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OF NATURE

**WEST AND CENTRAL
AFRICA**
REGIONAL OFFICE
ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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REGIONAL OFFICE

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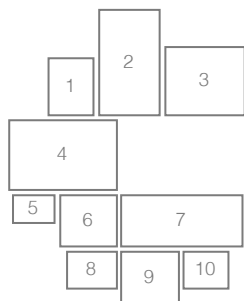
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MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR



The year 2020 has been a difficult year for Central and West Africa which experienced various political disturbances that affected several countries: political crisis in Mali, continuing insecurity situation in several countries in the region (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Central African Republic and Chad, etc.).

These crises, associated with the health situation with the appearance of COVID-19, have contributed to undermining the peace of the populations and economic growth. They have resulted, among other things, in restricting travel in certain countries and in certain areas of the region, with some consequences for the smooth running of certain IUCN programs and projects.

The year 2020 was above all marked by the preparation process for the World Conservation Congress, initially scheduled for Marseille, France in June 2020, but finally postponed to September 2021 due to COVID-19.

Fortunately, despite all these upheavals, the good mobilization of regional institutions (ECOWAS, ECCAS, WAEMU, COMIFAC & LCBC in particular) continued to identify short, medium and long term solutions. The same is true of the good mobilization of financial partners which resulted in the signing and launch of 11 new projects in 2020 in the region; which means that the regional program has rather experienced significant growth despite the political and health crises mentioned above.

IUCN is committed to making every effort to develop partnerships, with the aim of always seeking complementarity and synergy for greater and lasting impact.

This annual report is therefore the last of the quadrennial period which ended in December 2020. It gives an idea of the IUCN system in Central and West Africa, the resources implemented, the actions undertaken, the milestones reached in the progress of the IUCN Programme in the region and the latest results obtained.

Aliou FAYE

Regional Director
IUCN-PACO

ACRONYMS

AAAC:	Autoridade de Avaliação Ambiental Competente	CSE:	Centre for Ecological Monitoring
AD:	Acção para o Desenvolvimento	CSO:	Civil Society Organization
AGEREF/CL:	Inter-village Association for the Management of Natural and Wildlife Resources of the Comoé-Léraba	DRC:	Democratic Republic of Congo
AMMCO:	African Marine Mammal Conservation Organization	DRS:	Defense and Soil Restoration
ANR:	Assisted Natural Regeneration	DU-GAP:	University Diploma in Protected Areas Management
APEF:	Protected Areas and Fragile Ecosystems of Chad	ESARO:	Eastern and Southern Africa Office
ASUDEC:	Africa's Sustainable Development Council	FLR:	Forest Landscape Restoration
BIOPAMA:	Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme	FODER:	Forestry and Rural Development
BRIDGE:	Building River Dialogue and Governance	GCCA:	Global Climate Change Alliance
CAFER:	Center of Support to Women and Rural People	GCF:	Green Climate Fund
CAR:	Central African Republic	GEF:	Global Environment Facility
CBD:	Convention on Biological Diversity	GIS:	Geographic Information System
CdS-R:	Regional Monitoring Committee	GTPIE:	Petroleum and Extractive Industries Working Group
CEC:	Commission on Education and Communication	Ha:	Hectare
CEESP:	Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy	IBAP:	Institute of Biodiversity and Protected Areas
CEM:	Commission on Ecosystem Management	ICRAFT:	World Agroforestry Centre
CEW:	Cameroon Environmental Watch	IMET:	Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool
CHF:	Swiss Franc	INBAR:	International Bamboo and Rattan Organization
CITES:	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	IRAG:	National Institute of Agricultural Research
CREMACO:	Regional Committee of Members in Central and West Africa	IUCN:	International Union for Conservation of Nature
		KAFO:	Federation of indigenous peoples (Mandinke, Peul, Manjack), Guinea Bissau
		KBA:	Key Biodiversity Area

MACO:	Regional Marine and Coastal Program, IUCN
MINEPDED:	Ministry of the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development
MINFOF:	Ministry of Forests and Wildlife
MPA:	Marine Protected Area
NECA:	Natural Capital Ecosystem Accounting
NGO:	Non-Governmental Organization
NTFP:	Non-Timber Forest Product
OBAPAO:	Observatory for Biodiversity and Protected Areas in West Africa
OCP:	Lightening raid operations
OFAC:	Central African Forest Observatory
ONED:	Organization for Nature, Environment and Development of Cameroon
ORLOA:	West African Regional Coastal Observatory
PACO:	Central and West Africa Programme
PAPBio:	Support programme for the preservation of biodiversity and fragile ecosystems, regional governance and climate change in West Africa
PLANOPAC:	National Platform of Agro-Sylvo-Pastoral and Halieutic Organizations of Cameroon
PNB:	Benue National Park
PPI:	Small Initiatives Programme
PRCM:	Regional Partnership for Coastal and Marine Conservation in West Africa
PWYP:	Platform on Transparency and Good Governance in the Extractive Industries

RAMPAO:	Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas in West Africa
RASTOMA:	Central African Network for the Conservation of Marine Turtles
ROAM:	Restoration Opportunity Assessment Methodology
RTP:	Regional Thematic Programs
SDGs:	Sustainable Development Goals
SSC:	Species Survival Commission
TNS:	Sangha Tri National
UFM:	Mano River Union
UNCCD:	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNEP:	United Nations Environment Programme
UNOPS:	United Nations Office for Project Services
WA BiCC:	Program for Biodiversity and Climate Change in West Africa
WACA ResIP:	West African Coastal Resilience Investment Project
WATSCON:	West African Sea Turtle Conservation Network
WCEL:	World Commission on Environmental Law
WCMC:	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WCPA:	World Commission on Protected Areas
WCS:	Wildlife Conservation Society
WWF:	World Wide Fund for Nature



IUCN AT A GLANCE

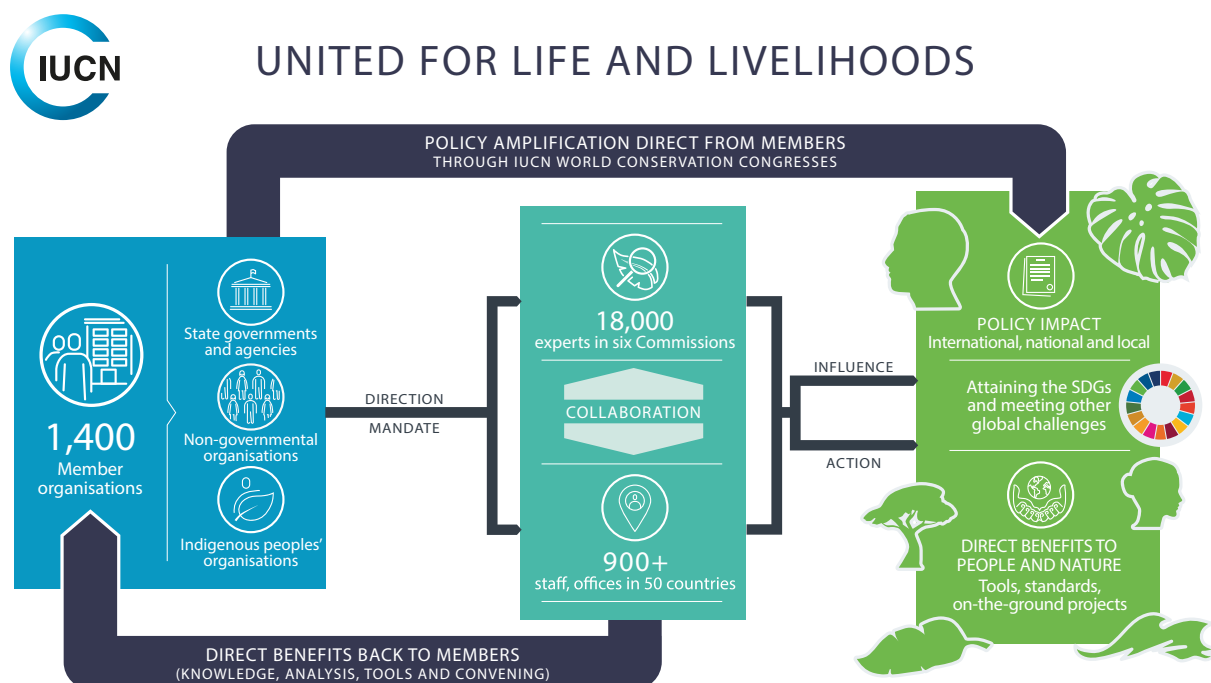
IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

