



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

IUCN-PACO



Experimental fishing in the MPA of Joal Fadiouth with the MPA-fishing task force of the RAMPAO - Saloum Delta reserve, Senegal

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ACRONYMS

AE2D:	Association for Sustainable Environment and Development Action	CEW:	Cameroon Environmental Watch
AFAUDEB:	Burkina Wildlife and Development Association	CICOS:	International Congo-Ubangi-Sangha Basin Commission
AFD:	French Development Agency	CILSS:	Permanent Inter-States Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel
AfDB:	African Development Bank	COMIFAC:	Central Africa Forest Commission
AGED:	Environmental Management and Development Association	CREMA:	Community Resource Management Area
AGEREF Comoé-Léraba:	Inter-village Association for the Management of the Comoé-Léraba Wildlife Reserve	CREMACO:	Central and West Africa Regional Committee of IUCN Members
AGRHYMET:	Regional Agro-Hydro-Meteorological Centre	DANIDA:	Danish International Development Agency
ANAR:	National Association for Rural Action	DRC:	Democratic Republic of Congo
ANPN:	National Agency of Protected Areas (Gabon)	ECCAS:	Economic Community of Central African States
ANR:	Assisted Natural Regeneration	ECOWAS:	Economic Community of West African States
APN:	African Parks Networks	EPIC:	Ecosystems for Infrastructure and Community Protection
APPEL:	Parliamentarians' and Local Representatives' Alliance for Environmental Protection of West African coastal countries	ER-PIN:	Project Idea Note for Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction
APROS:	Association for the Promotion of Social Works	EU:	European Union
APV/FLEGT:	Voluntary Partnership Agreement on enforcement of forest regulations, governance and trade in timber and timber by-products	FEM/GEF:	Global Environment Facility
BIOPAMA:	Biodiversity and Protected Area Management Program	FGFEF:	French Global Environment Facility
CAMECO:	Cameroon Ecology (IUCN Member NGO)	FNRAA:	National Fund for Agricultural and Agri-Food Research
CAR:	Central African Republic	GAED:	Extractive Activity Master Degree Course
CCRE:	ECOWAS Water Resource Coordination Centre	GIZ:	German International Co-operation Development Agency
CEC:	Commission on Education and Communication	GM:	Global Mechanism
CEFDHAC:	Central Africa's Ecosystems and Moist Forest Commission	GMP:	General Management Plan
		GPPPAM:	Global Partnership for Professionalization of Protected Areas Managers
		GTP-IE:	Working Group on Petroleum and other Extractive Industries
		GWI:	Global Water Initiative
		GWP-WA:	Global Water Partnership for West Africa

IBAP:	Biodiversity and Protected Areas Institute	PRGDT:	Sahel Regional Sustainable Land Management and Climate Change Adaptation Program
IMET:	Integrated protected Area planning and management Effectiveness Monitoring Tool	RAMPAO:	Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas of West Africa
IUCN:	International Union for Conservation of Nature	RAPAC:	Network of Protected Areas of Central Africa
LCBC:	Lake Chad Basin Commission	REDD:	Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
MAB:	Man and Biosphere	RERAO:	Network of West African Radios for the Environment
MAD:	Market Analysis and Development	RTP:	Regional Thematic Program
MBA:	Mono Basin Authority	SIDA:	Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency
MEOR:	Forest Landscape Restoration Opportunity Evaluation Methodology	SODAGRI:	Agricultural and Industrial Development Company
MMP:	Mangrove Marine Park	SP/PAGIRE:	Permanent Secretariat of the Action Plan on Integrated Water Resource Management
MOLOA:	West African Coast Observation Mission	SSC:	Species Survival Commission
MPA:	Marine Protected Area	STNS:	Sangha Tri-National
NBA:	Niger Basin Authority	Sulci:	Sustainable Use and Livelihoods
OIPR:	Ivorian Parks and Reserves Authority	WAEMU:	West African Economic and Monetary Union
OMVS:	Organization for the Development of Senegal River	UNCCD:	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
OPED:	Organization for the Environment and Sustainable Development	UNEP:	United Nations Environment Program
PA:	Protected Area	VBA:	Volta Basin Authority
PACO:	Central and West Africa Program	WASCAL:	West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use
PAGE:	Environmental Governance Partnership	WB:	World Bank
PAPF:	Project to Support Populations dependent on Forest resources	WCMC:	World Conservation Monitoring Center
PFBC:	Congo Basin Forest Partnership	WCPA:	World Commission on Protected Areas
PRCM:	Regional Partnership for the Conservation of West Africa's Coastal and Marine Areas	WWF:	Worldwide Fund for Nature.
PREE:	Regional Environment Education Program		
PREFELAG:	Lake Guiers Ecological and Economic Function Restoration Project		



MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

With persistent insecurity in Mali marked by attacks and fighting episodes among armed groups, the attacks by Jihad groups in Mali, Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire, the rampant war between Boko Haram in Lake Chad countries (Chad, Niger, Cameroon and Nigeria), the political instability in CAR, post - electoral unrest in Gabon and socio-political upheavals related to the end of the last constitutional term of office of the president of DRC, the region has gone through a fairly challenging year.

This situation is indeed unfavorable to any presence and hence, to financial support from the region's traditional donors and of course, this was felt by institutions like IUCN.

However, these challenges have now been mainstreamed in the context of the region as they have become recurrent or permanent for the past few years. This is the reason why they are taken into consideration during the planning of IUCN interventions in order to effectively pursue the conservations goals while restricting staff exposure to more risks.



Aimé J. NIANOGO
Regional Director
IUCN-PACO

The preparation and successful holding in Rabat, Morocco, of the second international colloquium on environmental law in Africa and of the World Conservation Congress in Hawaii have been highlights for the Union in terms of experience sharing, energy harnessing towards the preservation of the planet and also in terms of rekindling the motivation of the Extended IUCN family. The Hawaii Congress has also enabled IUCN to set new ambitions to itself through the four-year 2017-2020 Program in the three areas notably conservation and sustainable valuing of biodiversity and natural resources, good governance of biodiversity and biodiversity, implementation of nature-based solutions with the aim of meeting the global challenges.

In West and Central Africa, IUCN has further strengthened existing technical partnerships (ECOWAS, UEMOA, ECCAS, COMIFAC, etc.) and established new collaborations (World Bank, UNCCD, etc.). This has made it possible for the Union to record new achievements the major ones are presented here.

IUCN AT A GLANCE

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 more than 1,300 Member organisations and some 16,000 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.

