



The title 'IUCN 2019' is rendered in large, bold, sans-serif letters. Each letter is filled with a different nature-related image: 'I' shows a person in a boat; 'U' shows a person with a net; 'C' shows a lush green forest; 'N' shows a wetland landscape; '2' shows a person in a boat; '0' shows a person in a boat; '1' shows a close-up of a person's face; '9' is a solid grey color.

INTERNATIONAL UNION
FOR CONSERVATION
OF NATURE

**WEST AND CENTRAL
AFRICA**
REGIONAL OFFICE
ANNUAL REPORT 2019

WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA
REGIONAL OFFICE

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

The geographic terminology used in this report as well its presentation are not whatsoever the expression of any opinion of IUCN on the legal status or authority of any country, territory or region or on the delineation of its borders.

The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of IUCN.

Published by: IUCN – Regional Programme for Central and West Africa (PACO)

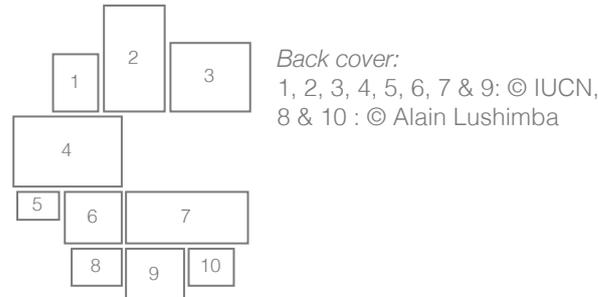
Copyright: © 2020 IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

The reproduction of this publication for non-commercial purposes, notably educational, is authorized without prior written authorization by copyright owner(s) subject to due reference to the source.

The reproduction of this publication for commercial purposes, notably for sale, is prohibited without prior written authorization by copyright owner(s).

Citation: IUCN PACO (2020). *Annual Report 2019*. Dakar, Senegal: IUCN PACO. 46pp

Photo credit: Cover:



Inside:

p1, p4, p6, p33, p36 & p40: © Hellio & Van Ingen

p5, p10, p11, p14, p17, p18, p19, p20, p21, p22, p24, p25, p26, p27, p28, p29, p30, p32, p34 & p35: © IUCN

p16: © Alain Lushimba

p24: © nigerdiaspora.net

p31: © Rabe G. Florent

Layout: S. Zida

Translation: Barry Safietou

Available from: Regional Office
Central and West Africa Programme (PACO)
Quartier MERMOZ
Parcelle 58
Rue MZ 77
E-mail: paco@iucn.org
www.iucn.org/paco
www.iucn.org/resources/publications

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS	2
MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR	5
IUCN AT A GLANCE	6
STRATEGIC DIRECTION	7
Geographic coverage and configuration.....	7
Staff characteristics.....	8
Overview of Members and experts of IUCN Commissions.....	9
PROGRAMME	10
Highlights of the year.....	10
PACO's contributions to the results of the IUCN Framework.....	12
Main achievements.....	13
A. Valuing and conserving nature.....	14
B. Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources.....	24
C. Deploying Nature-based Solutions to address societal challenges.....	28
KEY EVENTS	34
DYNAMICS OF MEMBERS AND COMMISSIONS	36
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS	37
FINANCIAL STATUS	38
PUBLICATIONS	39

ACRONYMS

AFDB:	African Development Bank	COP:	Conference of Parties
AGEREF/CL:	Comoe Leraba Inter-Village Natural Resource and Wildlife Management Association	CRC:	European Commission Common Research Center
ANR:	Assisted Natural Regeneration	CREMA:	Community Resource Management Area
BEES:	Benin Environment & Education Society	CREMACO:	Regional Committee of Members
BIOPALT:	Lake Chad Biosphere and Heritage	DEELCC:	Directorate of Environmental Education and Climate Change
BIOPAMA:	West Africa Biodiversity and Protected Area Management Programme	DGM:	Grant Mechanism
BRIDGE:	Building River Dialogue and Governance project	ECOWAS:	Economic Community of West African States
CADEPI:	Integrated Participatory Development Support Unit	EDDA:	Environment Defense and Development Association
CELDIE:	Integrated Development and Environmental Unit (NGO)	EFG:	Garoua School of Wildlife Specialists
CEM:	Center for Ecological Monitoring	EMDA:	Environment Management and Development Association
CENEBCAM:	Cameroon National Confederation of Bovine Breeders	FDA:	French Development Agency
CHF:	Swiss Franc	GCCAP:	Global Climate Change Alliance Project
CINC:	Congolese Institute of Nature Conservation	GCF:	Green Climate Fund
CITES:	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	GCFRP:	Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program
CODESULT:	Community Development Consult Network	GEF:	Global Environment Facility
COMIFAC:	Central Africa Forest Commission	GIS:	Geographic Information System
		GIZ:	German International Development Cooperation Agency
		HCV:	High Conservation Value

IIED:	International Institute for Environment and Development	REEP:	West Africa Regional Coastal and Marine Environment Education Programme
IMET:	Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool	RTP:	Regional Thematic Programme
IUCN:	International Union for Conservation of Nature	SRJS:	Shared Resources Joint Solutions Programme
MEAI:	Managing Extractive Activity Impacts	TNS:	Sangha Tri-National
MEOR:	Restoration Opportunity Evaluation Methodology	UD:	University Degree
MLNR:	Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (Ghana)	UNDP:	United Nations Development Programme
MNE:	Ministry of National Education (Chad)	WA-BiCC:	West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change Programme
NATURAMA:	Fondation des amis de la nature	WACA – ResIP:	West Africa Coastal Area Resilience Investment Project
NBA:	Niger Basin Authority	WAEMU:	West African Economic and Monetary Union
NCC:	National Curriculum Center	WAP:	W-Arly-Pendjari Complex
NGO:	Non-Governmental Organization		
PACO:	Central and West Africa Programme		
PAPE:	Support Project on Livestock Productivity Improvement		
PAPF:	Support Project for Forest Dependent Populations		
PPI:	Small Initiative Programme		
RAMPAO:	West Africa Marine Protected Area Network		
REDD+:	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation		



MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

The year 2019, like the previous one, was marked by socio-political disturbances due to the security situation throughout the region, especially in the Lake Chad and Sahel areas.

Face of these troubles, IUCN in Central and West Africa has inexorably pursued its contribution to the Union's strategic objectives, particularly in the implementation of the three priority areas, basis of its four-year 2017-2020 Programme: *Valuing and conserving nature; Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources; Deploying Nature-based Solutions to address societal challenges.*



In this context, 12 new Members were welcomed during the year, bringing the total number of Members in the region to 105 out of the 1360 at the global level. Mention should be made here of the re-admission of strategic States (Guinea, Mauritania, Central African Republic, Nigeria). I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Members for enabling the implementation of the "One Programme" approach. The trust and commitment of all (Secretariat, Members and Commissions) motivate our work.

The year was also punctuated by a number of memorable moments, including the following:

- visit to Burkina Faso of Mrs Inger Andersen, then Director General of IUCN;
- holding of the 1st regional meeting "Business and Biodiversity" in Central and W Africa;
- launching of the 2nd phase of the BIOPAMA Programme in West Africa, as well as the Observatory for Biodiversity and Protected Areas in West Africa;
- successful holding of the Regional Conservation Forum in Central and West Africa prior to the next IUCN World Conservation Congress. On this occasion, IUCN Members in the region have, among other activities, reviewed and validated the main lines of the IUCN Four-year Programme 2021-2024.
- receipt by IUCN of the Special Recognition Award from the Government of Ghana;
- adoption of the National Wetlands Policy of Niger.

IUCN's regional programme in Central and West Africa has also experienced r growth and a strong evolution of the project portfolio toward strong strategic and programmatic connotations.

In addition, the process of relocating part of the regional office of IUCN's Central and W Africa Programme to Dakar, Senegal has begun.

At this point, I would like to thank IUCN's technical and financial partners in part for their highly valuable support multifaceted actions carried out in the r

This report details the results achieved by IUCN's programme in Central and West Africa in 2019.

I wish you enjoyable reading.

Aliou FAYE

Regional Director



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 1,400 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.

www.iucn.org/fr

<https://twitter.com/IUCN/>

Geographic coverage and configuration

IUCN PACO's actions are part of the implementation of IUCN's four-year Programme, 2017-2020. IUCN PACO intervenes in 25 countries in Central and West Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sao Tomé & Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Chad and Togo).