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 18,000 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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STRATEGIC FOCUS

IUCN is one of the organisations that, among other things, supports the scaling up of conservation. The IUCN West and Central Africa Office (PACO) contributes to the mission and vision of IUCN at the regional level through its thematic programmes, country programmes and multi-country initiatives. It operates in 21 of the 25 countries of Central and West Africa in the following configuration:

8 country programmes

Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Democratic Republic of Congo and Senegal, which implement their programs and projects and ensure a better linkage with the global programmes and the

6 IUCN Commissions

4 regional thematic programmes (RTP)

- Protected areas and biodiversity, based in Dakar;
- Forestry Conservation, based in Yaoundé;
- Marine and coastal, based in Dakar; and
- Water and Wetlands, based in Dakar.

3 project offices

Ghana, Guinea and Chad.

The IUCN Work Programme in the Central and West Africa region is implemented as a contribution to the IUCN 2017–2020 Quadrennial Programme, validated by the Members' Assembly in 2016 at the World Conservation Congress in Hawai'i, USA. This Programme focuses on **3 priority areas**:

- Valuing and conserving nature;
- Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources;
- Deploying nature-based solutions to address societal challenges.

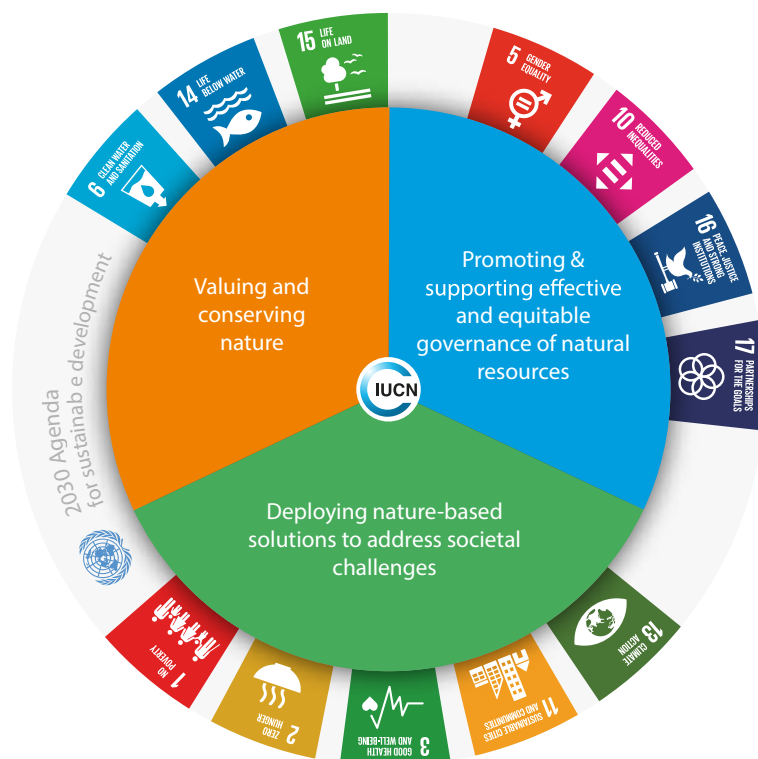


Figure 1: IUCN Programme Framework 2017–2020



In 2020, PACO implemented **36 active projects**, funded by **14 donors**, in collaboration with several partners (local communities, associations and non-governmental organisations, local governments, private sector organisations and state services). The programme supported all these actors through improvements in knowledge, skills, and governance to restore or maintain ecosystem health and services.

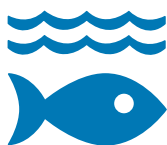


In this context, several themes were addressed: capacity building and awareness raising; improving natural resource governance; promoting Nature-based Solutions; supporting policy development and law enforcement; forest landscape restoration (FLR) to facilitate the reduction of forest, land and soil degradation; transparency and good governance in the exploitation of mining and extractive resources;

and deploying natural solutions to address societal challenges (climate change, food security, and economic and social development).

The PACO portfolio was also expanded in 2020. Indeed, **13 projects** have been placed **on the B-list** and proposals are being developed. In addition, several initiatives and project ideas are being discussed within the programs and/or with various funders.

PACO's work makes IUCN a key player in biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems in Central and West Africa. Its actions contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Aichi Targets.



MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

A. Valuing and conserving nature

Support for environmental awareness and education of stakeholders

In Burkina Faso, a documentary film was produced to make available to the general public credible knowledge on natural resource management best practices in **32 municipalities in 5 regions** of the country. **29 schools** with more than **4000 students and teachers** have benefited from environmental education sessions, nursery gardens and groves to improve their knowledge on the valorisation and conservation of biodiversity in primary schools.

Also, **30 key** biodiversity conservation **actors** from governmental, non-governmental and private sector organisations were sensitized on the threats to biodiversity in Burkina Faso. They learned about the economic sectors (mining and agriculture in particular) that threaten biodiversity and the priority actions (biodiversity restoration and threat reduction) undertaken to simultaneously achieve conservation and economic development objectives in Burkina Faso.

With the IUCN-GEF-Mano projects implemented in **4 countries** (Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia) and BRIDGE 4 in Cameroon, micro-programmes to sensitize local communities on natural resource management best practices are broadcast through local radios, including the one in Gueckedou with a reach covering a population of **346,908**. In the Binah county hall, Kara region in Togo, awareness on land degradation factors was broadcast in **9 counties**. Through this sensitization, communities validated **6 restoration options** to address the environmental, socio-political and cultural challenges of the Binah county hall. The implementation of these options will contribute to the implementation of **Togo's commitment to restore 1.4 million hectares of degraded land by 2030**.



Visit to assess the appearance of degradation of a mangrove, Benin

160 actors were equipped on the threats related to pollution

Within the framework of the BRIDGE 4 and GEF Mano project, the Mano River Union (MRU) sensitized, informed and trained the stakeholders (**46 people, including 8 women**) of the Moa/Makona basin on the legal, institutional and technical arrangements existing within the framework of cooperation in the management of shared rivers. This enabled them to have a full understanding of conflict management, hydro-diplomacy, transboundary governance, negotiation and benefit sharing. The stakeholders were drawn from the Moa/Makona Basin national platforms of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. These 3 platforms adopted a convergence of views on the principles of distribution and benefits from water resources for the benefit of their respective communities. A roadmap was adopted for the implementation of the benefit sharing modules in the Moa/Makona basin.

Still within the framework of the BRIDGE 4 project, IUCN conducted awareness campaigns to combat water pollution in the member countries of the Mano and Moa Makona Basin (Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone). A total of **160 actors** were equipped on the threats related to pollution in these **4 countries**. In addition, nearly **11,000 people** were reached by awareness messages broadcast through community radios.

