics were dealt with in the perspective of vulnerability to climate change. The partners complemented the technical discussions with 16 side meetings, where the results of their research work and activities were presented, exploring the links between climate and marine and coastal zone management.

In their final statement, the participants made the commitment to work towards accelerating adaptation and mitigation measures that could minimize climate change impacts on the littoral and marine zone. They requested the States and the international Community to promote prospective approaches to territories and economic activity sectors in the coastal and marine zone. Confident in the current positive trends, they stressed the need for giving priority to local initiatives taken by the communities in the implementation of solutions that are deemed appropriate to the various coastal and marine settings. In the context of the preparations for the CoP 21 on climate and given the issues at stake, the Forum requested the inclusion of marine ecosystems which were so far little present in the international agenda, prioritization of regional approaches such as those of the RCMP and orientation of the strategic priorities of financing mechanisms and instruments towards coastal and marine zones.

In concrete terms, the participants recommended to the RCMP actors to intensify research programmes and observation of the trends in the West African littoral zone, adopt pilot innovative and resilient models for tourism facilities that are adapted to the specificities of West African coasts, support environmental education notably through its mainstreaming in school curricula, strengthen RAMPAO Protected Marine Areas and finally, prioritize ecosystem conservation initiatives that play a specific role in the mitigation of climate change impacts such as mangroves, marine grass beds, coral formations and littoral forests ■



Les participants au Forum du PRCM



## Communication

Like every year, IUCN produced or contributed to the production of numerous communication tools: a monthly newsletter i.e. PACO News, information bulletins of PREZOH, the RCMP paper, the Cameroon Programme Info, the NAPA bulletin, BIOPAMA Newsletter and the «*Regards sur le RAMPAO*» editions. There were also contributions to online media and social networks, the PACO website and Facebook page.

Moreover, IUCN organized within the framework of BRICKS, a thematic workshop on communication for about fifteen participants composed of experts in communicating SAWAP (Sahel and West Africa Programme) projects covering 8 countries (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan, Chad and Togo), and members of the

working group on BRICKS communication (IUCN, CILSS, SSO and World Bank). The main conclusions of the workshop were on: (i) validation of the 2015 communication plan of the project and (ii) capacity building in the communication experts of BRICKS executing agencies (IUCN, CILSS and SSO).

Also, the implementation of the BIOPAMA Programme communication plan (Central and West Africa) enabled the production of roll up, leaflets, USB drives for the dissemination of information on the programme, support to the updating of the French version of the BIOPAMA site ([www.biopama.org/fr](http://www.biopama.org/fr)) and production of the programme newsletter (BIOPAMA Newsletter ■

# STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Like in 2014, the activities of IUCN in the region were supported by about forty financial partners including bilateral governmental agencies, foundations, international

NGOs, multilateral donors and other international institutions ■



# MEMBERS AND COMMISSIONS

Members and experts of the IUCN Commissions have been involved in various ways, in the implementation of the Programme in Central and West Africa:

- Annual joint planning of activities between the Secretariat, members and Commissions in Burkina Faso and Guinea Bissau.
- Observation of coastal risks in West Africa involving the Secretariat, Members and CEM.
- Development of the West Africa mangrove Program with SSC mangrove specialists.
- Collaboration between the Secretariat and the Members to mobilize financing (Cameroon, Guinea Bissau).
- Involvement of CEDC, Member of IUCN, as a member of the Cameroon platform and cross-border platform of the Chari Logone sub Basin.
- Involvement of Members and Commission experts in Burkina Faso for conducting various studies through task delegation agreements.
- Dissemination of various information to Members and experts of the Commissions (opportunities for partnership, funding or training, IUCN results at regional and global levels);
- Organization and implementation of joint activities (scientific research, lobbying, advocacy, publications ...) in Guinea Bissau, Cameroon and Burkina Faso.
- Various support to national and regional committees (CREMACO) of IUCN Members.

## Some achievements

Members of **CREMACO** actively participated in the Members Regional Forum held in Bamako, Mali from November 2 to 5, 2015. They seized the opportunity to discuss, among others subjects, how to boost CREMACO. By consensus, the Executive Committee was renewed and three resource people identified for further reflection and propose a roadmap (institutional arrangement) which will be discussed and submitted for approval in Hawaii, during the World Conservation Congress.

**In Burkina Faso**, the Secretariat facilitated the organization and holding of a joint planning workshop (Secretariat, Members, and Commission) which helped identify actions to be taken. Contracts have been signed with two NGO members: the Association for the Promotion of Social Works (APROS) to support the implementation of the ecosystems restoration plans for communities targeted by the EPIC project in the Northern region of Burkina Faso; and the Association for Environmental Management and Development (AGED) to conduct the study on the socio-economic diagnosis of Yitbari pasture area. Similarly, a protocol signed with the Commission on Environmental Law helped conduct the study on the evaluation of local governance institutions of pastoral resources in the Eastern Region. CEM has participated in the organization of partners training on partnership for environment and reduction of disaster risk; it also chaired the debates.