PACO operates in the region through the following configuration:

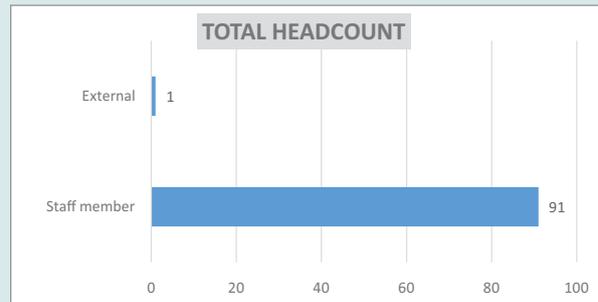
- **8 country programmes:** (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Democratic Republic of Congo and Senegal), that are implementing their programmes and projects and ensuring better linkages with global programmes and the 6 IUCN Commissions.
- **4 Regional Thematic Programmes (RTPs):**
 - Forest Conservation, based in Yaoundé, Cameroon;
 - Water Resources and Wetlands, based in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso;
 - Marine and Coastal, based in Dakar, Senegal;
 - Protected Areas and Biodiversity, based in Dakar, Senegal.
- **1 Project Office** (Ghana).



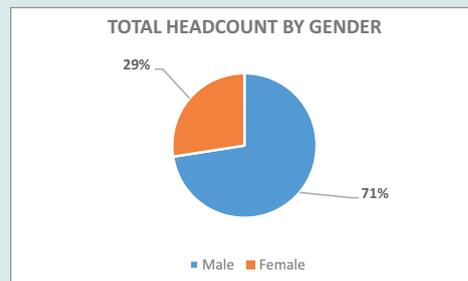
Staff characteristics

For 2019, 91 full-time employees worked for IUCN in the PACO region of which 16% were expatriates.

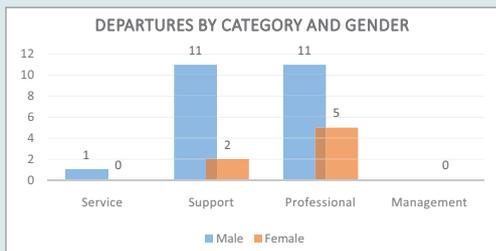
NB: This figure includes 84 IUCN staff and 7 hosted staff.



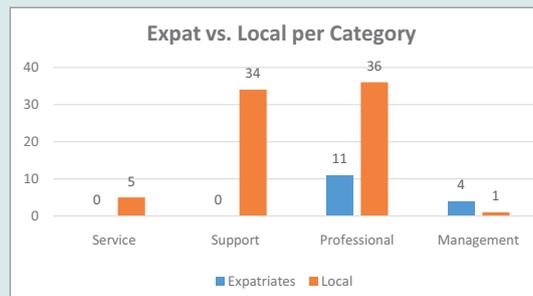
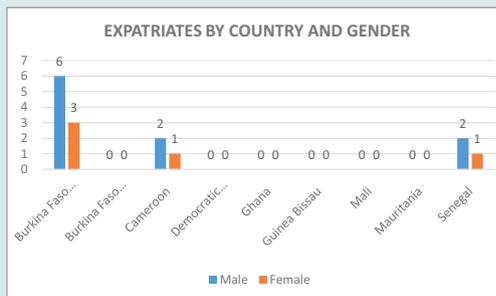
Females account for 29% of the total population of PACO.



For the departures, we recorded a total of 30 departures, including 7 women. In addition, we welcomed 8 new staff members, including 2 female candidates. This led to a decrease in the total number of staff of around 24%.



Of the 9 countries where PACO has had an effective presence during the past year, 6 have a 100% local presence.



Overview of Members and experts of IUCN Commissions

IUCN welcomed **12 new Members** during the year.

As of 31st December, 2019, PACO had **105 Members** out of the **1,360** at the global level, including:

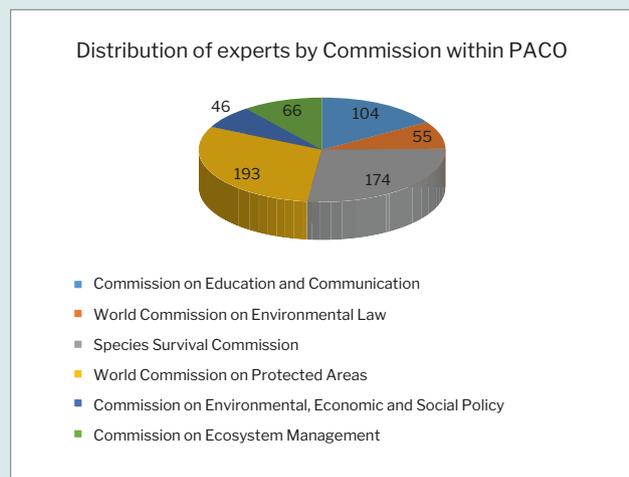
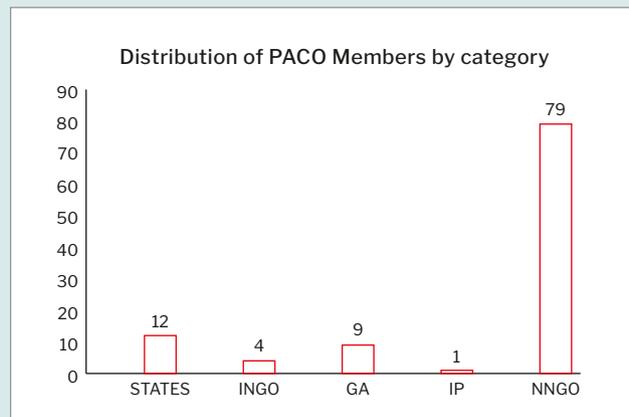
12 States,
9 governmental agencies,
79 national NGOs,
4 international NGOs and
1 Association of Indigenous Peoples.

These Members are working in diverse domains of activities related to the PACO thematic programmes.

The Programme has

1 Regional Committee of Members (CREMACO) and
8 National Committees of Members (Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Guinea Bissau, Mali and Senegal).

In relation to Members of the **6** IUCN commissions-all of which are represented in the region, the figures remained stable with about **562 members** out of over **15,000** at the global level.



Highlights of the year

• Visit to Burkina Faso by Madam Inger Andersen, the then IUCN Director General

January. The visit was an opportunity for Ms Inger Andersen to discuss with high level officials of the Government of Burkina Faso, on the global and regional agenda of environmental issues (the IUCN World Conservation Congress, 11-19 June, 2020; the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties (CoP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (November, 2019), the IUCN Regional conservation Forum in West and Central Africa. She also discussed with staff members, IUCN Members, experts of Commissions, IUCN partners and journalists on the major environmental challenges and prospects for collaboration for a healthier world that values and conserves nature.



Working session with Members and experts from IUCN Commissions

• 1st regional meeting on "Businesses and Biodiversity" in Central and West Africa

March. The objective of the meeting was to build and strengthen regional cooperation with businesses for conservation and sustainable biodiversity management. It brought together over fifty participants including IUCN Members, civil society representatives, conservation actors and businesses. The meeting made it possible to identify **8 collaborative work areas** to be implemented with the businesses in the region. The meeting led to commitments that require actual monitoring and support. It was jointly organized by PACO and the Global Business and Biodiversity Programme (GBBP) in collaboration with the IUCN Netherlands Committee. Financial support was also received from the French Development Agency (AFD).



Plenary participants

• Launching of the 2nd phase of the BIOPAMA in West Africa

April. The regional workshop aimed at informing and engaging conservation actors in the setting up of a protected area and biodiversity information management mechanism so as to enhance regional strategies, public policies and in situ actions. To ensure the smooth running of BIOPAMA phase II in West Africa, about sixty participants made a number of recommendations to BIOPAMA (IUCN and RCC), WAEMU Commission and West African States. The workshop was jointly organized in Abidjan by IUCN and the WAEMU Commission, under the co-chairmanship of the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Côte d'Ivoire and the Resident Representative of the WAEMU Commission in Côte d'Ivoire.



Panelists at the opening ceremony

• Central and West Africa Regional Conservation Forum

July. The Forum was held under the theme of: "Conserving nature for peace, security and sustainable economic development in Central and West Africa". It provided a framework for reflection and discussions among IUCN Members, experts of Commissions and partners. The 150 participants represented governments, development and civil society actors, researchers, conservation communities and policy-makers. On the sidelines of the regional forum, the IUCN delegation led by Dr Grethel Aguilar Rojas, IUCN Acting Director general was received for audience by a number of personalities: the President of Guinea Bissau, the Secretary of State for Environment and Biodiversity; the representatives of WAEMU and EU.