Within the framework of the ARCUS Foundation project, awareness campaigns were also conducted by IUCN in the three segments of the TNS (Kika in Cameroon, Yandoumbé in CAR and Bon-Coin in Congo), bringing to the attention of the local population the conservation of great apes and the risk of contamination between great apes and humans. A total of **111 people (38 women and 73 men)** were sensitized in **3 villages** of the TNS landscape (**39 in Cameroon, 44 in Central African Republic and 28 in Congo**).



Participatory territorial diagnosis with the use of drone in the Coxanque site, Guinea Bissau



Participatory territorial diagnosis, Guinea Bissau

Capacity building to achieve conservation goals

The 2020 edition of the University Diploma in Protected Areas Management (DU-GAP) has helped strengthen the skills of **20 field technicians** from **8 West African countries** (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo) on the sustainable management of protected areas and their peripheries. Due to COVID-19, this edition was disrupted; some courses were administered remotely and the training was successfully completed.

Within the framework of the Regional Governance of Protected Areas in West Africa project, **17 scholarships** were awarded to professionals and students from **seven West African countries** (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mauritania, Togo and Senegal) enrolled in various Master's level courses related to the management of protected areas and biodiversity. IUCN has also contributed to the capacity building of students enrolled in the Master 2 in protected areas management at Senghor University (Egypt) on the following topics: environmental crime and securing protected and conserved areas; sustainable financing of protected areas.

The Governance project has also trained **27** West African conservation **actors** on capitalisation and production of stories related to best practices in protected area and biodiversity management. This support should eventually lead to the establishment of a community of knowledge and practices on the sustainable management of protected areas and biodiversity.

Through the Mono-Volta project, the forest conservation program provided training on the Restoration Opportunity Assessment Methodology (ROAM) to **seven consultants**, including **one woman, from three countries** (Ghana, Togo and Benin) who are experts in sustainable natural resource management issues. The training aimed at equipping them to conduct baseline diagnosis in the project sites on environmental, socio-economic and institutional issues on mangroves. The knowledge generated by these studies will help define micro-projects for the valorisation of natural resources.

646 farmers (24% women) were trained on various topics in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea

Thanks to the PAPBio project "C1-Management of Mangroves", **8 actors from the 3 countries** (Ghana, Togo and Benin) of the Mono-Volta Landscape benefited from a training on the ROAM. This tool was used for prospective diagnoses of the landscape in order to improve knowledge on mangrove governance. During the training, prospective diagnoses were carried out and highlighted the environmental and socio-economic situation of the landscapes of **9 West African countries** (Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana, Togo and Benin). The data from these diagnoses are available and allow the identification of mangrove sites for the implementation of activities and decision making for management actions of mangrove ecosystems.

In addition, in collaboration with the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) in Ghana, the capacity of **12 forest and agricultural producer organizations** was built on ROAM. Leaders of the forestry and agriculture producer groups gained knowledge to meet sustainable development goals and respond to climate change at the landscape level. Restoration options for their economic and financial activities in **3 agro-ecological zones** of Ghana were identified.

In Sierra Leone, **800 farmers, 20% of whom are women**, have been trained to create agroforestry nurseries and have geo-referenced all planting sites. They managed to plant each **8 woody trees** (bagie), **450 cocoa plants**, **50 pineapples** and **50 banana/plantain seedlings**.

IUCN through its protected areas program has strengthened the skills of **20 field technicians** from **8 West African countries** (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo) on the issue of sustainable management of protected areas and their peripheries. In addition, in collaboration with WABICC, **14 beneficiaries** from the ministries in charge of the implementation of the CITES convention in **13 countries**¹ have conducted research, culminating in the defense of their CITES Master's degrees from the University of Andalusia (Spain). This will allow them to improve their operational capacities as well as their ability to influence national policies related to CITES and environmental crime laws.

Under the GEF (MANO River) project, **646 farmers (24% women)** were trained on various topics in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea: approaches and techniques for promoting local, regional and international trade; roles of farmers and forest resource users in product certification; traceability of certified products (origin); advantages of certified natural products and its benefits; demonstration of natural regeneration using sampling plots.



Ms. Saadia Bobtoya Owusu-Amofah, Country Coordinator of IUCN in Ghana giving a presentation on ROAM in Accra

¹ Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo

Commitment and participation, our approach to promoting Nature-based Solutions

Forest landscape restoration opportunity maps are available for **four countries** (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone). They have enabled the identification of interventions for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in the project areas. This knowledge will eventually allow the definition of priority intervention axes for the conservation of **4 transboundary landscapes** of the Mano River Union between the countries concerned.

In support of the AF100 initiative in Togo, restoration opportunity maps of the Binah county hall in the Kara region were validated at the regional and national levels. In order to implement the identified restoration options, participants recommended that the government and local communities integrate them into community development plans.

In addition, the first report of the Mano River Union Transboundary Landscape Restoration Opportunities Assessment identifies a total of **225,082 ha** of restoration opportunities broken down by site as follows: Gola (**55,400 ha**), Diecke – Nimba Complex (**93,000 ha**) and Wonogizi – Ziama (**76,682 ha**).

In Guinea, the results of the national ROAM study are already being applied in the field. The national agency of the GEF Mano project and the Institut National de Recherche Agricole (IRAG) are engaging local communities in the landscapes (Ziama, Nimba and Diecké) who have established **8 nurseries, 8 learning plots** and **4 assisted natural regeneration plots** in the **3 landscapes**. Also, **a pedagogical guide** for the creation and management of agricultural and agroforestry systems was developed and allowed for a restoration campaign of learning plots/production plots.

In Liberia, **24 farming communities** in three landscapes (Gola, East Nimba and Wonegizi) benefited from **15,000 cocoa plants**.

Also, **4 prospective diagnoses** were conducted for each of the landscapes distributed between Senegal and Benin. These diagnoses were written in order to improve knowledge on mangrove governance and highlight the environmental and socio-economic situation of the landscapes in **9 West African countries** (Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana, Togo and Benin). The data from these diagnoses are available and allow the identification of mangrove sites and activities to be funded under the grant program, and decision making for mangrove ecosystem management actions.

IUCN, in partnership with the Centre for Ecological Monitoring (CSE), contributed to the updating of the West African Coastal Master Plan (2020 assessment), as well as to the establishment of the West African Regional Coastal Observatory (ORLOA). This result is part of the implementation of the WACA ResIP project funded by the World Bank.

IUCN coordinated the revision of the Management Plan of the Ounianga Lakes in Chad. After various consultations and discussions, the Ounianga Lakes have been endowed with a new instrument "Revised Management Plan of the Ounianga Lakes Site 2021–2030". The promotion for a better appropriation and the advocacy for its implementation is continuing. This result is part of the project "*Programme d'appui à la gestion concertée des Aires Protégées et Ecosystèmes Fragiles du Tchad* (APEF)" funded by the European Union.

Support for effective enforcement of laws and policies

In Burkina Faso, more than **35 people** from local communities have been trained in the application of environmental safeguard policies in projects. They have acquired knowledge and skills for the effective application of environmental and social safeguards to serve as relays at the local level.

With the project "Support to the management of the Benue National Park" (BNP) in Cameroon, IUCN is supporting the conservation department to improve its management efficiency. The following are the main results of this support:

- Patrol effort at over 15H/D/month to mitigate threats and secure the BNP;
- Map of the park divided into functional areas developed to facilitate patrols and Lightning raid operations (OCP);
- Main pressures on the BNP identified (transhumance, gold panning, advance of the agricultural front, carbonization and cutting of poles for domestic use, and sedentarisation of activities) and analyzed to facilitate the search for sustainable solutions;
- Opportunities explored to boost tourism in the BNP;
- Management approach based on increased collaboration with the conservation department and the involvement of stakeholders (local authorities, NGOs, populations and law enforcement agencies) in securing the park;
- Better knowledge of the park through the generation of patrol and OCP data;
- Conservation division investment tracking tools available;
- Reconquest, thanks to patrols and lightning raid operations, of **about 75% of the protected area** initially invaded by gold panners, agricultural fields and transhumants.