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Sorting out shea nuts in the peripheral area of the Biosphere Reserve of the Hippopotamus Pond, Burkina Faso

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

PACO is organized in several operational units or groups: the group of Regional Thematic Programs (Forests, Protected Areas, Wetlands and Water Resources, Marine & Coastal Resources), the Country Programs (Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Mali, Mauritania and Guinea-Bissau) and the group of corporate units (Administration and Finance, Human Resources, Institutional Development and Communication). The regional Forest and Water and Wetlands programs additionally implement activities through country offices, notably in Ghana, Guinea, Chad and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

AT THE GENERAL LEVEL

At the beginning of every year, the regional directorate brings together the Heads of Units to provide an update on achievements, technical and financial prospects; as well as define a roadmap for the region in both programmatic and organizational terms. This year, the focus was on the issue of drylands in the context of the IUCN Global Drylands Initiative.

Furthermore, to address challenges faced by some of the country programs working to strengthening the presence of IUCN in the region, the regional directorate organized in-house supportive actions in the form of audits or review missions; as well

as workshops that helped identify programs for Guinea and others, focused on coastal countries (Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal).

In order to put together elements for a medium and long term development plans against the backdrop of environmental, institutional, political and financial trends in the international and regional contexts, the regional directorate organized a retreat in October. At this gathering, the Union made a rapid assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the regional machinery including the finance and human resource situation. A plan of action was thus produced; whose implementation lays a better foundation for robust growth and development of the regional programme.

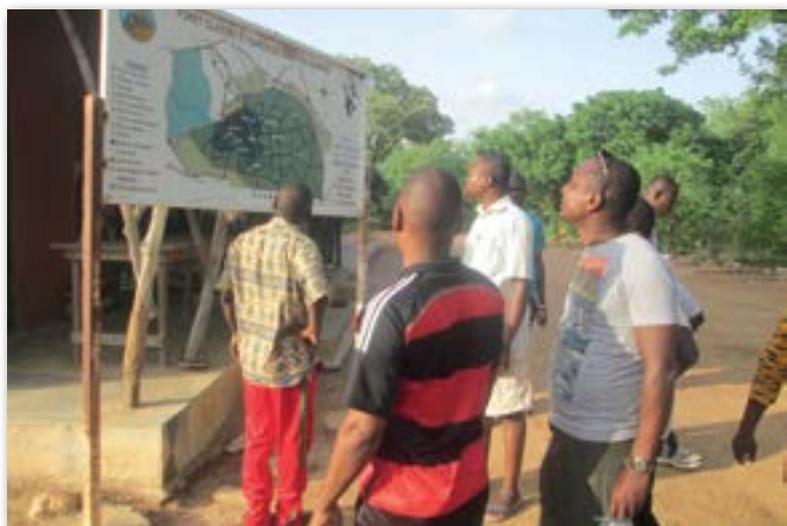


Strategic Planning Workshop of the Forestry Program (Limbe, Cameroon)

AT THE THEMATIC LEVEL

The regional thematic programs (RTPs) work on regional projects and programs while supporting country programs on aspects under their thematic scopes of action. They also intervene to support IUCN Commissions and partners. This year, the specific thrusts have included the following:

- In 2016, the regional thematic program (RTP) on Protected Areas (PA) ensured ❶ building the capacity of some regional actors involved in biodiversity conservation; notably through training, information and communication, ❷ strengthening the effectiveness of major regional conservation initiatives through active participation in their implementation ❸ promotion of effective work packages and tools, including ecological and community data capitalization, processing; and application within and around PAs (notably within the framework of the BIOPAMA).
- The Marine and Coastal program (MACO) focused on supporting sub-regional institutions and organizations notably those active in marine and coastal resource management: ❶ the West Africa Regional Coastal and Marine Area Conservation Partnership (PRCM), ❷ the Network of Marine Protected Areas of West



Some students on arrival at Nazinga Ranch

Africa (RAMPAO), ❸ the Network of Central Africa's Protected Areas (RAPAC) and ❹ the West Africa Littoral Observation Mission (MOLOA).

- The Water and Wetlands Program (PREZOH) has pursued their partnership with ECOWAS, Basin Agencies (Niger, Volta, Mono, Mano Rivers, Lake Chad, etc.), Government institutions in charge of water and civil society organizations concerned with the water-related issues. Actions were undertaken towards promoting water policies, legislations and mainstreaming of civil society perspectives on water resources planning and management. The program further contributed to the building of a program dedicated to the issues of «law, policy and governance» within PACO.
- Working essentially on governance and forest restoration issues, the Forest program has promoted large scale approaches and comprehensive concepts for: ❶ the restoration of degraded forests and landscapes (DRC, Burundi, Republic of Congo, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire), ❷ implementation of REDD+ options in Ghana, ❸ facilitation of the Congo Basin partnership (PFBC), ❹ implementation of the COMIFAC Convergence plan and ❺ operationalization of the ECOWAS convergence plan. Moreover, the PACO Forest Program laid-down and adopted an integrated approach going forward to build consistency and internal synergies through an exchange and planning workshop bringing together all other PACO technical units.



Explanation around a water point of Nazinga Ranch, Burkina Faso

AT COUNTRY LEVEL

The country programs are more or less successfully strengthening concerted planning with the Members and building partnerships for action.

The following main approaches were noted this year:

- Almost all country programs have endeavored to improve access to GEF financing for the countries in the region (Chad, Mauritania, Senegal, Mano River Union, Volta Basin Authority, etc.) and to the Green Climate Fund (Senegal, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, Guinea-Bissau and Burkina Faso); these, through concepts that were submitted by States to international organizations devoted to these issues.
- A partnership was actually started with the Global Mechanism (GM) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. In addition to the financing received from the European Union for a collaborative project on the Great Green Wall, IUCN was also entrusted with the coordination of the implementation of parts of the components by the GM, based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) defining the roles and responsibilities of each party
- IUCN is thus supporting 11 national partner organizations in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Chad.
- In Burkina Faso, the Support Project for Forest Dependent Populations (PAPF) financed by the World Bank with implementation involving numerous partners including several IUCN Member Organizations was officially launched.
- In Guinea-Bissau, the partnership with UEMOA on fish resource co-management was maintained, making it possible to develop the capacities of the national agencies and NGOs involved (IBAP, directorate of fisheries, fish research, etc.); it further facilitates the participation of NGOs in the implementation of relevant national policies and biodiversity conservation in target ecosystems.



Fish research boat - Rias do Sul Project, Guinea Bissau

WORK PROGRAM AND MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE VALUATION

This includes the results of promoting the adoption and enhancement of standards, tools and knowledge required for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity leading to effective biodiversity management measures in Central and West Africa.

Biodiversity knowledge generation

Efforts deployed towards knowledge generation were focused on beekeeping, the mining concessions conflicts and the status of Central Africa's Management of Protected Areas.