Forum opening ceremony

• Special recognition award from the Government of Ghana to IUCN

October. IUCN received a special recognition award from the Government of Ghana for the tremendous contribution of the Union to the REDD+ process in Ghana. The award was presented by H.E. the President of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, during a high-level launch of the *Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program* (GCFRP) in Accra. The launch aimed at reiterating the ambitious objective of the GCFRP to "reduce emissions by 10 million tons within six years". IUCN was recognized in particular for its role in promoting gender mainstreaming, establishing regulatory frameworks as enhancing natural resource governance through its initiatives at both national and landscape levels.



Official presentation of the award

• Launching of the Observatory for Biodiversity and Protected Areas in West Africa

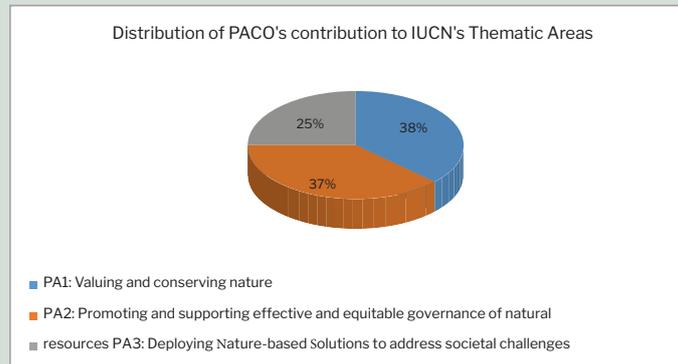
November. This action was within the framework of phase II of the BIOPAMA Programme. Under the auspices of the WAEMU Commission, the workshop establish and officially launched the regional Observatory for Biodiversity and Protected Areas in West Africa as well as the Regional Reference Information System. About sixty participants from the 15 ECOWAS Member States and Mauritania attended the workshop. They were representing Ministries and Agencies in charge of West Africa's protected areas, sub-regional and international projects and programmes and NGOs, the WAEMU Commission, the European Union Delegation in Senegal, the European Commission Common Center for Research and IUCN.



Presentation of the work results

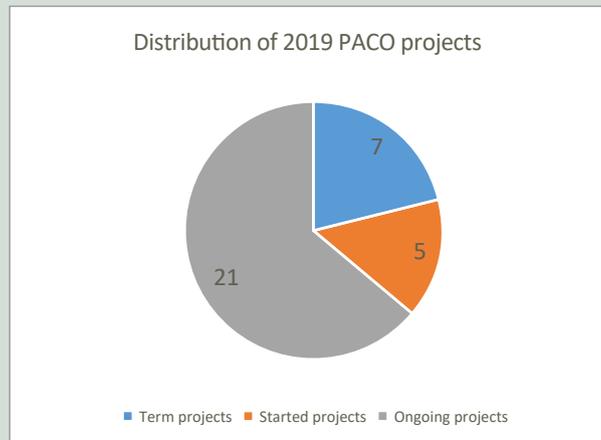
PACO's contributions to the results of the IUCN Framework

PACO has contributed to the strategic objectives of IUCN (cf. figure below), notably, to the three priority areas which constitute the foundation of the Union's four-year (2017-2020) Programme



Source: IUCN Portal <https://portals.iucn.org/>

PACO has contributed in different capacities to the implementation of the IUCN thematic areas as follows: **38% to valuing and conserving nature, 37% to effective and equitable governance of natural resources** and **25% to Nature-based Solutions**.



Source: IUCN Portal <https://portals.iucn.org/>

Out of a total number of **33 projects** in 2019,
5 started during year 2019 and
7 were completed and are being phased out in the IUCN portal.

Main achievements

The IUCN Central and West Africa region work programme is being implemented as a contribution to the IUCN four-year Programme (2017-2020) which was validated by the Assembly of Members in 2016 during the World Conservation Congress held in Hawaii, United States. The Programme is focused on three priority areas:

- **Valuing and conserving nature**
- **Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources**
- **Deploying Nature-based Solutions to address societal challenges**



Figure 1: Framework of the 2017-2020 IUCN Programme

This four-year programme cycle is built on Agenda 2030 for sustainable development. The Aichi objectives constitutes the foundation for the IUCN intervention strategy as a whole.

During year 2019, PACO carried out actions that have generated significant progress towards concrete results in each of the priority areas of the Union's 2017-2020 Programme.

A. Valuing and conserving nature

Provision of tools for decision-making assistance and assessment of the state of biodiversity at landscape, country and region levels

• West Africa Biodiversity and Protected Area Observatory

Year 2019 has witnessed the launch of BIOPAMA Phase II in Côte d'Ivoire, for the West Africa region. One of the recommendations was to conduct advocacy to the Member States so as to facilitate sharing of data on protected area through the Observatory.



Participants in a brainstorming session during the workshop BIOPAMA

Further to the discussions with conservation actors in the region, the regional observatory on biodiversity and protected areas in West Africa was officially launched in November 2019 under the auspices of WAEMU. The Observatory will provide relevant tools to assist in making decisions for promoting and facilitating information exchange with various end users (decision-makers, protected area managers and professionals) for improved management of biodiversity and protected areas in West Africa. The Observatory is technically supported by a regional consortium made up of institutions that have experience in environmental monitoring: Centre de Suivi Ecologique (CSE); West Africa Marine Protected Area Network (RAMPAO); University of Ghana; and CILSS Regional Center AGRHYMET.

• Survey report on the management of Mangai Reserve in Democratic Republic of Congo

IUCN provided technical and financial support to the experts of the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN) to conduct community surveys and collect their views on wildlife resources in the Mangai landscape. This survey enabled the identification of a range of tourism actors, and discussions on the boundaries of the Protected Area. The information generated led to the revision of the thematic maps including those of the trends in the forest cover, and change in land use in the Mangai Reserve.

• State of Protected Areas in Central Africa and of Marine Protected Areas in West Africa

The production of documents on the state of Central Africa's Protected Areas and West Africa's Marine Protected Areas was launched in close collaboration with COMIFAC and RAMPAO respectively. The documents, which will be presented at the World Conservation Congress in June 2020, constitute an assessment of the challenges, ground covered, impacts and lessons learned from the efforts towards biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management in the region.

• Current state of and trends in biodiversity and ecosystem services

PACO has contributed to the production of the current state of and trends in biodiversity and ecosystem services in Cameroon. This study contributes to the implementation of the policy on biodiversity conservation and valuing and ecosystem services through the national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP) of Cameroon.

IUCN has established an information bank on Lake Chad cultural heritage. This is an output from the implementation of the project on "Improving knowledge on critical sites of BIOPALT (Lake Chad Biosphere and Heritage)" financed by UNESCO AfDB/LCBC. A study report was produced on large and medium size mammals, avifauna, Ichtyo fauna, woody plants and the socio-economic status of Lake Chad (Cameroon-Chad) based on the state of knowledge available on the cultural heritage of Lake Chad.

• Assessment of landscape restoration opportunities and use of the Bonn Challenge progress barometer

After the four countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia), Togo received trainings on the Restoration Opportunity Assessment Methodology (MEOR) and Bonn Challenge Progress Barometer. A total number of **60 state and non-state actors** received knowledge that will help them identify forest landscape restoration (FLR) options. The participants brainstormed in groups to generate information that serves as a knowledge base on the Kara landscape (Togo) degradation factors and restoration targets.

• Geo-referenced knowledge base on illegal activities around the Benoué National Park

In the surroundings of the Benoué National Park in Cameroon, a geo-referenced knowledge base on illegal activities was developed and made available to the conservation services. With this initiative by IUCN and the Garoua School of Fauna specialists, an IUCN Member, anti-poaching operations are better planned and more effective as they target the main poaching areas.

The potential for eco-tourism in the park was also identified (socio-cultural festival of riparian communities of Benoué Park ...). The potential includes: ❶ remnants of wildlife, particularly endangered species that can regenerate; ❷ socio-cultural assets; ❸ high value conservation sites (ponds, salty areas, Benoué River). With the technical support of IUCN, the actors (populations, forest, wildlife, environment and tourism administrations, private sector, etc.) became aware of the existing ecotourism potential. The Ministry of Tourism uses the knowledge to influence resource mobilization for developing infrastructure that can host tourists.

The knowledge on illegal activities and ecotourism potential were acquired through the technical support from IUCN and financial support from GIZ. This information was used in the revision of the development plan of the Benoué National Park. The plan was drafted and validated at both local and regional levels.