The Mano GEF project has accelerated the implementation of national forestry and land management policies in each country of the Mano River Union. For example, the project has implemented trials of good forest conservation practices. This has resulted in a net gain in forest area (including the recovery of degraded forests) and increased consideration and management of transboundary waters in regional policies. Also, the transboundary nature of forest resources has seen increased regional collaboration with regional cooperation and community interactions among local advisory committees.

Reconquest, thanks to patrols and lightning raid operations, of about 75% of the protected area

As part of the implementation of the Regional Governance of Protected Areas project, a network of actors to combat environmental crime has been set up to stimulate cooperation. In addition, a draft data sharing protocol has been initiated in order to provide a framework for data sharing in view of the operationalisation of the regional information system on environmental crime.

IUCN has initiated a dialogue with the Lusaka Agreement Task Force in order to promote the agreement on concerted enforcement operations against illegal wildlife trade in West Africa and to facilitate the accession of countries. An agreement in principle was obtained for the participation of representatives of West African States in the next Governmental Council of the Agreement.



Training on the process of selecting and planting propagules in the Bolol site, Guinea Bissau

Forest landscape restoration

The Rice and Mangroves project in Guinea Bissau has built **200 meters of protective dikes** in **3 sites** (Bolol, Djabada Porto and Caboxanque). They effectively combat saline intrusion into rice fields and mangrove habitats and stop the process of tanning and degradation of mangroves. In addition, the dikes will contribute to the recovery of abandoned rice fields (Bolanhas), the maintenance of their fertility and the restoration of the mangrove (mainly the regeneration of *Rhizophora* and *Avicennia*).

In the Mano River Union, IUCN worked on the key drivers of forest and soil degradation. Local communities from **8 villages** (Kpoda, Yézou, Noborotono, Sédimai, Gbèleye, Dourapa, Gbaa and Gbènè mou) have targeted species for planting. Thus, **92,200 seeds** (Oil palm, Cocoa, Coffee, Black pepper, Bitter Kola, Mitragina, Beilschmiedia, Raphia, Rattan, Kpitiligui (Lova), Nauclea, Niangon, Avocado, Lime, Xylopia, Guéi, TI, TS) have been distributed in these villages.

Also in Guinea Bissau, the communities of Bolol, Djobel and Elia have acquired technical skills in mangrove restoration and/or reforestation. In total, **341 people** were trained, including **247 men** and **94 women**. They were able to master two mangrove restoration techniques: **①** assisted natural regeneration (ANR) and **②** the direct planting method. This action is decisive insofar as it conditions the effective participation of the populations in the process of restoration and recovery of mangrove ecosystems.

The communities have acquired technical skills in mangrove restoration and/or reforestation

Other conservation measures, carried out within the framework of the WACA ResIP project, financed by the World Bank, have also made it possible to:

- reforesting **20 ha of filaos** and **4 ha of mangroves** in the AMPC and PNLB in Senegal; **45 ha in the municipality of Lokossa** in Benin;
- restoring **50 ha of mangroves** around Lake Boko Zowla in Togo and **5 ha in the Diawling National Park** in Mauritania;
- restoring protected areas of Togodo, Akissa, Nyamessiva and Gogjinn-Godjé forests in Togo;
- constructing a protective wall against coastal erosion of 0.565 km in Santa Catarina and a dike in the Ribeira Afonso River in Sao Tome and Principe;
- stabilizing and developing (dredging, reforestation and sand cordon) 0.70 km of the west bank of Gbékon in Benin;
- financing **32 IGAs²** carried out by the cooperatives for the benefit of **495 direct beneficiaries, 371** of whom are **women (75%)**.

In Cameroon, as part of the "Supporting landscape restoration and sustainable use of local plant species and tree products (Bambusa spp, Irvingia spp, etc.) for biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and emissions reduction in Cameroon", TRI Cameroon project, the executing agency (INBAR) accompanied the Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) in the development and validation of the National Strategic Framework for Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR). This strategy provides the broad guidelines for FLR in order to meet Cameroon's commitment **to restore 12 million hectares by 2030** (AFR100 and Bonn Challenge commitment).



Planting of propagules at the Bolol site, Guinea Bissau

² The areas covered by the IGAs financed are: organic market gardening, egg production, sheep and pig rearing, processing of palm nuts into red oil, production and marketing of rush, strengthening and extension of fish farming in ponds, installation of a unit for processing palm nuts into almonds and other derivatives, production and marketing of rice, processing of cassava into gari.

B. Promote and support effective and equitable governance of natural resources

Promotion and deployment of tools for protected area conservation

Through the BIOPAMA 2 project, **40 stakeholders** were trained on the Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) in Kigali, Rwanda. The beneficiaries were from **5 English-speaking West African countries** (Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone) and **23 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa** (ESARO region). They were equipped with the knowledge and skills to use the tool and disseminate it to their respective organisations for mass deployment of IMET assessments in protected and conserved area networks.

OFAC, the technical unit of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC), with the support of the BIOPAMA program, trained **25 coaches** from **9 countries**³ on updating their knowledge of IMET. The observatory was the main operator of the IMET campaigns which concerned **2 protected areas in Chad** (Manda National Park and Ouadi Rime-Ouadi Achim Wildlife Reserve); **2 protected areas in the Central African Republic** (Dzanga-Sangha National Park (with the contribution of WWF) and Chinko Nature Reserve). In total, **4 protected areas** have benefited from IMET data collection out of a total of **10 protected areas** planned for 2020 and the results of the analysis of the data collected will strengthen regional protected areas governance systems. In addition, capacity building of professionals from national PAs administrations and civil society representatives has been organized and followed by IMET data collection campaigns.



Participants in the training workshop on filling the tool IMET for the communal forest of Ngog-Mapubi and Dibang

IUCN has facilitated the generation of scientific information through the use of tools (the Red List of Threatened Species™, the Regional Natural Resource Governance Framework and the IMET) to influence decision-making in natural resource management and biodiversity conservation. The Union has developed and made available to stakeholders tools and guidance frameworks for the application of natural solutions and inclusive natural resource governance.

Thanks to the support of the BIOPAMA programme, the **10 COMIFAC countries**⁴ have up-to-date data in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). This information will be crucial for the definition of the post-2020 biodiversity agenda. Thus, **5 West African countries** (Guinea-Bissau, Niger, Togo, The Gambia and Ghana) have followed suit, while **8 others** (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire (classified forests), Mauritania, Nigeria, Benin, Senegal, Guinea and Mali) have begun exchanges with UNEP-WCMC.

³ Burundi, Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Guinea, etc.

⁴ Burundi, Cameroon, CAR, Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, and Sao Tome and Principe.

Review of 20 policy measures in 5 key sectors, including nature

In addition, IUCN organised an IMET campaign in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and in partnership with the N'Zérékore Forestry Center and the Guinean Office of Parks and Reserves in **13 protected areas in Guinea**⁵. The next step is to identify sites that are ready to embark on the Green List process and support them in achieving certification.

IUCN has signed a partnership agreement with the Observatory for Biodiversity and Protected Areas in West Africa (OBAPAO). This collaboration aims to support the organization in its mission to provide relevant and reliable information to support decision-making at local, national, regional and global levels.