**In Cameroon**, IUCN worked with five Commission experts for the dialogue and multi-stakeholder consultation process in the Lake Chad Basin, the development of a forest carbon monitoring and tracking system and the evaluation of carbon stocks in the pilot plots of TNS and TRIDOM. Thanks to the collaboration between the Secretariat and CEW, Member of IUCN, the European Union funded the project "Support to the sustainable management and enhancement of the Ngog-Mapubi / Dibang forest ". Furthermore, IUCN is implementing two projects funded by RAPAC, another IUCN Member: "Support to the conservation and involvement of local communities in co-management of natural resources in the Dja Biosphere Reserve" and "Support to the participatory and sustainable resource management of the Sena Oura National Park and its peripheral areas ".

**In Guinea Bissau**, the Secretariat conducted several actions, in collaboration with IUCN Members and partners: production of 3 zoning maps on fishing rules; lobbying and advocacy to promote the the mainstreaming of the Environment and the implication of local communities in decision making on mining and fishing; lobbying and output of a 5 years moratorium on wood; Participatory monitoring in three major rivers of the country; Development of a partnership project on adaptation to climate change, rice and mangroves submitted to the GEF; development around protected areas; environmental education around protected areas, ecotourism development; identification of important sites in the Cantanhez forest, film on Wealth sharing and public hearing with national television.

**In Senegal**, the NGOs Green Senegal and REPES submitted a project proposal on strengthening coastal governance capacity with the support of the Secretariat. The Secretariat implements activities for the restoration of Ndiael (PREFELAG financed by AfDB), in cooperation with the CSE and the directorates in charge of National Parks and of Forestry. Furthermore, the project to strengthen the resilience of ecosystems and communities by restoring the productive bases of saline land in Senegal was approved by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) with a budget of USD 7.61 million. Developed in collaboration with the CSE and the State of Senegal, this project is part of 8 selected worldwide, out of 38 submitted for the first time to the GCF.

# FINANCES

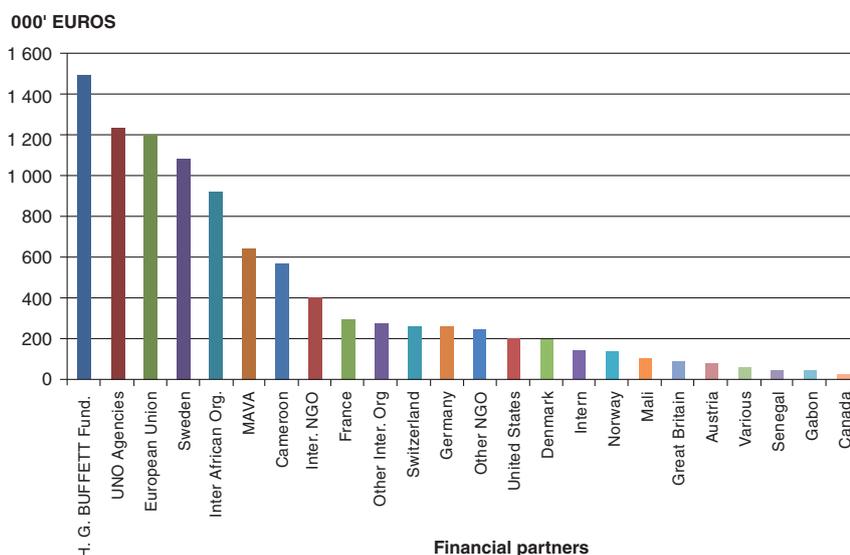
The total value of the PACO multi-annual portfolio is € 45 674 389, of which 25.17% of projects under negotiation with donors (list B), the others being already implemented (list C). For year 2015, the portfolio accounted for € 11 850 305 of which 0.79% are of list B projects. The average size of list C projects is € 133 595, which is relatively modest.

Evaluated on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015, the budget of the Secretariat was € 4 410 933 of which 20.45% is core funds. The breakdown of this budget is 32.05% for all four regional

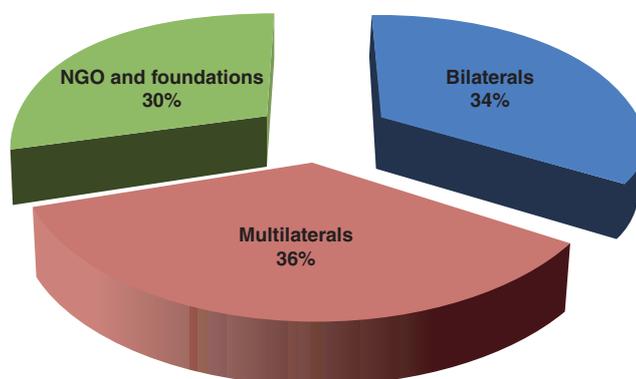
thematic programmes (RTP), 48.14% for country programmes and 19.81% for the regional office.