• **Surveillance and intelligence systems for improved management of protected areas**

The MIKES Project has supported the establishment of a long term surveillance and reporting system based on the use of SMART tools -Cybertracker-Garmin InReach- that allow the monitoring and evaluation of trends in threats. The **7 parks**, 3W (Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger) Boumba Bek et Bouba Ndjida (Cameroon) et Sena Oura (Chad) and Arly were financed in the form of patrols rations; this has enabled eco-guards to travel **more than 95,965.36 km** for a coverage rate of 60% patrol. Such patrols have led to the arrest of several persons identified as poachers in the WAP and in other concerned PA.

Additionally, an intelligence management system in the WAP was developed in collaboration with Conservation Justice. **9 WAP workers** and **3 magistrates** representing the national Legal Departments of Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger were trained on intelligence collection and management and judiciary monitoring of disputes related to wildlife crime in the WAP. This resulted in the establishment of wildlife crime control units in the Niger W and Burkina Faso W. The units are composed of local collectors and informants in support of the efforts to fight against poaching and wildlife product trafficking from the WAP.



Eco-guards' training sessions in the use of SMART-Cybertracker tools

Capacity building, awareness raising and advocacy on biodiversity degradation risks

During year 2019, PACO pursued efforts towards building capacities, raising awareness and advocating for natural resource conservation and effective governance.

• University degree on protected area management

A total of **20 learners** from **8 West African countries** (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo) have benefited of training on protected area management (University Degree-UD) through a joint initiative by IUCN and are due to graduate from the Senghor University of Alexandria. This UD has **8 learning modules**: Conservation Policies and the Issue of Protected Area Management; Protected Area Evaluation and Planning; Ecology of Tropical Ecosystems and notions of conservation biology, in particular marine conservation; Participatory Approaches and Biodiversity Management; Ecological Monitoring, Fauna survey techniques and GIS notions; Field trips and data processing; Environmental Law and Sustainable Development in Africa; Economics of the Environment and Natural Resources. The graduates should use the acquired knowledge and know-how on the field.

The acquired experience is also expected to enhance networking among the recipients so as to contribute to improved effectiveness protected area management. The training build capacity of beneficiaries to be able to influence decision-making with impacts at the local and national or even regional levels.

• CITES implementation

IUCN supported the implementation of CITES in **13 countries** (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo) in collaboration with WA-BiCC. A total of **14 workers** from the ministries in charge of implementing the CITES benefited of technical training on research techniques. The **14 beneficiaries** have submitted and defended their Master's degree on CITES from the University of Andalusia. Knowledge products were developed based on the degree documents of the beneficiaries. These include a policy brief and a synthesis of good practices and lessons learned from the implementation of CITES in West Africa.



DU students during the visit to the demonstration farm in Wedbila, Burkina Faso

• Protected area management tools

To improve the management of protected areas in the region, **14 countries** have attended trainings on IMET (Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool) and the COMIT toolbox.

Moreover, a capacity building plan of the Benoué National Park conservation service was developed based on the following main areas:

❶ use of the acquired materials and equipment; ❷ management of the materials; ❸ financial and accounts management; ❹ ecological monitoring; ❺ poaching control and patrol management / planning; ❻ litigation monitoring. The plan helped to train **20 eco-guards** on the content of a patrol report and outreach close follow-up of the preparation of such reports; **20 eco-guards** were also trained on the standard content of the minutes of a poacher catching in full compliance with their human rights; and **20 eco-guards** on the legal procedures applicable to wildlife offenders in an equitable manner.

• Good practices and conservation approaches to great ape populations

Over sixty actors (populations, private sector, administration, etc.) of the Sangha Tri-National transboundary landscape (TNS) were sensitized and trained on good practices and approaches aimed at better understanding, considering and mitigating the impacts and threats due to mining operations on biodiversity in general and great apes in particular. They have also acquired knowledge and tools for identifying and protecting High Conservation Value sites (HCV). This action is part of the implementation of the project on "Addressing mitigating impacts of extractive operations on great ape populations and livelihood of local communities in tri national de la Sangha" financed by ARCUS Foundation.

Several results were obtained: information on the status and distribution of great Apes are available; a map of the impacts of extractive industries on great primates and evaluation of best practices were produced; the harmonization of data base and data collection methodologies on great Apes for bio-surveillance in the TNS landscape was initiated; a comparative analysis of regulatory frameworks of extractive industries in relation to wildlife and their habitat protection in the TNS landscape countries has been conducted. The analysis recommended the harmonization of legal systems of great Apes protection in relation to extractive activities.



Participants in the training workshop on the IMET tool and the COMIT toolbox, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo

• Setting up of green economy promotion frameworks

IUCN and IIED Africa, which are in charge of the Commission on Advocacy and Communication in the IVERS Project in Senegal, have contributed to the dynamisation of the national green economy platform. In the spirit of the "cross-level conversation" approach, IUCN has strengthened and revived this platform through mobilization and engagement with new categories of actors. The latter are from the private sector and civil society, notably: **10 small and medium enterprises; 8 professional organizations; and 9 Non-Governmental Organizations**. Adding to these are representatives of institutional structures and parliamentarians of Senegal. This approach has enabled the effective engagement of the actors of the project as well as institutional actors in the thinking and dialogue process.

To enable better understanding of the stakes and the green economy issue by the platform, key messages were collected on the Yoff, Mbour, Joal, Saint-Louis, Diender, Keur Moussa and Thiès sites and conveyed to the members of the platform.

• Mobilizing champions for green economy advocacy

In Senegal, "**champions**" (personalities, institutions and organizations) active in the environmental domain were identified to be engaged with IUCN in advocacy and influencing enabling policies on a transition towards green economy.

Furthermore, IUCN, through the PPI.5 Project has assisted **16 beneficiaries (8 female producers of shea butter** and other by-products as well as **8 beekeepers)** from NGOs in Niger to participate in an exchange trip (to Pô, Burkina Faso). This was organised with the support of a local association called NatuDev. This exchange trip between Niger and Burkina NGOs has led to the establishment of a partnership, which will build on the potential for diversifying the by-products of the bee and shea butter sectors and market outlets for end products. These new production and marketing techniques will enhance the effectiveness of target value chains and generate more attractive financial and environmental benefits.



Shea butter producers in Po, Burkina Faso

¹ Danny Burns and Stuart Worsley (2015) Navigating Complexity in International Development, Rugby, UK: Practical Action Publishing

² Aménagement des Terroirs et Productions Forestières (ATPF) et Contribution à la Gestion des Zones Humides (COGEZO)

• Training in environmental education and eco-citizenship

As part of the Regional Coastal and Marine Environmental education Programme (PREE) in the West African Coast, teaching materials on environmental education were developed, validated and integrated in the curricula of **4 countries** (Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal). These are mainly teacher's sheets, posters, films, comic strips designed for students and communities. The tools developed give teachers and the youth credible knowledge on ecosystems and species, the main factors of environmental degradation and loss of habitats and biodiversity, Nature-based Solutions for ecosystem and biodiversity conservation/restoration. The ecological issues covered relate to deforestation, natural resource use, climate change, threats on sensitive species, etc. The knowledge produced reached **643 teachers** (**230** in Guinea, **137** in Guinea-Bissau, **90** in Mauritania and **186** in Senegal). Tens of thousands of students were estimated to have been reached with the knowledge generated.



Teacher training in Environmental Education in Guinea within the framework of PREE

• Training in Integrated Water Resources Management

In Ghana, as part of Under the Shared Resources Joint Solutions (SRJS) project, IUCN supported SRJS Ghana Partners (A Rocha Ghana and Development Institute), IUCN Members by organizing a training on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). This helped to enhance the understanding and knowledge of representatives of CSOs and other key stakeholders about the IWRM concept and how it can be effectively applied in their operations at the local and policy level. Participants were taken through an institutional framework and management structures for IWRM, enabling policies, laws and legislations, basin planning management and implementation; and the Volta Basin Authority - Water Charter Development. **23 people (8 women and 15 men)**, representing **12 organisations** benefited from the training.

• Support to the WAP security efforts

As part of the MIKES Project, PACO has contributed to strengthening the technical and operational capacity of WAP by giving forester uniforms to **200 workers** in Benin and Niger, purchasing **5 brand new motorbikes** for Benin, and repairing two vehicles in Burkina Faso.