The Union is committed to the promotion and evaluation of ecosystem accounts. Using the Ecosystem Accounting of Natural Capital (EANC) methodology, the implementing partner (VITO) has produced for the Foutah Djallon transboundary landscape ❶ the land cover account, ❷ the functional ecosystem infrastructure services account, and ❸ the ecosystem carbon account. These accounts are available and, once all the accounts have been validated, they will be disseminated and will constitute decision-making tools, particularly with regard to the definition of policies and investment priorities in the environmental field.

In Senegal, a tool to measure ([Tracker](#)) the government's commitment to a transition towards a green economy has been developed. This was done through a review of **20 policy measures in 5 key sectors**, including nature. The strong points noted concern the creation of green jobs within the framework of pro-poor policies (family grants) through a proactive effort by the State. The weak points remain the inclusion of natural capital in public accounting, the almost non-existence of a carbon market and green financing programmes.

A guide to mangrove soils in Guinea Bissau was produced for land agents in charge of rice field rehabilitation and mangrove conservation. It highlights the typology of mangrove soils in Guinea Bissau, the impact of climate change on soils, and the scientific and traditional methods of mangrove soil analysis. This guide provides knowledge for assessing soil quality and suitability for rice production and/or mangrove restoration.

Similarly, **a manual of the mangrove** in Guinea Bissau was produced. It provides a general picture of the mangrove ecosystem in this country and focuses on the vegetation, fauna, services provided, threats to the mangrove ecosystem. It also outlines solutions and best practices for the sustainability of mangrove ecosystems in Guinea Bissau.



Rehabilitation of rice fields in the Cadique Nalu site, Guinea Bissau

⁵ The Biosphere Reserve of the Upper Niger National Park, the Biosphere Reserve of the Badiar National Park, the Kankan Wildlife Reserve, the Biosphere Reserve of Ziama, the classified forest of Bero, the classified forests of Diécké, the classified forests of Diécké, Pic de Fonds, Bonama, the Biosphere Reserve of Mount Nimba, the Natural Reserve of Forokonia (Source of Niger), the Natural Reserve of Kounounkan, the Wildlife Sanctuary of the Loos Islands and the marine islands of Tristao

Support for climate resilience

A complete diagnosis of the Taamourt Naaj wetland in Mauritania has been carried out within the framework of the project "Improving the resilience to climate change of wetlands in Mauritania". This diagnosis highlights the various pressures and threats that weigh on this ecosystem and contains knowledge and information that have enabled an inventory of floral, aquatic and terrestrial faunal resources.

Cartographic and geomatic knowledge related to wetlands and mangroves has been applied in Guinea Bissau, within the framework of the implementation of the Rice and Mangrove Project. Through these, degraded sites in **3 regions** (Cacheu, Quinara and Tombali) were mapped and identified, and degraded and abandoned rice fields due to climate change and poor agricultural practices were confirmed with communities. In addition, this mapping



The Taamourt Naaj site in Mauritania

and geomatic knowledge was used to define and prioritise the restoration of rice fields and mangroves in each intervention site.

Promotion of natural resource governance frameworks

In Burkina Faso, IUCN piloted an Environmental and Social Management Framework and a Grievance Resolution and Complaints Mechanism as social and environmental safeguards in projects. This process led to the establishment of **32 communal cells** for the application of the tools. **Two case studies** were identified for the development of best practices in the implementation of environmental and social safeguard approaches and tools. The application of an environmental and social management framework involves the relevant stakeholders in natural resource management. It will enable local authorities to take into account the rights of all users in local and regional development plans.

In addition, IUCN has undertaken to strengthen the capacities of institutions involved in the management of rangelands and pastoral areas in Burkina Faso. This was done in order to involve the populations in the evaluation of the health status of these ecosystems, which are essential for the development of pastoral livestock in Burkina Faso and Niger. Within this framework, **19 institutions in Burkina Faso** and **12 in Niger** have been strengthened to undertake participatory, inclusive, effective and equitable decision-making. These institutions thus have better knowledge and skills to integrate the participatory evaluation methodology of rangelands and pastoral areas into the monitoring and evaluation of pastoral resources. By applying this participatory evaluation approach to grazing lands and rangelands, the rights of pastoralists and agro-pastoralists are taken into account in policies and investments for sustainable land management in order to promote equitable and sustainable economic development in Burkina Faso and Niger.

The TRI project supported the Ministry of Forests and Fauna (MINFOF) in Cameroon in the development and approval of the "Carnet de l'Agroforestier" (Agroforester's Notebook), which sets out the modalities for the creation and management of NTFP plantations. This legal instrument will be used by the forestry administration to register and monitor private NTFP plantations. It facilitates procedures for the exploitation, transportation and marketing of NTFPs from legally recognised plantations. Recognized ownership also attests to the effort and contribution of plantation owners to FLR, climate change mitigation, poverty reduction and food security in Cameroon.

In Guinea Bissau, as part of the implementation of the project "*Strengthening the capacities of actors and the legal-institutional framework for transparent, equitable and sustainable mining*", IUCN and its GTPIE partners have, during the launch of the project, informed, trained and sensitized **33 actors (20 men and 13 women)** from government and civil society on the legal and environmental instruments useful for good mining and extractive governance. In addition, **10 members of three platforms⁶** involved in the implementation of the project benefited from capacity building on the governance of mining and extractive resources.



Agroforestry, farmers in a learning plot, in the district of Kemena in Sierra Leone

⁶ Network of Women Leaders (REMUME), Working Group on Oil and Extractive Industries (WGEI) and Platform on Transparency and Good Governance in the Extractive Industries (PWYP)

C. Deploying Nature-based Solutions to societal challenges

Promoting Nature-based Solutions

The PPI.5 project conducted a diagnostic of the capacity building needs of the program's Partner CSOs in Central and West Africa. In total, **25 beneficiary CSOs** each have a capacity building plan based on their actual needs. Also, **8 beneficiary Partner CSOs** have improved their operational capacities on issues related to Nature-based Solutions through exchange trips.

In addition, specific technical and organizational support was provided to **3 PPI Central Africa Partner CSOs**, strengthening their capacity in strategic policy development, ecotourism and GIS. PPI.5 supported the joint organization of the Ordinary General Assembly of the Central African Network for the Conservation of Marine Turtles (RASTOMA) and the Constitutive Assembly of the West African Network for the Conservation of Marine Turtles (WATSCON). These meetings were an opportunity to share experiences and build synergies for more operational efficiency on the issue of marine turtle conservation.

Mechanisms to facilitate the active participation of local populations and in particular women and youth as key stakeholders in the design and implementation of nature-based solutions are identified and piloted in Burkina Faso. Indeed, IUCN has piloted a complaints and grievances management mechanism over the past 4 years. This mechanism, which is presented as an instrument for monitoring, maintaining peace and social cohesion, facilitates the active participation of populations. A draft version of a manual on the mechanism has been developed and disseminated to facilitate its appropriation.

Women from **10 communities** in Guinea Bissau (Elia, Bolol, Arame, Cadique lala, Cadique Mbitna, Cadique Maila, Caboxanque, Djabada Porto, Enxude and Djobel) were trained on the techniques of making solar salt and improved stoves. A total of **1,184 people were trained**, including **649 pupils, 265 women and 270 men**. The knowledge imparted and appropriated is aimed at building the capacity of communities in Nature-based Solutions for sustainable development of mangrove ecosystems.