A study was thus commissioned on the experiences of five NGOs (AFAUDEB, AE2D, ADT, NORTHCODE and N'Tabet Apicole) on the implementation conditions of beekeeping in environmental settings of Burkina Faso, Togo, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire; the findings of the study were used to strengthen the productivity of beehives and enable the revival and better structuring of the sector.



Beekeeping training in the peripheral area of Mole National Park, Ghana

Information, sensitization and capacity building of actors

Like in the previous years, IUCN has facilitated diploma level trainings. In Mauritania, IUCN has supported the graduation of a new batch of 14 students of the regional Master's Course on extractive industry from 06 West and Central African countries (Mauritania, Senegal, Chad, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, and Guinea-Bissau). The 12th edition of the academic diploma course involved 20 PA management students from public, Para-state and private sectors as well as NGO and associations from 7 West African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger, and Togo.

The Regional Environmental Education Program (REEP) continued the training of trainers in the 7 PRCM countries as well as the production of teaching aids. These supportive efforts have been acknowledged and mentioned in the Gambia's Education Sector Policy Statement.



GAED graduates with the Coordinator of the Master degree course



High table at the graduation ceremony of GAED 2016 batch

A wide range of capacity building activities were also conducted including the following:

- Dissemination of a new integrated protected area Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) to 70 PA professional officers in 27 sites distributed among 9 countries in the region.
- Training in the use of the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) in Côte d'Ivoire for 38 civil servants, university, research, nature conservation structures and certain financial and civil society partners.
- Certificate Training on ROAM co-developed and supported by IUCN and YALE ELTI for over 15 participants from Burundi, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, the DRC and Rwanda
- To internally meet effectiveness requirements, six IUCN PACO staff members were trained on the procedures and standards to be applied at the various stages of the project cycle implementation within IUCN. The aim was to ensure that IUCN procedures are consistent with those of the Global Environmental Facility and Green Climate Fund, which would make implementation easier for IUCN as an agency of these two Facilities.

Production of planning and management tools

IUCN has supported diverse institutions in acquiring tools that could strategically guide their actions:

In collaboration with the ECOWAS Centre for Water Resource Coordination (CCRE), a strategic plan was thus developed for the Mano river Basin Authority (MBA) and a platform of civil society organizations was put in place.

In Mali, a participatory process resulted into a critical analysis of environmental strategies and policies and clarification of the major environmental challenges facing the country, while determining the priority intervention areas.

The option evaluation framework was applied involving Ghanaian actors, helping to identify appropriate REDD+ benefit sharing mechanisms in Wassa Amenfi district in the Western Ghana region.

As part of the Environmental Governance Partnership Project (PAGE), IUCN has supported the communities in Moudéry area in Senegal, for the flora survey in the Gandé forest and drafting of its development and management plan. This development and management effort will make it possible to curb multiple encroachments, notably by humans on this forest to ensure that it can sustainably render essential services to the communities in terms of fuel wood, timber, non-timber forest products, etc. In a context of property rights tensions; and the development and management plan will also help to maintain the traditional extensive livestock husbandry system prevailing in the zone.

In Senegal, the Program provided technical support to the Foundiougne district Council by helping them to develop a three year action plan (2016-2018), articulated around 5 priority areas: **1** strengthening of the institutional framework for risk reduction and disaster management, **2** setting up of a risk monitoring, evaluation and surveillance system, **3** mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in the education, training and public awareness raising system, **4** incorporation of disaster risks in development and poverty reduction strategies and **5** capacity building for emergency preparedness and response.

In DRC, the Program has facilitated the finalization, validation and dissemination of the General Management Plan (GMP) of the Yangambi Biosphere Reserve, using a participatory process. This GMP defines the intervention thrusts and priorities aimed at rehabilitating the Reserve over a period of five years. It also costs such interventions and defines the roles and responsibilities of each of the categories

of actors involved. A Steering Committee with statutes and rules and regulations has been set up in partnership with the DRC Man and Biosphere (MAB) National Committee to coordinate the actual implementation of the GMP among other duties.

I Controlling crime against fauna

In the Sena Oura National Park, the Program has facilitated the radio-tagging of two elephants to enable the identification of migration corridors of these pachyderms and sensitization of actors on the need to protect them. This approach is being used within the framework of the efforts made by IUCN and its partners to combat crime against fauna; and the implementation of the cross border collaboration Agreement signed between Chad and Cameroon. This strengthens the management of the Bouba Ndjida (Cameroon) and Sena Oura (Chad) (BSB-Yamoussa) trans-border protected area complex. Furthermore, this action is the outcome of effective collaboration between IUCN, African Parks Networks (APN); the Government of the Republic of Chad, the Chad Elephant Strategy Coordination, the North Carolina Zoo and other diverse actors in the site.

I Restoration and rehabilitation of degraded wetlands

As part of the Lake Guiers (Senegal) Ecological and Economic Function Restoration Project (PREFELAG), IUCN has commissioned baseline studies on a rapid scientific, socio-economic and institutional assessment for the development, restoration and refilling of the Ndiaël reserve in view of its withdrawal from the Montreux Record. In line with this, a roadmap including among other things the finalization of development works, preparation of a management plan of the reserve, capacity building of actors, implementation of communication, awareness creation and advocacy was adopted.



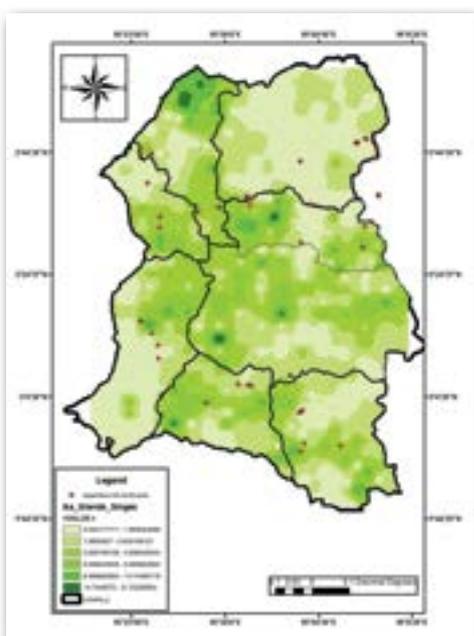
Floristic inventory of Gandé forest, field team

NATURAL RESOURCE GOVERNANCE

Several actions were undertaken to develop and further strengthen institutional provisions for good governance of natural resources and biodiversity in 25 sites and for 4 types of natural resources including transboundary natural resources.

The extractive industry and promotion of good governance of natural resources

To support actions towards the governance of natural resources and biodiversity in Cameroon, IUCN has reviewed the state of extractive enterprises operating in the Lobéké National Park area; their current and potential impacts on wildlife in general, and great apes in particular. This assessment was shared with the local actors in the form of ❶ a check-list of extractive companies operating in the Lobeke region based on the typology of their activities (logging, sport hunting and mining) ; and ❷ a summary evaluation report on the impacts of extractive activities on the population dynamics of large primates. The assessment specifically focuses on the potential detrimental impacts of extractive activities and presents trends in the population of great apes in the face of such activities.