In support of the WAP security efforts, a joint regional (Benin-Burkina Faso-Niger) patrol was organized. For 10 days, **30 eco-guards** and **15 law enforcement officers** (gendarmes and policemen) were mobilized to patrol **948.52 km** in the W bloc. This patrol exercise led to the arrest of **6 poachers** in Burkina Faso and **2 lion poachers** in Niger who were sentenced to **4 years in prison** and payment of **a XOF 1 million fine** each by the Court of Say, Niger.

Support for effective law enforcement and implementation of policies and other legal instruments

As part of the implementation of the Shared Resources and Joint Solutions (SRJS) Project in Ghana, IUCN PACO supported a legal sensitization session aimed at reinforcing the effectiveness of civil society organizations in their advocacy efforts towards enhancing the application of and compliance with natural resource management rules. This was organized by A Rocha Ghana, an IUCN Member.



Awareness campaign on the Lake Chad Basin Water Charter

As a partner of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), IUCN has continuously supported the implementation process of the Lake Chad Basin Water Charter. Over **110 actors** (parliamentarians, water ambassadors, national focal points, representatives of platforms, civil society, senior technical staff, ...) were thus trained in diverse topics: **1** transboundary cooperation around of water resources; **2** shared water governance; **3** cost and benefits sharing; **4** stakeholder analysis and participation; **5** content of the Water Charter; **6** experience sharing on the NBA (Niger Basin Authority) Water Charter implementation; **7** International Water Law and **8** hydro-diplomacy. This work is a follow-up to the previous support to advocacy actions carried out for the ratification of the said Water Charter, and more particularly, the commitment to pursue the support provided since 2015 to the national and local actors of Lake Chad Basin.

In addition, under the BRIDGE 4 Project, about **400 persons** from Logone Birni and Kousseri areas in Cameroon and Koundoul and Guetté locations in Chad were reached with sensitization campaigns organized by the Chadian and Cameroonian multi-actor consultation platforms on Lake Chad Basin Water Charter. Such campaigns were aimed at facilitating the ownership process of the Water Charter by the local populations in view of its implementation. This was an opportunity for informing and raising awareness among the local populations on the existence of the Lake Chad Basin Water Charter, popularize the Charter, informing local populations about their role in the implementation of the said Charter.



Practical exercise during the workshop as part of BRIDGE 4

In Guinea Bissau, the national Eco-tourism Charter was drafted and validated. It has **3 basic engagements** namely human, economic and environmental engagements.

In addition, sport fishing rules were established and validated. They define the sport fishing practice in protected areas on the basis of the laws governing protected areas and blanket environmental law. The ban includes any forms of sport fishing in sensitive areas (source heads, fish breeding areas), limited power of fishing boats and number of catches by fishing trip, daily access tariffs per capita and per fishing site. Beyond sport fishing stricto sensu, the regulations also set access tariffs for protected areas, access tariffs for hippopotamus lagoons and taxes for various types of infringements in protected areas.

Still in Guinea-Bissau, the regional ecotourism master plan in the Bolama-Bijagós Biosphere Reserve was developed. It is a policy guidance document for the tourist sector in the Bolama-Bijagos Archipelago. It provides the Government of Guinea-Bissau with a policy instrument for the tourist sector in the Archipelago by defining strategic areas, plans, programmes and projects for the development of short, medium and long term responsible tourism. It is articulated around the following areas: governance; planning (land development) and limitation of impacts/risks; development of a responsible tourist sector; natural capital and cultural heritage, community engagement, gender and youth, capacity development and building.



Return of sport fishing in the island of Kéré, Bijagos Archipelago, Guinea Bissau

Credible and reliable knowledge to value and conserve biodiversity

IUCN has supported the governments of Burkina Faso and Niger to develop a participatory evaluation approach to the degradation state of grazing lands. **2 reference studies** were conducted in pilot sites to identify measurement indicators of the state of the more relevant grazing lands, both for agro-pastoralists and scientists so as to better manage the livestock sector in the two countries.

Also, a cost-benefit analysis methodology of agro-sylvo-pastoral productivity improvement technologies was developed and used in the North and Sahel regions in Burkina Faso. The findings have confirmed the need for involving agro-sylvo-pastoral producers in the selection of the parameters to be considered in a cost-benefit analysis, agro-sylvo-pastoral productivity improvement technologies (e.g.: assisted natural regeneration) that often incur costs but intangible benefits. In particular, certain intangible ecosystem services are influenced by technologies, but are not always taken on board in the standard cost-benefit analysis approach, which only focuses on the knowledge of experts without including those of agro-sylvo-pastoral producers.

Finally, an analysis of the caught fish value chain was conducted in Burkina Faso in Sourou and Koubri fisheries. The exercise helped to highlight the role of the market in fisheries ecosystem degradation and threats to caught fish species. Indeed, the high demand for fish leads to overfishing and increased use of firewood which is generally cut in the neighboring areas of fisheries. The study suggests the use of the ecosystem-based approach to fisheries and caught fish value chain management.

In Guinea-Bissau, knowledge on added value of sustainable tourism, notably local product processing, ecosystem and local culture development, were generated and disseminated to the communities of pilot sites and operators as part of the ecotourism project. A total number of **10 women from Bijagos Archipelago** were trained on how to add value to ecosystem products and to their traditional cuisine. Furthermore, **12 tourism operators** received training on promoting local products in sustainable tourism. **12 young persons from the communities** of the Bijagos Archipelago have reinforced their foreign language skills (French and Portuguese) and capacity to promote ecosystem products, landscapes and different habitats. Finally, **10 community radio journalists** were trained to better support the valuing of the Bijagos island ecosystem through tourism.

IUCN has supported the development and validation of a set of environmental concepts and good practices that are useful for environmental and biodiversity conservation in **4 countries** (Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Mauritania and Senegal). The knowledge was generated for young students, teachers and communities as a whole.

Knowledge on existing main shell species in the Bijagos Archipelago in Guinea-Bissau was produced highlighting shell exploitation, management and sustainable use modes. This is a useful and informative synthesis on an overexploited and highly endangered resource. The brochure consolidates the efforts deployed to disseminate knowledge, adopt good practices and sustainable natural resource management, especially in an island setting and against the backdrop of climate change.

B. Promoting and supporting effective and equitable natural resource governance

Strengthening natural resource governance frameworks and supporting local governance

• Support for local governance of natural resources

In Burkina Faso, nature governance was addressed by promoting mechanisms and supporting the creation of governance bodies. Thus, the management mechanism of grievances and complaints arising from the natural resources management projects was fully rolled out in **32 communes** of **6 regions** (East, Center-East, Center-South, Center-West, Mouhoun and South-West) in Burkina Faso. The use of this mechanism is based on the right of communities to issue complaints and grievances about the adverse effects that could result from the environment and society project. Overall, **53 associations/groupings** and **17 operators** have access to this governance instrument of interventions on natural resources at the municipality level. The success of this governance instrument lies in the fact that it meets a crucial need for communication and transparency within among actors.



Adoption of Niger's National Wetland Policy by the Council of Ministers

In the Center-East region of Burkina Faso, the formal gazetting of **9,893 hectares of the Sablogo inter-communal forest** was completed and a development plan adopted in line with the decree on Government and Local Community forest gazetting, declassification and status change procedures. Governance and management bodies of the said forest were established comprising **23 groupings** of over **400 members** and **1 union of forest management groupings**.

The Niger Council of Ministers reviewed and adopted the draft decree for the adoption of a National Policy on wetlands management and its 2019-2021 action plan. The main purpose of adopting this policy is to ensure sustainable management of wetlands in Niger so as to strengthen their contribution to food security and poverty reduction, taking into consideration the climate change context.



Women rice parboilers, Association Wend zoodo de Gouroré, Burkina Faso

In the Far North region of Cameroon, and as part of the project support to the Livestock Productivity improvement (PAPE), the actions carried out led to significant change including:

- ❶ enhanced resilience of livestock sector actors and strengthening of market opportunities with establishment of a market channel from the North to the South of Cameroon, and real involvement of a major category of actors (transporters) ;
- ❷ reduced conflicts among actors by at least 50%; such conflicts have **decreased from an average 8 conflicts per commune/year to about 4 conflicts per commune/year**. The project is the results of collaboration between the members of a Consortium CADEPI-CENEBCAM-IUCN. It aims at contributing to the economic development and governance of pastoral systems, as well as improving the livelihoods of pastoralists in the Far North region of Cameroon. With the release of governance tools, the revenue of stock breeders has increased from an estimated **20 to 40%**.