Participants in the Ordinary General Assembly of RASTOMA and WATSCON, Lomé, Togo

One kilometer of coastal line has been protected within the Saint Louis MPA in Senegal by a sediment fixation device

For the purpose of rice field rehabilitation and mangrove restoration in Guinea Bissau, maps were produced from drone imagery using Ovital Map and Google Earth software. Communities in the Rice & Mangrove project sites benefited from new skills in deploying nature-based solutions. A total of **51 stoves are built** in the villages of Cadique Nalu, Cadique Maila and Caboxanque.

Still in Guinea Bissau, **205 people** were trained in the development of ecosystem services of mangrove habitats, with an emphasis on practical knowledge of development and conservation of fishery and non-timber forest products of mangrove ecosystems.

In collaboration with colleagues from the Global Ecosystem Management Programme, some sixty stakeholders in marine and coastal management in West Africa were trained on the Standard and its self-assessment tool. About twenty of them were accompanied by IUCN for an appropriation of the tool through the piloting of the Standard via its application to various Nature-based Solutions type interventions.

In addition, more than one kilometer of coastal line has been protected within the Saint Louis MPA in Senegal by a sediment fixation device to allow the restoration of the dune ridge. This device was manufactured locally from plant material derived from an invasive plant and the expertise to design and implement it is now acquired locally. This was achieved within the framework of the WACA FFEM project and with the expertise of the *Conservatoire français du Littoral* and the Association SAVE.



Training on the construction of improved stoves in the site of Cadique Maila, Guinea Bissau



Promoting innovative financing mechanisms for conservation

Mechanisms for financing improved stoves and materials for making solar salts for women in the Rice and Mangrove project intervention sites were discussed and validated. A total of **251 women took part** in these consultations. In return, the women committed to actively participate in the restoration of mangroves. In addition, the possibilities of financing income-generating activities with a low impact on the ecosystems were discussed and adopted in each intervention site.



Consultation with the women of Djobel on Solutions Nature Based (SFN), Guinea Bissau

In Burkina Faso, the financial and technical support provided to **85 micro-projects** has helped reverse the process of land and forest degradation through the application of technology packages including water and soil conservation and soil defense and restoration (CES/DRS), stone barriers, bunds, manure pits, and the demarcation and marking of forests with land charters.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Green Climate Fund (GCF) portfolios are growing in the region. During the 58th and 59th BOARD meetings, **3 new projects** were approved by the GEF, 2 for Guinea Bissau and 1 for Mauritania for a **total budget of \$16,717,033**. This brings the funding of this mechanism to a total of over **\$35 million** for PACO. In addition, **4 project concepts** are under discussion with the GCF for Cameroon, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania and the DRC.

In addition, **10 PACO countries** have endorsed the initiative to set up a Climate Fund – SnCF (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo). This fund aims to invest in infrastructure projects with a high social and environmental impact for the benefit of local authorities (waste management, water and sanitation, decentralized production of renewable energy, energy efficiency). It is a multi-partner initiative financed by the GCF, private sector companies (*Pegasus Capital*, BNP Paribas) and international NGOs (R20 – Regions of Climate Action, Gold Standard).

PACO has signed **13 grants** to support conservation in **3 Central African countries** (Burundi, Congo and Cameroon) and **6 West African countries** (Senegal, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Benin) through the BIOPAMA programme for a **total budget of 2,911,691 Euros**.

85 micro-projects has helped reverse the process of land and forest degradation



CADEPI Bamboo Nursery in Aïssa-Hardé village, Cameroon

Effective management of marine landscapes and their watersheds

To illustrate best practices of nature-based solutions, the TRI Cameroon project conducted **restoration activities in 3 of the 4 project sites**. Bamboo and NTFP nurseries were established. In total, **4 nurseries were established**, with **at least 18,000 pots installed**, including **6,000 bamboo plants**. In addition, **50 ha** of land were obtained through the negotiation and signing of contracts with local stakeholders who voluntarily agreed to participate in the project by offering land for NTFP and bamboo plantations. To help local communities establish plantations, the project has also built **7 nurseries** across the implementation areas. More than **75,000 seedlings** have already been produced and **140 farmers trained** in agroforestry techniques.

The GEF-funded project "Restoration of Ecological Corridors in West Mayo-Kebbi in Chad (RECONNECT Project)" has contributed to landscape restoration through capacity building and awareness raising on best practices for sustainable land and landscape management. Thus:

- **1,045 rural people** in Mayo Kebbi West in Chad through village meetings and radio broadcasts;

- **25 transhumant herders** of Mayo Kebbi West in Chad on best practices, issues related to the proper use of pastoral areas around protected areas;
- State and non-state actors from the Mayo Kebbi West province in Chad on the co-management of the fisheries of lakes Léré and Tréné, Soil Defense and Restoration (DRS), bush fires and on Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP), during **4 training sessions**.

The project aims to improve the sustainable management of natural resources and forest resources in particular, in order to reduce CO₂ emissions and maintain ecosystem services.

In Guinea Bissau, **43,723 ha of mangroves** were restored using the assisted natural regeneration method and the traditional approach of planting propagules directly. **36.42 ha of mangrove** were planted in the north and **7,303 ha planted** in the southern part.



COMMISSION MEMBERS AND EXPERTS

PACO had a **net increase of new 8 Members**

from 2019, including 1 Member in Europe, but who explicitly chose to belong to the PACO region:

- Senegal:

- Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas in West Africa (RAMPAO);
- Regional Partnership for Coastal and Marine Conservation in West Africa (PRCM).

- Cameroon:

- Organization for Nature, Environment and Development of Cameroon (ONED);
- African Marine Mammal Conservation Organization (AMMCO);

- National Platform of Agro-Sylvo-Pastoral and Fisheries Organizations of Cameroon (PLANOPAC).

- Cape Verde :

- Associação para a Defesa do Ambiente e Desenvolvimento (ADA).

- DRC :

- Mbou-Mon-Tour (MMT);
- ULB-Cooperation, Belgium.

Thus, the total number of Members in the region increases to **107 Members** structured in:

- 7 National Committees

(Cameroon, Congo, Guinea Bissau, Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Benin); and

- 1 Regional Committee

of Members in Central and West Africa (CREMACO).

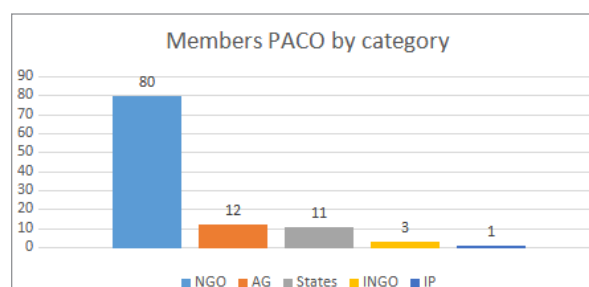


Figure 2: Distribution of Members by category

The **6 Commissions** are all represented by experts within PACO. For this year, the figures have remained stable, with **701 Members** (613 without duplication) distributed as shown in Figure 3.