Map of human-great ape interactions in the Lobéké National Park



Exchange visit by community leaders to a mining site in Boe

Still in the area of extractive industries, the Guinea-Bissau Program has undertaken actions towards knowledge generation, negotiation and reflection capacity-building of 18 community leaders in the potential mining sites; namely Varela, Farim, Bubaque and Boe, through an exchange visit facilitated by the «Bauxite Angola Company» and government officials.

At the same time, education and communication sessions with the population through cinema-debate sessions covered 3,000 persons in 4 sites, to develop their negotiation knowledge and skills in various topics such as potential adverse impacts of the extractive industry, the 25% tax revenue for local communities, transparency requirement in publishing the payments made by enterprises, best extraction practices, economic evaluation of ecosystem services, the roles of Government and enterprises, equitable benefit sharing, landscape restoration after extraction, equitable compensation for potentially displaced or affected families and conflict management.

Concerted landscape level natural resource management planning

In the surrounding areas of the DRC Mangrove Marine Park (MMP) and in collaboration with the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation, IUCN has undertaken to promote dialogue among the stakeholders by setting-up consultation platforms as governance tools of the site. These platforms were given a manual of administrative and financial procedures that enable local actors to familiarize themselves with project design and submission standards, governance and procurement concepts; they have also received 'best practice' guideline for the preservation of the biological diversity of ecosystems and sustainable tourism in the MMP.

Promoting best environmental management practices

The military have been known for contributing to environmental degradation in Guinea-Bissau through unsustainable forest exploitation. The IUCN Program has therefore promoted the ownership of a so-called « 10 million trees » project on the occasion of educational sessions on reforestation and local development in 20 military barracks. About 4 000 soldiers participated in the activities and even built 30 improved cooking stove prototypes in each barrack so as to contribute to the reduction of deforestation and CO₂ emissions through reduction in use of fuel wood energy in traditional stoves.



Hippos in Rusizi's National Park

Strengthening management and governance in environmental policy processes

IUCN has assisted ECOWAS, River Basin Authorities and States in promoting water resource management policies. Thus, the West Africa regional water resource policy has been circulated to State and non-State actors, in Senegal, Togo and Mali. The Water Code of Mali was revised so as to update the general legal framework and basic principles of integrated water resources management. Furthermore, an analysis of land management in the Sélingué irrigated area of Mali has revealed that the formal documents (specifications, contracts) are not known/complied with or relevant to the local realities of family farms; and that, the general framework for the governance of the area is plagued by multiple malfunctions. In the face of this situation, land titling actions were undertaken on behalf of the State to provide land tenure security to the users of the irrigated surface area. Finally, the Volta Basin Authority (VBA) has received institutional support to recruit more staff and develop their operational capacities.

In Central Africa, the Program has facilitated among other processes, the establishment of two institutional and technical frameworks for synergy building between the REDD+ and FLEGT processes in Cameroon; and validation of communications tools for inclusive participation of stakeholder groups in the REDD+ debates in Cameroon. Still in Cameroon, with co-financing by IUCN and the Rights and Resources Initiative, a participatory monitoring system for the preparation and implementation of land tenure and forest reforms was put in place in collaboration with Government services and civil society organizations.

The use of the CREMA model in Ghana has enabled the communities and their partners to provide evidence of how real fulfillment of the rights of the poor can be a catalyst for actions towards the reduction of deforestation and of landscape degradation.

The capitalization on conservational management of land and governance experiences derived from initiatives conducted on intervention sites was distributed among actors in; Burkina Faso (2 sites), Niger (1 site), Benin (1 site), Togo (1 site) and Ghana (2 sites). This has led to the identification and reflection on points and avenues for enhancing governance, decentralization and skills transfer for natural resource management. An advocacy training workshop was organized to build the capacities of the actors of these sites so that they can convey the experiences acquired to policymakers of the five countries concerned.

Advocacy initiatives were conducted reaching 20 parliamentarians (including 3 women) of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) Inter-parliamentarian Committee on the role that they can play in the implementation of the Common Environment Improvement Policy in their respective countries.

In Guinea-Bissau, the eco-tourism project has led to the adoption by the Ministry for Tourism of a National Eco-tourism Strategy and the accompanying Charter, two documents that were produced within the framework of the project will henceforth guide Government policy.



1 Representatives of the civil society of the Basin, ministerial departments, basin organizations and local governments.

2 Community Resource Management Area

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO MEET GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Several Central and West Africa actors have applied nature-based solutions to mitigating and adapt to climate change, ensuring food security and social development at different scales.

Poverty reduction

To enhance the value of biodiversity, three promising sectors (honey, Gum Arabica and the baobab tree) have been identified through studies conducted in the municipalities of Tamou in Niger. In Mali, two sectors were selected i.e. *soumbala* spice (processed *parkia biblobosa* seeds) and shea butter. To support the development of these sectors, 18 members (including 11 women) from 7 female and youth groupings in the Niger site were trained on the «Market Analyses and Development» (MAD) approach so that they can create small sized enterprises based on sustainable harvesting of the identified non-timber forest products. In Mali, 20 farmers (including 6 women) in 3 Sélingué municipalities have also benefited from this training.

In Guinea-Bissau, the *Rias do Sul* Project has continued providing support for developing a territorial approach to fishing based on access rights



Participants in the training workshop on «Market Analysis and Development – MAD» (Tamou, Niger).



Support for improving the quality of handicraft products. Literacy program for women in the fishing sector in Buba (Cantanhez).

and co-management. The integration of research, management, surveillance and development (ice machines, solar salt, *tchorkor* ovens³, microcredit, literacy training, and fishing materials) has proved to be effective and has influenced the Government policy for the artisanal sector which is envisaging to scale it up so as to cover the entire coastal area.

In Guinea-Bissau, the *Rias do Sul* and Eco-tourism support projects have continued giving support for scaling up solar salt, salted and smoked fish productions with *tchorkor* ovens in view of reaching peak market influence. *Rias do Sul* is also supporting private investment by women notably by facilitating their access to micro credit, ice selling (5 tons produced per day) in the field in Bua and Cacheu and by opening fishing materials shops in every intervention site. These units were operationalized during the lifetime of the project and will be supported for professional management until they become self-reliant in terms of management and governance.