A network of local organizations was put in place in the peripheral area of Benoué National Park with IUCN funding (Small scale Initiative Programme) and support received from the CELDIE NGO and the conservation service. The goal of the Network is to federate efforts towards natural resource conservation and sustainable management on one hand, and conduct advocacy and lobbying for the mainstreaming of human rights in poaching control operations, on the other hand.

In Burkina Faso, a simple self-evaluation tool of the communal performance in natural resource management, sustainable land management and climate change was developed, validated and disseminated as part of the Fleuve Project. The tool is in the form of software and is used for:

- Local governments, depending on their specific context, to successfully complete a self-evaluation exercise of their performance;
- Elected representatives and various actors (municipality workers, population, civil society, supervisory departments...) to pool their observations and impressions during communal terms of office, discuss of them, highlight the trends and analyze them in order to propose actions that are likely to enhance the efforts deployed;
- Various partners supporting local governments in terms of land management, natural resource management and climate change to have a benchmark enabling them to improve the guidance and advisory service mechanism by better assessing the impacts of their interventions and redirecting their support and skills development areas.



Awareness of eco-guards, Benoué National Park

In Ghana, through the BMU-IKI funded Stabilising Land Use project, IUCN in collaboration with project partners, facilitated stakeholder dialogues and consultations towards the development of policy and governance baselines and landscape management strategies (LMS) for the **two IUCN project landscapes** in Ghana - Wassa Amenfi Landscape in the High Forest Zone and Mole Ecological Landscape in the Savannah Zone. The LMSs are providing the needed over-arching framework with defined broad landscape visions, objectives and road maps that will aid all stakeholders and institutions to contribute to the effective and sustainable management of natural resources within the landscapes. The LMSs will help harmonise natural resource management efforts towards sustainable landscape management. All the District Assemblies within the respective landscapes have endorsed the frameworks and committed to their implementation.

Also under the same project, governance working groups (GWGs) have been established at the two project landscapes level, made up of representatives from key stakeholder groups including government, civil society, traditional authorities, communities, women's groups and private sector. These GWGs are serving as dialogue and decision making platforms for issues relating to NRM at the landscape level,

including advocacy for sustainable NRM. They also led in the development of LMSs for the **2 landscapes** and will provide oversight for their progressive implementation. The GWGs have also been recognised by statutory bodies and other stakeholders as a useful platform and are being used by the District Assemblies as a rallying point for technical resources towards implementation of their medium term development action plans.



Ecological landscape Mole working group on the governance, Ghana

Gender mainstreaming into local natural resources governance structures and processes has also been a key area of invention and technical support by IUCN, in collaboration with implementing partners in Ghana. Women's representation on natural resources governance and decision-making platforms have been facilitated and strengthened. Different approaches and strategies including sensitisation, awareness creation, education, consultation, and trainings and affirmative action were used to help bridge existing gender gaps and help establish elevated roles for women and vulnerable groups in sustainable natural resource management and utilisation.



Wassa Landscape Governance Working Group Amenfi, Ghana

• Supporting transborder and regional governance

In order to strengthen natural resource governance in West Africa, IUCN responded to the call made by the Government of Ghana (Ministry of Land and Natural Resources - MLNR) to be part of a national technical working group on the implementation of the Community Resource Management Area (CREMA). The idea of having such a technical group stems from the CREMA forum/dialogue organized in 2018 by IUCN in collaboration with MLNR, A Rocha Ghana (a Member of IUCN), UNDP and other organizations. The technical working group as a governance structure is the driving force for the implementation of the main recommendations resulting from the dialogue.



Member of the executive committee of CREMA Achichire-Sureso-Pebaseman in Wassa Amenfi, Ghana

Moreover, **20 parliamentarians and local representatives** of Senegal were trained and sensitized on the issue of spatial marine planning thanks to IUCN and in partnership with the Association for the Defense of Environment and Development (ADAD).



National actors of the Lake Chad Basin during a capacity building workshop

At Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), IUCN responded to a request from the Commission to build capacity in its organs so that they efficiently contribute to improving water governance in the Basin. About **70 actors** received technical training on the BRIDGE Project tools for transboundary governance and benefits sharing in relation to existing large hydraulic infrastructure.

C. Deploying Nature-based Solutions to address societal challenges

Promoting Nature-based Solutions

To give access to credible and reliable knowledge on how nature can assist societies in taking up major development challenges, several categories of actors in **Burkina Faso** were supported. Thus, in the area of national education, **337 teachers** from **33 primary schools** in **5 regions** were equipped with knowledge on environmental education at school. The training and information sessions that were conducted made teachers and students acquire credible knowledge on school environmental management. The teachers were then given equipment and seedlings to plant and create tree nursery gardens in schools that have water supply systems.

In addition to the actors of national education in Burkina Faso, natural resources male and female users were supported in their activities in view of making such undertakings economically viable and ecologically sustainable. The aim was to train female and male actors to value and manage forest resources in 6 regions of Burkina Faso, abide by the new OHADA law on cooperative businesses, and /or sustainably manage forests and lands. Equipped with the knowledge about cooperative management, the actors were assisted to build their production

capacities. **3 shea butter production units** were thus rehabilitated for the benefit of **3 cooperative unions** with a membership of **210 women**.

The equipment were thus restarted and supplemented, the buildings refurbished and cooperative unions allocated revolving fund for the purchase of shea nuts.

In addition, **80 beekeepers including 15 women** were trained in honey production techniques and organized in a cooperative around the Sablogo inter-communal forest in the Center-East region of Burkina Faso. They were later granted modern beehives of the Kenyan type and the required equipment for beekeeping. To support the activity, a mini-honey production plant was installed for the benefit of the cooperative and **10 beekeepers including 3 women** were trained in honey production plant management techniques. For on- the -job training, the beekeepers attended a practical internship in the honey plant of the Selintaaba cooperative in Fada N'Gourma in the East region.



Students from the school in Boussoukoula, Burkina Faso, during reforestation as part of environmental education

In Ghana, **345 beekeepers** in the Mole Ecological Landscape (**177 males** and **168 females**) were trained in group formation dynamics, risk management, entrepreneurial development, record keeping, costing and price management as part of implementation of the Stabilising Land use project. Technical support was subsequently provided to the beneficiaries to organize themselves and register with the District Assemblies as cooperatives and associations.

Additionally, **30 CREMA members (22 Females and 8 Males)** in the Wassa Amenfi Landscape were trained in local soap making. Linkages have been facilitated between CREMAs and the local agency of the National Board for Small Scale Industries (NBSSI) i.e. The Business Advisory Centre (BAC) to support them to access soft loans/ credit from Rural Banks for the growth of their businesses.



Validation of the basic report on the policy and governance of the ecological landscape of Mole, Ghana

To judiciously use the boreholes and thus contribute to food security, **7 nutritional gardens** were created for **300 women** in **7 neighboring villages** of Sablogo forest in Burkina Faso. With a surface area of **900 m² each**, these nutritional gardens will provide vegetables for farming families and their communities to improve their meals and contribute both quantitatively and qualitatively to food security.

Finally, **400 farmers of whom 50% are women** were given developed plots with solar energy operated boreholes for market gardening. With a total surface area of **16 hectares**, these gardens will contribute to increasing vegetables supply, the farmers' income and food security in the communities involved.



Beekeepers in training session in Po, Burkina Faso

Furthermore, the evaluation of the Mangai ecosystem restoration opportunities led to identifying options in terms of actions aimed at reconciling conservation and local development. The validation workshops of the findings at national and landscape levels have given evidence of the will of the various ministries at country level and even at specialized department and local authority levels to use both the findings of this evaluation and the MEOR tool for the definition of national strategies/policies.

Similarly, the defense and restoration of soils that were degraded by salinization and erosion were undertaken in Rip and Djilor Nioro communes in Senegal. Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) in pilot plots was also carried out in the **2 communes**. The findings from the information collected show that plant regeneration density variation remains low. In fact, the mortality rate of ANR species is below 5%; which is an indication of an "optimistic scenario". Also, regeneration indices are **above 1**; which reflects the fact that agro systems in the **2 communes** are expanding as there are more ANR individuals than adult individuals.

The mainstreaming of climate risk education in the teaching / learning practice is a reality in the **2 communes**. This progress was facilitated by the basic education curriculum, which includes in the "sustainable development education" sub-domain, topics like environmental degradations

due to salinization, deforestation and erosion among other issues studied in the "Living in one's environment" course.