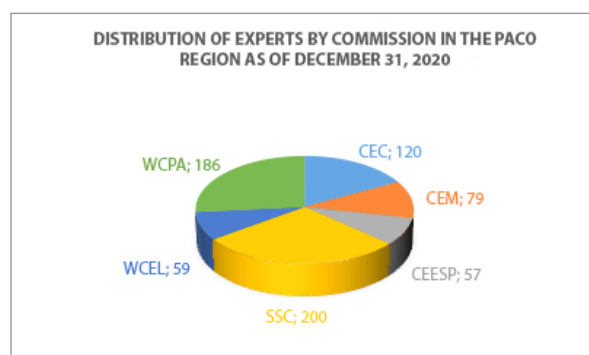


Figure 3: Breakdown of experts from IUCN Commissions in the region

INVOLVEMENT OF MEMBERS AND COMMISSIONS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME

In order to promote the IUCN One Programme approach, PACO engages with its Members and experts from the six IUCN Commissions, either through their involvement in project development and implementation or through various technical collaborations:

- The UNCCD-funded call for projects, which includes two civil society members in Burkina Faso and Ghana (ASUDEC and A Rocha) and three Member States (Burkina Faso, Ghana and Niger).
- In Chad, the project team is working with a member of the Species Survival Commission to identify and assess critical forest blocks.
- In Cameroon and Guinea-Bissau, GEF6-TRI projects continue to work with IUCN members (MINEPDED, IBAP, GPC, Palmerinha, AD, Tiniguena, DGFF, INEP, DGA, CEW, FODER, and WCS) who are executing agents or implementing partners for these projects.
- The WACA project collaborated with the Union Commissions (CEESP, CEM and SSC) to develop a concept note to support in-country activities on mangrove restoration, Nature-based Solutions and community-based income-generating activities.
- The Governments of Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire, Members of IUCN, are contributing to the implementation of the GEF Mano Project.
- Through the ORLOA implementation contract for WACA ResIP and technical assistance in the implementation of the WACA/FFEM project, PACO works closely with CSE, IUCN Member.
- The *Stabilizing Land Use* Project, implemented in Ghana and DRC in collaboration with a Member (A Rocha Ghana). This Member participated in the assessment of data for the initiation of the ROAM study and contributed to the development and signing of an implementation agreement for the Wood Energy Value Chain Project.
- Concept proposal presented to IKI/BMU by PRCM and RAMPPO (IUCN Members) with support from MACO on the role of MPAs in fisheries and climate change management.
- The Green Connexion Association has been under contract since 2019 with IUCN to establish the conservation status of a portion of West Africa's freshwater aquatic plants. This work has resulted in the change of status of **132 species in the Red List**. This work is done with the help of Dr. Ghogue Jean Paul, member of the Species Survival Commission.
- The Burkina Faso programme has strengthened the capacity of the state (Member of IUCN) through its Green Climate Fund Executive Secretariat, SP/CNDD, in the formulation, planning and monitoring and evaluation of GEF and GCF projects.
- The Burkina programme has supported the Burkinabe government in the implementation of the REDD+ process and the Forest Investment Program, as a member of the monitoring committees of both actions undertaken by the government of Burkina.

- IUCN has developed a joint advocacy review with Members (Naturama and AGEREF/CL) on the corridors supported by the SRJS project.
- The Members (AAAC, AD, DGFF, KAFO, IBAP, Nantignan, Palmerinha, GPC, Tiniguena) have participated in the elaboration of the project *Strengthening of the capacities of the actors and the legal-institutional framework for a transparent, equitable and sustainable mining* which is submitted to the partner SWISSAID. The project is validated and financed for a period of four years, including a first phase of two years.
- In Guinea Bissau, the Members (IBAP, AAAC, AD, GPC, DGFF) have participated, within the framework of GEF 7, in the development of two validated FIPs: ❶ *Strengthening ecological connectivity in the Dulombi-Boé Tchetché complex (DTB)*, ❷ *Integrated Natural and Water Resources Management Project in the Corubal River Basin*.
- Also in Guinea Bissau, Members took part in the consultation process and the development of the PRODOC of the project *Strengthening ecological connectivity in the Dulombi-Boé Tchetché complex (DTB)*.
- Finally, in Guinea Bissau, Members and other partners launched the national platform of mangrove stakeholders grouped around 9 mangrove ecosystem management projects (PADES, Ilandá Guiné Arrus, Arroz & Mangal, DEDURAM, PGFM, GCCA, CORUBAL, COASTAL, PPOFJ). IUCN celebrated World Wetlands Day 2020 with the Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) on the theme "Wetlands and Biodiversity".
- IUCN in collaboration with the State of Senegal and the SSC, Members of IUCN, is implementing the BIODEV 2030 project which supports **16 pilot countries** in adopting and sustaining sectoral commitments to halt the decline of biodiversity and its consequences over the next decade.
- Signed a contract with CSE to co-execute the PRECORTES, funded by the Green Climate Fund, 7 years after its approval (in November 2015) and recruited the project manager.
- Granting of subsidies to the PRCM and RAMPAO in the framework of the implementation of the Regional Governance of Protected Areas project with a view to strengthening these regional mechanisms for conservation and sustainable management of natural resources.
- The Regional Governance Project collaborates with the IUCN Species Survival Commission's Conservation and Translocation Specialist Group experts on grants to *ex situ* conservation centers and doctoral research projects.
- MACO, in collaboration with GMPP, drafted a project to combat plastic pollution in Senegal. The contract was signed in September 2020, and is funded by the US State Department.
- MACO, in collaboration with the Global Marine and Polar Programme, drafted a project to combat plastic pollution in Senegal. The contract was signed in September 2020, and is funded with US\$180,000 from the US State Department.
- Collaboration between IUCN, CAFER (IUCN Member) and ICRAFT in the implementation of the DRYAD project. In collaboration with IUCN Member A Rocha, technical expertise was provided to the Business Environmental Stewardship Network (BESNet) in Ghana on "Introduction to Natural Capital - What is the relationship between business and nature in Ghana".
- Collaboration between IUCN, the Species Survival Commission (SSC) and IUCN Member Nigerian Conservation Foundation for capacity building on freshwater Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) in **6 PACO countries** (Cameroon, Nigeria, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone).

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

PACO Regional Coordination Meeting

Held online from March 23 to 26, 2020, the meeting was honored by the intervention of Dr. Grethel Aguilar, the Acting Director General of IUCN who encouraged the PACO team. Several points were addressed during this tele-meeting: to take stock of the implementation of the PACO portfolio in 2019; to present the major initiatives in order to identify the possibilities of synergy; and to exchange on the global health situation in order to minimize the impact on the implementation of activities. The PACO Regional Director encouraged all teams to take up the challenge of continuing to implement activities in this context. It was also an opportunity to identify bottlenecks and propose solutions so that PACO can achieve its annual objectives and results for the ongoing year 2020.

Closing workshop of the WABICC project

It was held from January 23 to 24, 2020 in Accra, Ghana. This workshop was marked by the graduation of 14 Master students. It highlighted the substantial contribution of this training in improving both the operational capacities of the trainees and their ability to influence national policies related to CITES and environmental crime laws.

1st session of the Regional Monitoring Committee (CdS-R) of the PAPBio program

This virtual meeting was organized by the Regional Governance in Central and West Africa project and was held on November 25, 2020. It allowed to effectively report on the status of implementation of grants awarded to operators under the PAPBio. A total of 8 grants were awarded to various operators or groups of operators. The CdS-R was followed on November 26, 2020 by a coordination meeting of the operators implementing the PAPBio. This was an opportunity to build the necessary synergies to facilitate networking of these operators in the implementation of the PAPBio.

African Green Economy Forum

In June 2020, a virtual conference was held to discuss strategies developed to lead the transition towards a green and equitable economy on the continent. As a panelist during Session 6 entitled "Data for decision-making", the Protected Areas Program Coordinator, representing IUCN, presented the work that PACO is doing in West Africa to generate reliable data through initiatives to develop environmental accounts using the Ecosystem Accounting for Natural Capital (EANC) method and to assess the effectiveness of protected area and other ecosystem management.

World Wildlife Day 2020

Held on March 3, 2020 at the Shai Hills Resource Reserve in the Greater Accra Region under the theme "Sustaining All Life on Earth" to help put biodiversity at the forefront of the sustainable development agenda and mark 2020 as the "Super Year of Biodiversity". This includes all wild animals and plant species as a component of biodiversity with a focus on the livelihoods of local people and highlighting the importance of sustainable use of natural resources to achieve SDGs 1, 12, 14 and 15.