Taking into account the budget for projects, the total amount of the annual budget is €16 261 238 of which 5.4% for the regional office (which does not execute any projects), 44.4% for RTPs and 50.2% for country programmes. The total budget for the region has not therefore evolved as it was already about € 16.3 million in 2014 ■

Funds received in 2015



Funds received in 2015 by type of donor



Compared to the budgets revised in July 2015, the completion rate of expenditure in the region was € 14.6 million ie. 89%; 98% for the Secretariat and 86% for the implementation of projects ■

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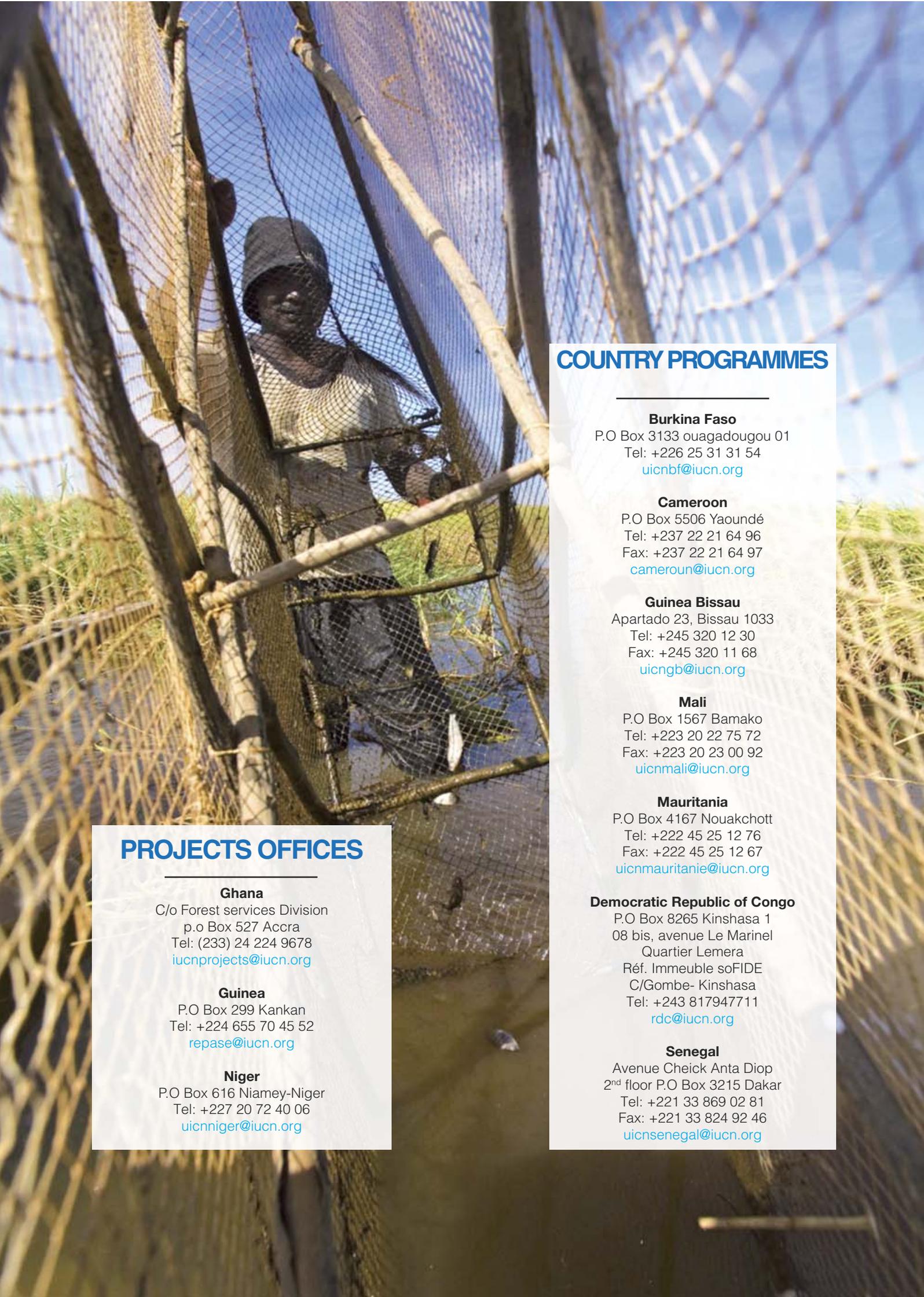
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A fisherman wearing a dark hood and a light-colored shirt is seen from the chest up, working within a traditional wooden frame boat. The boat is covered with a large, fine-mesh net. The background shows a body of water and some greenery under a clear blue sky.

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