In Chad, IUCN has worked towards incorporating climate change in the curricula. The process was launched with the development of a climate change education for sustainable development manual. The idea was to mainstream climate in school curricula at primary, junior and high school levels. The initiative was implemented under the Global Climate Change Alliance and the Directorate of Environmental Education and Climate Change in partnership with the National Center for Curricula of the Ministry of National Education. The process culminated with the training of trainers and an experiment of environmental education in relation to climate change in the two departmental inspectorates (Loumia and Mandélie) and the elaboration of an advocacy note for the integration of Climate Change in the Chadian school curricula for policy makers.



Teachers trained in Environmental Education, Guinea Bissau

Through the Project on "Improving Information, Education and Communication of rural and peri-urban populations for climate change adaptation", ❶ an exchange visit on the various types of adaptation techniques or climate resilient approaches was organized for **22 producers including 2 women; 10 sites** in Chad were visited (Bol, Ngouri, Am-Timan, Moundou, Ku-Jéricho, Bitanda, Makéné, Tayé, Kaga and lake Taba); ❷ training of **45 trainer-teachers** on the climate change teaching guide; ❸ about **400 persons including 100 student-members of environmental clubs** were sensitized on climate change in the Am Timan site ; ❹ **6 community partner radios** of the project received solar equipment to upgrade their programme production and **4 more radios** were granted operating equipment.

In the Mano River zone, executing agencies and national experts were trained to build their capacity to use tools that help in forest landscape restoration activities. MEOR research work was done in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. As a result, the communities in the landscapes of the **4 countries now show interest** in forest land restoration with a high potential for carbon sequestration. The communities were able to identify the most relevant types of interventions, notably high economic potential tree farming such as cocoa,



Member consultation for the establishment of the Moa Makona cross-border platform, Liberia

palm tree and some rubber tree species. Restoration maps were thus produced in the **4 countries**.

It should be noted that the basic principles of legitimacy and promotion of local community empowerment are taken on board. Major actions were undertaken to establish a transboundary consultative committee on each landscape. Studies for the development of land use plans have shown that the main human activities leading to landscape degradation are itinerant agriculture. Such findings from the MEOR exercise will help to identify the best options of sustainable income generation sources based on the various restoration interventions in the **4 landscapes**.



Developing innovative mechanisms for conservation financing

In terms of inclusive governance and financing mechanisms and to facilitate a genuine deployment of Nature-based Solutions, IUCN implemented a micro finance mechanism for local natural resource sustainable valuing mechanism in **20 communes** in Burkina Faso. The purpose was to enable men and women to use Nature-based Solutions. Overall, **53 community micro projects** were financed and resources allocated according to gender.

In Ghana, IUCN has collaborated with A Rocha Ghana (IUCN Member) and other stakeholders to establish a Conservation Trust Fund for the Mole Ecological Landscape - which is one of IUCN's project landscapes that has benefited from initiatives targeted at enhancing collaborative natural resources management and livelihoods. These include the Toward Pro-Poor REDD project funded by Danida and the Stabilising Landuse Project funded by BMUB-IKI. The Mole Ecological Landscape Conservation Trust Fund (MELCTF) has a Board of Trustees and will help to provide long-term financial sustainability for the CREMAs within the landscape. The Trust fund was officially launched in November 2019 with a seed fund of **GHS 50,000**.

Also in Ghana, IUCN and CODESULT Network -a local partner NGO- provided technical assistance to the Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) of *Achichire Sureso Pebaseman* (ASP) to submit a project concept on livelihoods support training through soap making in response to a call for small grant proposals to be financed under the Forest Farm Facility.

The Government of Cameroon has received funds from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for their preparatory support programme which aims at building the capacity of the designated national Authority, supporting direct access entities and developing strategic frameworks. IUCN was entrusted with the implementation of this process, which has resulted in the development of several core strategic documents, including the Country Programme.

In Burkina Faso, a GCF country Programme was validated and submitted to the Green Climate Fund Secretariat for consideration. The same goes for a non-objection manual of procedures, **4 specific study reports** on energy, climate financing, adaptation and communication and **1 video on the engagement process** of Burkina Faso to GCF.

Finally, concept notes that were validated at country level for GCF were sent to the Chairman of the inter-ministerial Committee on GCF in Niger and to the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests of Guinea to move on with the financing process of initiatives, with IUCN as the support agency chosen by the two countries.



Launch of the Mole Ecological Landscape Conservation Trust Fund



Supporting effective management of terrestrial, marine and watershed landscapes

In Burkina Faso, IUCN worked on degraded terrestrial landscapes in **6 regions**. Restoration actions were undertaken on these landscapes to supplement those conducted in previous years. The restoration was achieved in support of natural resource valuing activities to regenerate the natural capital available for the local communities and was part of school-based environmental education practice.

As a result, **276 hectares of degraded areas** were ecologically restored. Also, **9,600 seedlings** were planted of which 31% of eucalyptus, an exotic plant species commonly found in Burkina Faso for timber and firewood production; **69% of local utilitarian species**, notably *Acacia nilotica*, *Adansonia digitata* and *Parkia biglobosa*.

In Guinea Bissau, as part of the GEF Rice and Mangrove Project, mapping and geomatic knowledge was applied. This helped to map and identify degraded mangroves and rice fields in *Cacheu*, *Quinara* and *Tombali* regions and specify the toponymy and names of rice field owner families and document natural regeneration stages of mangroves and concerned species. The knowledge passed on and made available to government institutions, NGOs and communities basically relate to drone driving and the use of Ovitaimap and Google Earth.



The IUCN Director General on working visit to Burkina Faso

Madam Inger Andersen, Director General of IUCN at the time carried out a working visit to Burkina Faso from 28 to 31 January, 2019.

Ms Andersen used the opportunity of her stay to discuss with the highest authorities of Burkina about the environmental agenda at the global and regional levels, notably the World Conservation Congress scheduled to take place in Marseille, France from 11-19 June, 2020, and the 15th meeting of Conference of Parties (CoP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity in November 2019.

The then Director General met with HE Alpha Barry, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Burkina Faso; Mr. Batio Bassière, Minister of Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change of Burkina Faso; Mr. Benewende Sankara, 1st Vice-Speaker of the National Assembly of Burkina Faso; HE Jean Lamy, Ambassador of the European Union Delegation to Burkina Faso; M. Christian Geosits, Head of the Austrian Cooperation Bureau; Mr. Max Lamech, Chargé d'Affaires, Luxemburg Cooperation; Ms Susanna Hughes, Development Cooperation Officer at the Sweden Embassy to Burkina Faso; and Mr. Jonas Gbian, Commissioner in charge of Agriculture, Water Resources and Environment, WAEMU.



Audience with Mr. Nestor Bassiere, Minister of Environment, Green Economy and climate Change, Burkina Faso



Ms Inger Andersen and Mr. Alpha Barry, Burkina Faso Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

She also shared views with the IUCN staff, Members, Commission experts, partners and journalists on the major environmental challenges and prospects for collaboration for a healthy world that values and conserves nature.



Ms Inger during press interviews

The visit gave the opportunity to Ms Inger Andersen to share IUCN's vision in her capacity as the Director General, for the upcoming years and to announce the partial relocation of the PACO regional coordination to Dakar, Senegal.

Central and West Africa Regional Conservation Forum

The 3rd West and Central Africa Regional Conservation Forum was held from 8 to 11 July, 2019 in Bissau, Guinea Bissau under the theme of "Conserving nature for peace, security and sustainable economic development in Central and West Africa". It provided a framework for reflection and exchange with IUCN Members, Experts of thematic Commissions and partners (States, NGOs and civil society), enabling them to fully play their role of influencing the international conservation and sustainable development agenda.

Overall, **nearly 150 participants** attended the Forum as government representatives, development and civil society actors, scientists, representatives of the conservation community and political actors.

The opening ceremony was chaired by Ms Quité Djata, Secretary of State for Environment and Biodiversity, representing the Prime Minister of Guinea-Bissau. She was accompanied by a large IUCN delegation headed by Dr Grethel Aguilar Rojas, acting IUCN Director General and many other personalities.



Opening ceremony of the Regional Conservation Forum



Working session between IUCN Acting Director General and the Secretary of State to the Environment and Biodiversity

The Members also made comments to be taken on board in finalizing the four-year 2021-2024 Programme and formulating recommendations to the Secretariat and Council, notably with respect to the due date for annual membership fees payment. A new seven-member bureau was established.

The IUCN delegation led by Dr Grethel Aguilar Rojas, acting IUCN Director General had an audience with several officials in the sidelines of the Regional Forum: the President of Guinea-Bissau, HE José Mário Vaz; Ms Quité Djata, Secretary of State for Environment and Biodiversity; the WAEMU and EU representatives.