3 A type of improved stove

In partnership with the Senegal Agricultural and Industrial Development Company (SODAGRI), IUCN-Senegal has supported the actors of the Anambé Basin for the implementation of the Action Plan on improving the productivity of irrigated areas around Niandouba Dam and Confluent (Kolda/Senegal Region). The relevance of the approach which was deemed to be very innovative by the actors has led other financial partners to raise funds for producers' capacity building and enhancement of production techniques in this southern part of Senegal. In this regard, the Rice Productivity Improvement Project in the Anambé Basin and rice valleys in Casamance was financed by the FNRAA (National Agricultural and Agri-Food Research Fund) to the tune of 90,000,000 FCFA over two years. SODAGRI also intends to scale up and sustain IUCN's achievements in Anambé Basin with the support of financial partners such as the French Development Agency (AFD.)

Information dissemination and capacity building

A total of 56 actors (including 4 women) from *Tchaoudjo* prefecture, *Agoulou*, *Kémini* and *Koussounton* districts (Togo), *Bassilia* municipalities (Benin), *Sokoté* (Togo), *Sankarani*, *Tagandougou* and *Baya* (Mali), have learned to plan, monitor and evaluate climate change adaptation capacities in view of revising their local development plans.

Within the framework of the « Ecosystems for the Protection of Infrastructure and Communities » (EPIC) Project, the Program has conducted the training of 40 Burkinabe farmers on Compost Plus production techniques, 180 on farming techniques (compliance with technical standards) and 60 on gabion making techniques in the *Tougou* and *Sillia* villages. Moreover, 6 producers from Burkina Faso have paid an exchange and experience sharing visit to their counterparts in Senegal, in the municipality of *Djilor*. The Burkinabe delegation has thus shared their experiences on the building techniques of water erosion control works, tree nursery and Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR). At the end of the visit, it was decided to produce



Visit to areas affected by gully erosion in the municipality of Djilor, Senegal

a publication on local climate change adaptation practices developed in Burkina Faso and Senegal, and organize an exchange visit to Burkina Faso.

Promoting natural resource planning and management

Gallery forest and Water source head management plans of the municipalities of *Dissin* (Burkina Faso), *Koumban* and *Niandankoro* (Guinea) and *Moudéry* (Senegal) were developed so as to guide the implementation of concrete and concerted ecosystem restoration and protection actions that will be incorporated in municipal development plans. Actions have been undertaken to restore degraded gallery forests and water source heads through the on-going production of about 70 000 seedlings for the *Dissin* (Burkina Faso), *Nandom* (Ghana), *Koumban*, *Niandankoro*, *Dogomet* and *Balandougouba* (Guinea) and *Tamou* (Niger) sites. To achieve sustainable management of gallery forests and source heads, two local gazetting agreements were negotiated and signed in *Koumban* (34 hectares) and *Niandankoro* (42 hectares) following a consultative process with the wise men, authorities and local representatives, different consultations meetings, village education / sensitization sessions and feedback meetings.

Promoting forest landscape restoration

In Congo, forest concession actors have carried-out reflections on how to promote the restoration of degraded forest landscapes within FSC-certified forests and make them major biodiversity conservation areas. The actors of the Conference of Central African Moist Forest Ecosystems (CEFDHAC) have shared information on the links between forest landscape restoration and global processes as related to climate change, biodiversity and people's development during regional fora, notably the regional workshop of civil society organizations on REDD+; and the regional workshop on the Paris Climate Agreement. In the Côte d'Ivoire, different categories of actors at the local and national levels participated in the implementation of the ROAM and identified no less than five different categories of degraded landscapes for restoration. In total over 5 million hectares have been identified nationally as appropriate for one or other, type of restoration intervention.

At the State level, 4 countries have made commitments to supporting nature-based solutions through the Bonn Challenge, by 2030. Thus, the Republic of Congo has signed a commitment to restore two million hectares of degraded forests;



Field visit by the World Bank – IUCN team to Burundi

Côte d'Ivoire has signed a commitment to restore 5 million hectares of degraded forests; CAR (3.5 million hectares), Ghana (1 million additional hectares to make a total of 2 million hectares). The World Bank has committed to disburse USD 50 million for Burundi in support of a deforested and degraded land restoration project.

Furthermore, 8 IUCN-PACO member countries (Burundi, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Conakry, Ghana, Liberia, CAR, and DRC) have signed the Kigali Declaration on African forest landscape restoration.



Land stabilization as a means of eradicating erosion in Rwanda

I Climate Change Adaptation

At the level of non-State actors

In Cameroon, the Program has coordinated the training of over 100 persons (including 17% of women) in *Lavie*, *Wélélé* and *Mboli* communities on non-timber forest product domestication and modern agriculture techniques. These activities were selected by the communities as demonstration activities that help to improve livelihoods while reducing deforestation and forest degradation.

In collaboration with the Regional Sahel Sustainable Land Management and Climate Change Adaptation Program (PRGDT) financed by the European Union, an exchange and experience sharing visit

on Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) was organized for the benefit of producers from *Djilor* municipality (Senegal). A total number of 30 crop farmers and livestock breeders from 11 villages in Djilor municipality visited the village of *Sagna* in *Malem Hodar* location in *Kafrine* region where the NGO World Vision has developed an innovative initiative in the domain of ANR. Exchanges with producers were focused on the strategies adopted to scale up the ANR practices to other regions in Senegal that have a potential for regeneration of plant formations. To this end, the actors recommended that a national platform for the promotion of ANR be put in place so as to strengthen advocacy involving decision-makers and local communities.



Hands on session of learners during the training on timber product domestication

At the State level

As part of the Environmental Governance Partnership (PAGE) Project, local representatives and civil society organizations in **Sokodé** (Togo) **Bassila** (Benin) municipalities attended sessions to build their capacities as a part of climate change mainstreaming in local planning exercises. This approach aims at promoting the inclusion of adaptation measures in local development plans.

In Cameroon, the commitment of the Government towards REDD+ was further strengthened through a number of actions supported by IUCN. The most significant action is the finalization and adoption of the project idea note for Greenhouse Gas Emission (ER-PIN) in a pilot site of the country.

This ER-PIN has been validated at the international level by the World Bank Participants Committee, which opens doors to substantial funding for the implementation of REDD+ field activities.

The Ministries in charge of Environment of the 11 West African countries have supported the finalization of the « 2015 West African Coastline Assessment», and updating of the West African Coastline Master Scheme developed in 2011, in view of valuing nature-based solutions to mitigating and adapting to climate change, notably through the introduction to marine and /or coastal protected areas as tools for maintaining natural infrastructure to mitigate coastal risk impacts.



2011



2014

Evolution of the Kamsar mining harbor (Bauxite) and related infrastructure between 2011 and 2014 in Guinea

WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS, HAWAII 2016

ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED BY CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICAN REPRESENTATIVES

The representatives of Central and West Africa marked their presence at the Hawaii Congress through 35 events made up of workshops, knowledge cafés and posters and attended by over 300 participants from across the world.