The implementation agreement of the project on "Protection and Restoration of Mangroves and productive Landscape to strengthen food security and mitigate climate change" was signed between the Director General and the Secretary of State for Environment and Biodiversity.

At the end of the deliberations, the participants recommended to the Union's governing body to support comprehensive efforts towards the effective implementation of the "One Programme" Charter.

For more information on the forum, visit the web page: <https://bit.ly/2L6dQjt>

DYNAMICS OF MEMBERS AND COMMISSIONS

As part of the One Programme approach, the IUCN Members and Commission experts of the IUCN Central and West Africa region are participating in the implementation of the programmes. The Members involvement is in the following points in a nutshell:

- In Burkina Faso, the Secretariat, Members and Commissions have jointly undertaken the annual planning of activities. Strengths and weaknesses were reviewed and led to resolutions to give a new impetus to the collaboration among the three IUCN pillars. The idea of a socializing meeting came as a "must" given the obvious needs for information on the "One Programme" Charter.
- The regional thematic marine and coastal programme worked closely with the Ecological Monitoring Center, a Member of IUCN on the planning of the Mangrove and WACA-ResIP Projects.
- The BIOPAMA Programme in collaboration with the GPPPAM and SULi groups of WCPA, is working to improve skill management and achievement valuing.
- With the support of TRAFFIC and IUCN, The Garoua School of Wildlife Specialists (EFG-Cameroon), an IUCN Member, is working on the revision of the training modules, taking into account the fight against wildlife crime. The EFG also support IUCN Cameroon in the implementation of the project to develop a biodiversity knowledge enhancement project of Lake Chad Basin critical sites (BIOPALT).
- IUCN Members (BEES of Benin, AGEREF/CL, AGED and NATURAMA of Burkina Faso, A ROCHA and The Development Institute of Ghana) have pursued the implementation of the SRJS Programme in collaboration with the Secretariat.
- The "Supporting Landscapes Restoration and Sustainable Use of local plant species and tree products for Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Livelihoods and Emissions Reduction in Cameroon" Project developed by the National Committee of IUCN Members in Cameroon in collaboration with IUCN approved by GEF will be implemented in collaboration of 3 Members in Cameroun (CEW, FODER and CWCS).
- The "Coastal Area Environmental Education" Project and the "Community and Ecosystem Resilience in Ndiago area" Project were developed with the participation of the Naforé and Nature Mauritania NGOs, IUCN Members.



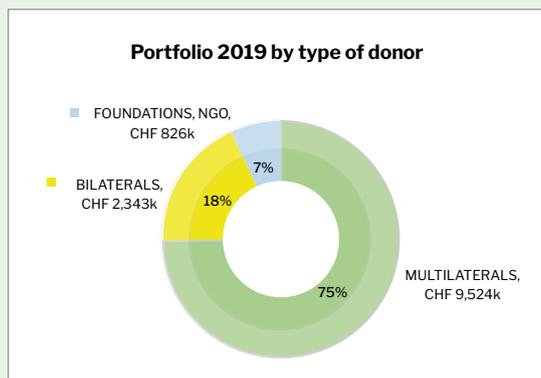
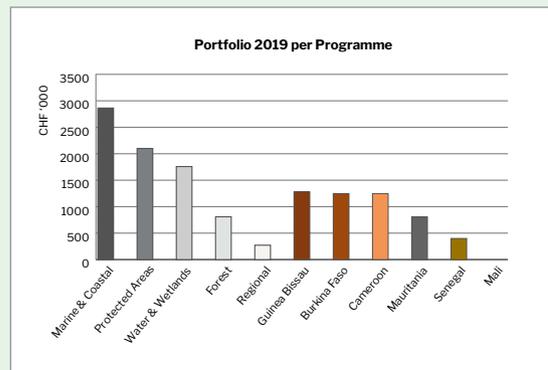
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

IUCN PACO is working with financial and technical partners for the implementation of its programme. The Union wishes to recognize all its partners for their multi-faceted support and fruitful collaboration during year 2019.



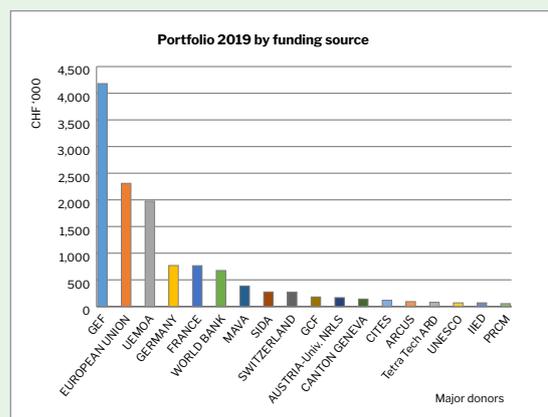
THE FINANCIAL STATUS OF UNITS

The PACO 2019 portfolio of projects amounts to about **CHF 12.7 million** of which 61% are dedicated to Regional Thematic Programmes (RTP) and 39% to Country programmes.



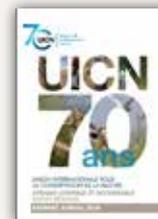
A considerable budget increase is noted in the projects financed by multilateral donors, 75% in 2019 against 45% in 2018, and reduction in bilateral financing, 18% in 2019 against 44% in 2018. This situation is due to the new projects financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the European Union and World Bank via WAEMU.

Financing sources remain fairly diverse and made up of about thirty donors contributing in an uneven manner in the range of few CHF thousands to CHF millions.



Publications and reports

- IUCN PACO (2019). *2018 Annual Report*. Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso: IUCN PACO. 36pp
French: <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/48503>
Anglais : <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/48502>



- IUCN PACO (2019). *Réussir la gouvernance environnementale par le partenariat. Leçons apprises du programme PAGE*. Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso: IUCN PACO. 54 pp
French: <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/48368>



Videos

- Animated institutional video of the BRICKS Project:
English: <https://youtu.be/Qsz5nObs7H0>
French: <https://youtu.be/Ub5Xv4laW7Y>



- Video produced as part of the GEF 6 Rice and Mangrove Project:
Youtube UICN : <https://youtu.be/2LZU-5EjiJo>
TRI : <https://www.iucn.org/node/31372>



- Vidéo sur le Master international "Gérer les impacts des activités extractives" (GAED). Nouakchott, Mauritanie, 13mn
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4eSKXpyAQPY>



- Video on the achievements of the project "Improving information, education and communication of rural and peri-urban populations to adapt to climate change" in Chad, 30mn (long version) and 10mn (short version)





COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

Burkina Faso

- B.P.: 3133 Ouagadougou 01
Phone: +226 25 31 31 54
uicnbf@iucn.org
- Avenue Charles Bila KABORE
Ouaga 2000 derrière la station Totale
01 B.P. 1618 Ouagadougou 01
Phone: +226 25 49 82 07 / 25 40 99 42

Cameroon

- PO Box: 5506 Yaoundé
Phone: +237 222 21 64 96
cameroun@iucn.org

Guinea Bissau

- Av. Dom Settimio Arturo Ferrazzetta
Apartado 23 1033 Bissau Codex.
Guinée-Bissau
Phone: +245 955 80 38 48
uicngb@iucn.org

Mali

- B.P.: 1567 Bamako
Phone: +223 20 22 75 72
uicnmali@iucn.org

Mauritania

- B.P.: 4167 Nouakchott
Phone: +222 45 25 12 76
uicnmauritanie@iucn.org

Democratic Republic of Congo

- B.P. 8265 Kinshasa 1
08 bis, avenue Le Marinel
Quartier Lemera
C/Gombe-Kinshasa
Phone: +243 817 94 77 11
rdc@iucn.org

Senegal

- Avenue Cheick Anta Diop
2^{ème} étage
B.P.: 3215 Dakar
Phone: +221 33 869 02 81
uicnsenegal@iucn.org

PROJECT OFFICE

Ghana

- c/o Forest Services Division,
P. O. Box GP 527, Accra, Ghana
Phone: +233 54 156 6408 / 59 601 7711
iucnprojects@iucn.org



working for a just world that values and conserves nature



INTERNATIONAL UNION
FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

Regional Office
Central and West Africa Programme - PACO
Quartier MERMOZ
Parcelle 58
Rue MZ 77
E-mail: paco@iucn.org
www.iucn.org/fr/regions/afrique-centrale-et-occidentale

 twitter.com/iucn
 facebook.com/iucn.org