Sharing of experiences and results

The sharing focused on topics like landscape restoration within the framework of the Bonn Challenge (with special emphasis on Central and West Africa) ; REDD+ implementation (Cameroon and Burkina Faso) ; the process towards developing a fish red list (Burkina Faso) ; promotion of the blue economy in West Africa; wildlife crime control; the performance of the IMET tool for evaluating the effective of integrated protected area management, jointly identified and tested by the BIOPAMA team and deployed in Latin America, Asia and Africa; and promotion of local governance of natural resources using Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs). Within the COMIFAC Pavilion, the management of the Congo Basin forest was shared.

In addition to keeping the participants informed about several approaches and processes, the exchanges helped participants reach agreements on key principles. For instance, the importance of strengthening the autonomy, access and control of local communities involved in forest resources management and biodiversity conservation; including strengthening of relevant institutional frameworks. The discussions with COMIFAC highlighted the gradual openness of institutional partners to new forms of collaboration around forests and protected areas.

Further reflections with potential to achieve concerted actions within the framework of the 2017-2020 Program of the IUCN

- The African Forum which brought together about fifty participants including two Ministers in charge of the Environment (Burkina Faso and Mali), IUCN African councilors, the Deputy Executive Secretary of COMIFAC and the General Director of IUCN. On this occasion, IUCN called upon African States to further engage and provide evidence of clearer accountability in all issues relating to natural resources management including wildlife crime control and local community involvement. Participating State representatives underlined their priorities and stressed their needs for to receive more support from IUCN in terms of technical assistance and guidance in for resource mobilization, notably through the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global Environment Facility.
- The Regional Partnership for the Conservation of West Africa's Coastal and Marine Areas (PRCM) facilitated reflections and debates by its partners on the blue economy. Together, they noted that their current efforts towards conservation of the West African coastal biodiversity are already contributing significantly to the economy of the coastal area and that the approach provides opportunities for promoting mangrove conservation, coastal erosion and Illegal Non Declared, Non Regulated Fishing (INN) fishing control. They have however acknowledged the need for further moving towards the blue economy which is focused on oceans that also provide resources that are yet to be fully tapped on.
- With its Central and West Africa partners, the French Global Environment Facility (FGEF) celebrated the achievements of its Small Grants Program (SMG) that was implemented with the support of PACO, and started discussions with the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF), Birdlife International and MAVA Foundation for and PACO in view of regional collaboration for small grants to support civil society organizations dedicated to biodiversity conservation in the region.

Consultations in view of future actions

- The Congress was an opportunity to bring together the Executive Secretaries of the Network of Marine Protected Areas of West Africa (RAMPAO) and of the Network of Protected Areas of Central Africa (RAPAC) which develop their MPA strategies along the Atlantic coast. The drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between these two networks so as to strengthen collaboration for institutional reforms on the one hand; and pursue MPA strengthening on the other, as a short term strategy.
- Beyond the Congo Basin forests, round table dialogue enabled some Central and West African leaders to exchange their ideas and vision on the post COP21 conservation of the Gulf of Guinea. The PACO Forest Team has actively promoted the restoration of forest landscapes (RFL), through a long term approach supported under the Bonn Challenge. Today, a growing number of States are officially committing to this global challenge.



Participants at work

- With the assistance from PACO, the regional Advisor to the Ramsar Convention for Africa brought together representatives of 5 countries; the Minister for the Environment of Burkina Faso, the Private Sector and the Biodiversity Unit, to initiate the preparation and training of country focal points on the use of guidelines for wetlands management for use by extractive industries in West Africa.



AFRICA-RELATED MOTIONS

The IUCN Members participated in the adoption of motions; a greater part of which related more or less directly to Central and West Africa affairs.

- Concerning species, motion 008 calling for reversing the decline of giraffes and okapis - the emblematic mega fauna of Africa; motion 010 urged the control of illegal poisoning of wildlife - particularly in Africa; motion 011 was designed to strengthen the protection of all pangolin species especially those of Africa which are now endangered and vulnerable; motion 019 on vulture conservation measures requesting IUCN to support the implementation of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and raise awareness on the ecological importance of African-Eurasian vultures at the highest policy levels. Finally, motion 025 aimed to reinforce the implementation of the Berne Convention on Migratory Birds which basically concerns African and Eurasian birds.
- A set of motions related to strengthening the role and rights of local communities in conservation : motions 022 intended to acknowledge, understand and strengthen the role of indigenous people and local communities in the fight against illegal wildlife trade; motion 029 requested the recognition and respect of territories and areas conserved by indigenous people and local communities; and covered by protected areas; motion 034 sought the recognition of the cultural and spiritual importance of nature in protected and conserved areas. Other similarly comprehensive motions support these approaches and directly concern the Africa region: motion 076 – (preventing, managing and resolving social conflict: the key to successful ecosystem conservation and management); motion 083 (Assertion of the role of indigenous

cultures in the conservation efforts deployed at the global scale) and finally motion 097 (Protecting indigenous lands, territories and resources against unsustainable development activities).

- Motions 043 requesting IUCN's support for forest landscape restoration (FLR) in Africa and 086 calling for support of the enforcement of the African Convention on Nature and natural resource conservation; and the African Agenda 2063. This will further strengthen the action of PACO in these domains which are already at the core of its concerns, as well as motion 092 (Environmental Education and creation of natural spaces in schools so as to enable healthy development and strengthen children's relationships with nature).

Without being Africa-specific, other motions served to reinforce those relating to fauna crime control (motion 084 on improving the environmental crime control tools and motion 078 on environmental crime); or motion 018 on nonselective, unsustainable and non-monitored fishing practices (NNN) urging greater mainstreaming of the social, economic and ecological issues surrounding NNN fisheries; or motion 048 (Protecting primary forests including intact forested landscapes) or motion 053 (Expanding marine protected areas to ensure effective biodiversity conservation); and motion 066 (Mitigating the effects of plantation encroachment and oil palm cultivation on biodiversity-rich areas). The motions provided further rationale behind many actions undertaken by PACO.

PARTNERSHIPS

In Central and West Africa; IUCN worked in collaboration with numerous groups of partners.

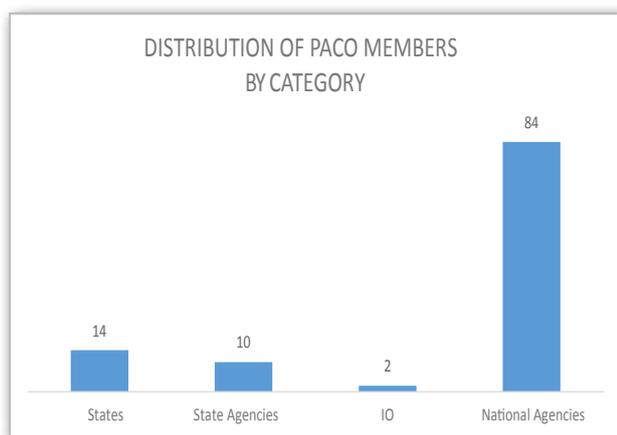
- The main financial partners include GEF, FGEF, World Bank, Lux-Dev, European Union, AFD, GIZ, SIDA, SDC, DANIDA, Federal Ministry for the Environment, The Nature Conservancy, Building and Nuclear Safety of Germany, BUSAC Fund, UKaid, Africa Practitioners Network, Norad, AWHF/ World Heritage, Proforest initiative, the World Bank/IBRD-IDA, PREREDD, Green Climate Fund, AfDB, MAVA and Howard G. Buffet Foundations.
- The list of technical partners includes sub-regional institutions (ECOWAS, WEAMU, ECCAS), specialised sub-regional institutions (COMIFAC, CILSS, the UEMOA Water and Environment Division, the CILSS Water Resources Harnessing Division, GWP/WA, WASCAL, AGRHYMET, ECOWAS/CCRE), United Nations System institutions (UNEP-WCMC UNEP Abidjan Convention, UNCCD Global Mechanism), River and Lake Basins (NRA, VBA, OMVS, LCBC, CICOS), Universities (Senghor University of Alexandria, Ouagadougou Universities, Aube Nouvelle University of Ouagadougou), partnerships (PRCM) and regional networks (RAMPAO, RAPAC, RERAC, RERAO, APPEL).

TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL PARTNERS



MEMBERS AND COMMISSIONS

In 2016, PACO registered 3 new Members, increasing the number of PACO members to 110. However, 26 of them were «Suspended⁴» owing to the non-payment of their annual membership dues.



In 2016, PACO had a total number of 626 experts from the various IUCN Commissions.



JOINT OR CONCERTED PLANNING

To agree to a joint work plan, a number of programs (Burkina Faso, Senegal, Guinea-Bissau notably) organize each year with the Members and sometimes the Commissions, planning or strategic reflection meetings. Such meetings help to identify project and program activities to be entrusted with the Members as field implementing partners and establish with the latter, collaboration MoUs.

It should be noted that the Members have actively participated in the implementation of the programs:

- As a matter of fact, in Burkina Faso, Green Cross Burkina, Association pour la Promotion des Œuvres Sociales (APROS) (Social Work Promotion Association), Association Nationale d'Action Rurale (ANAR) (National Rural Action Association) and SOS Sahel International were involved in the implementation of the EPIC Project in the North region. The same applied to the Environmental Law Commission and the Association pour la Gestion de l'Environnement et le Développement (AGED)

(Environmental Management and Development Association) which actively participated in the implementation of the field activities of the Transhumance Pressure Reduction for Improved WAP Complex Protected Area Conservation.

- In Guinea-Bissau, 4 Members were involved in the implementation of the Eco-tourism, GTP-IE, Rias do Sul and PREE Projects.
- In Cameroon, the collaboration with the Members was focused on:
 - development of joint project proposals submitted to the EU;
 - financing and co-implementation of projects, notably with the Government of Cameroon, RAPAC, CEW, WWF, for a total amount of €730 000 and
 - and use of the Members' expertise in some activities. In this respect, the Program has signed and implemented 3 conventions respectively with, the
 - Garoua Wildlife School for LAB capacity building,
 - OPED on the analysis of land management in the TNS,
 - and CAM ECO for advocacy to promote consideration of the interests of vulnerable groups in REDD+.

⁴ Last step before termination, with restriction of all rights ; in case of prompt payment, the rights of the Member are automatically restored

- The Protected Area Program has pursued the implementation of several initiatives with the Members. These are among others:
 - ❶ the community project on natural resource management and poverty reduction around the Sitatunga Valley, with CREDI in Benin;
 - ❷ the institutional and financial consolidation of the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary governance with the NCRC in Ghana;
 - ❸ the establishment and development project of the buffer zone around Togodo South Park with LCR in Togo...
- In addition, AGEREF-CL in Burkina Faso, ANPN in Gabon, the Ecological Monitoring Centre of Senegal, RAPAC in Central Africa, the IUCN French Committee, Wetlands International, TNC, WWF and WCS, the Governments of Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea and Senegal, the Ministry for Environment, Urban Environment Sanitation and Sustainable Development (MINESUDD) of Côte d'Ivoire and the Ivorian Parks and Reserves Authority (OIPR) have played various roles in the implementation of the 2016 Work Plan. Similarly, this year has witnessed the actual participation of CMAP (CPPPAM and SuLi), SSC, CGE, CEC and CMDE.
- Moreover, the Members organized activities and invited the Secretariat to participate. This was the case with the organization, respectively by Enda Third World and the Ecological Monitoring Center of two «knowledge cafés». The first knowledge café was held at the Enda Third



Celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Ecological Monitoring Centre

World Headquarters in March 2016 on the theme of «Resilience to climate change» and the second in May at the Ecological Monitoring Centre on the following themes:

- ❶ Information on the ecosystems Red List and MOLOA;
- ❷ Introduction to the Green Climate Fund.

- The CEC has pursued its collaboration with IUCN -PACO within the framework of the World Bank/GEF-financed Project on Building Resilience through Innovation, Communication and Knowledge Services (BRICKS) launched in 2014. The French version of Frog leaps (<http://fr.frog leaps.org/>) was made available in the course of 2016. Created by the members of the CEC to help in meeting the challenges to Aichi Objective 1. This free online strategic communication course platform is designed for professional officers and assists them in implementing international agreements on biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development.



Knowledge café of Enda Third World

ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF MEMBERS

After the Members' Forum held in Bamako in October 2015, the Regional Committee of Members in Central and West Africa (CREMACO) has remained in touch with the IUCN Secretariat to prepare the Hawaii Congress. As a result, 63 participants representing IUCN Members were able to attend the Congress with sponsorship funds mobilized by the Secretariat.

During the Congress, the Members organized about forty events (workshops, lectures, knowledge cafés, etc.) with the support of the Secretariat; they also actively participated in the deliberations through remarkable interventions in both group work and plenary sessions of the General Assembly (GA).

Furthermore, the CREMACO co-organized with the East and Southern Africa Regional Committee the meeting of IUCN African Members and held on 09 September 2016 a general assembly dedicated to Central and West Africa. The agenda of this GA included the following main items ❶ end of term of the executive bureau ❷ and resignation of the out-going chair just before the meeting.

At the end of the meeting, the Members put in place an ad hoc committee to work towards the revival of the CREMACO and prepare the elections in view of establishing an executive bureau.

Thus, 6 volunteers were designated: MM. Alain TRAORE (Coordinator), Maximin DJONDO (Finance Officer), Alfred OUEDRAOGO and Meni MALIKWISHA (Councilors), Mrs. Laurence Wete SOH (Secretary) and Mrs. Aby DRAME (Councilor).

The members of the ad hoc committee then met on 10 September to define the objectives and directions of their work in compliance with the mandate given to them by the Assembly, notably giving new impetus to the CREMACO and preparing the election of a new executive bureau. To successfully fulfill their mandate, the bureau agreed to ❶ strengthen exchanges with and among the members as well as ensure their visibility through transparent and regular communication on the structure and activities of Members/National Committees; ❷ formulate as required structural reform proposals aimed at improving the effectiveness of CREMACO and submit them to the Assembly of Members for approval; and ❸ organize the election of the new executive bureau of CREMACO latest September 2017 with the support of the IUCN Regional Office and commitment of the Members.



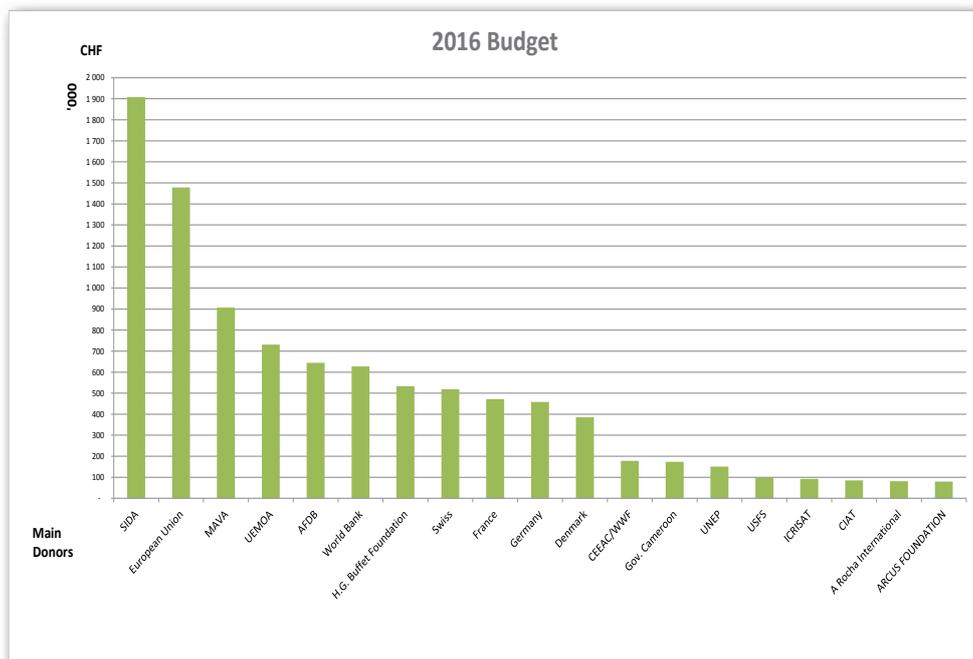
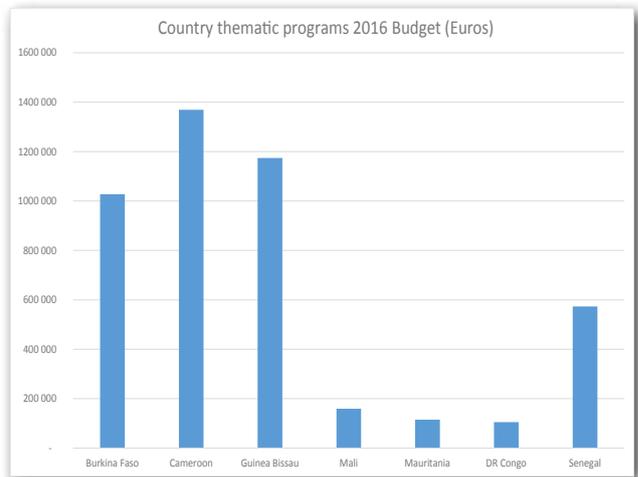
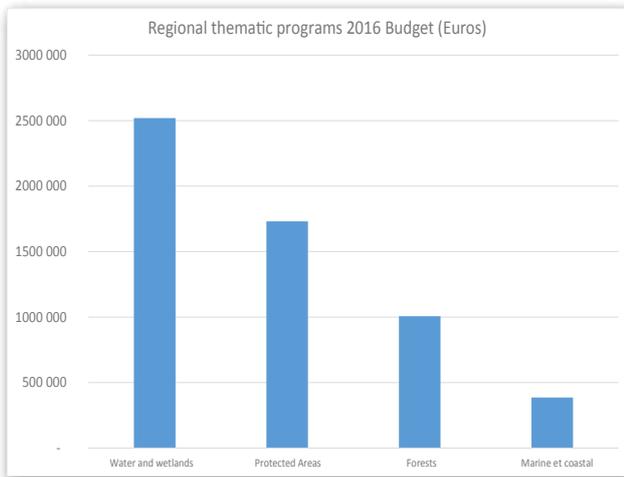
Some Members at the Congress

FINANCE

2016 BUDGET

For year 2016, PACO implemented a multi-annual portfolio worth CHF 35.8 million including a budget of CHF 10.2 million for 2016. With 56 projects, the average size of a projects was a modest CHF 181 560. The breakdown of the budget shows 56% for all four regional thematic programs (RTP), and 44% for country programs.

New project proposals under negotiation with donors amount to CHF 44.4 million of which only CHF 1 million were included in the 2016 budget. The total project portfolio for 2016 was CHF 11.2 million. The budget for the Secretariat was CHF 4.3 million of which 20, 24% were financed by the core funds. The total amount of the annual budget was CHF 15,487,853 or €14, 5 million. The total 2016 budget for the region was thus slightly lower than the €16, 3 million in 2014 and 2015.



PUBLICATIONS

The information, experiences and lessons learned from IUCN programs were disseminated through various channels: reports, scientific publications, newsletters, methodological guides, radio programs, and video productions. The year notably witnessed the birth of « Suudu Echos », a new bi-monthly liaison bulletin of sustainable environmental management partners in West Africa, created to support environmental information sharing among West Africa's organizations and institutions (ECOWAS, UEMOA, CILSS, NBA, VBA, PS/PAGIRE, Ministry for Environment, Water and Forestry of Guinea, Ministry for Energy and Water of Mali, GWI and GWP-WA). In addition IUCN has continued supporting the RERAC and RERAO, two regional radio networks that are active in the environmental domain; this partnership is helping to reach out to more actors and communities across Africa.

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