Training on the environmental management of oil and gas activities

From November 25 to 28, 2020 at the IBAP Headquarters in Bissau, IUCN Guinea-Bissau actively participated in the training on the environmental management of offshore oil and gas activities. The regional initiative, led by the PRCM, aims to prepare and equip actors for an economic oil exploitation that is profitable for the different countries⁷ and environmentally clean and sustainable. 36 participants from different civil society organizations and state institutions were trained. Within the framework of IUCN's activities and interventions in Guinea Bissau, this training is fully complementary to the initiatives and activities of the GTPIE, particularly in terms of capacity building in the governance of the mining sectors.

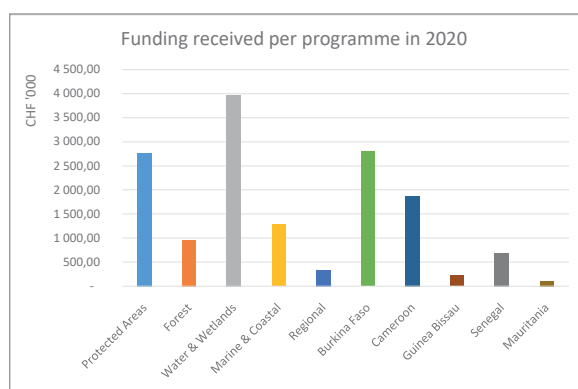
Presentation of the national strategy to combat wildlife crime

On October 30, 2020, the Minister of Forestry and Wildlife of Cameroon presented the national strategy to combat poaching and wildlife crime to technical and financial partners. This strategy aims to eradicate all forms of threats to the wildlife heritage of Cameroon. The Minister took the opportunity to call on all partners to support the Ministry in the implementation of this strategy. The activity was financed by IUCN as part of its collaboration with ARCUS. Indeed, IUCN accompanied the Ministry as a lead of the partners for the revision of this strategy whose process started in 2018.

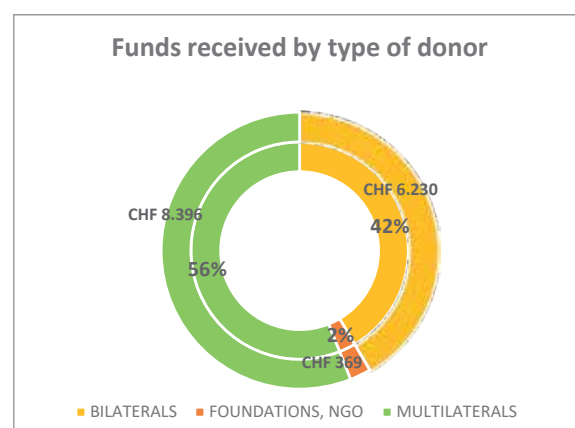
⁷ Mauritania, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone and Senegal

FINANCIAL SITUATION

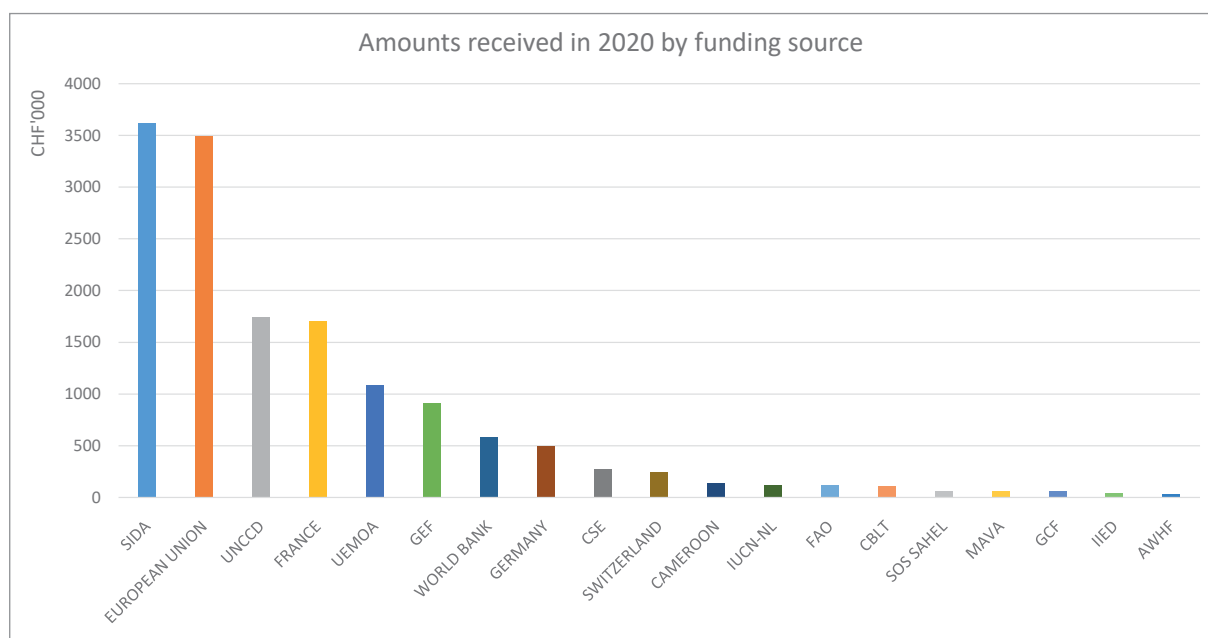
For the projects in our region, a total funding of about **CHF 15 million** was received in 2020, either directly from donors or through our headquarters; of which 62% for the regional thematic programmes and 38% for country programmes.



Compared to the previous year, there is a significant increase in projects funded by bilateral donors, from 18% to 42%, mainly due to a new project funded by the Swedish agency SIDA. PACO also continues to receive funds through our partners: from the World Bank via UEMOA, from the European Union via the LCBC and SOS Sahel, from the Green Climate Fund via the CSE and from USAID via Tetra Tech ARD.



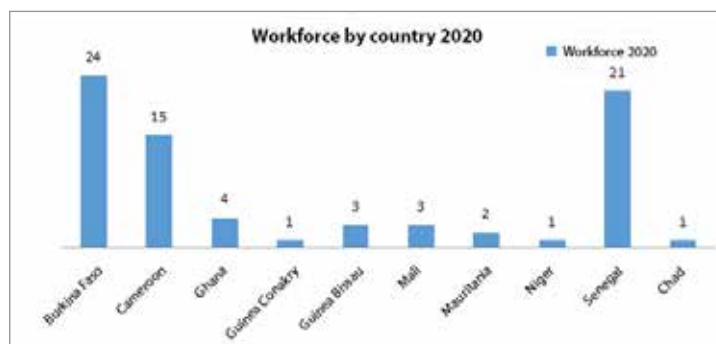
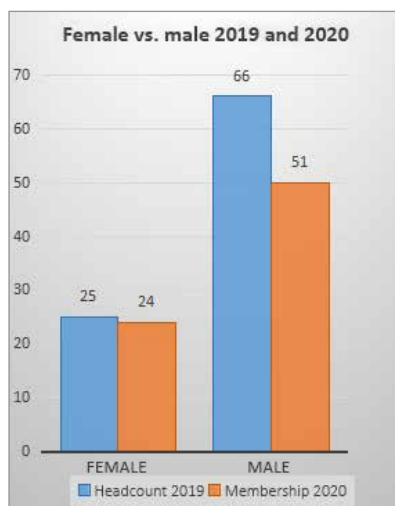
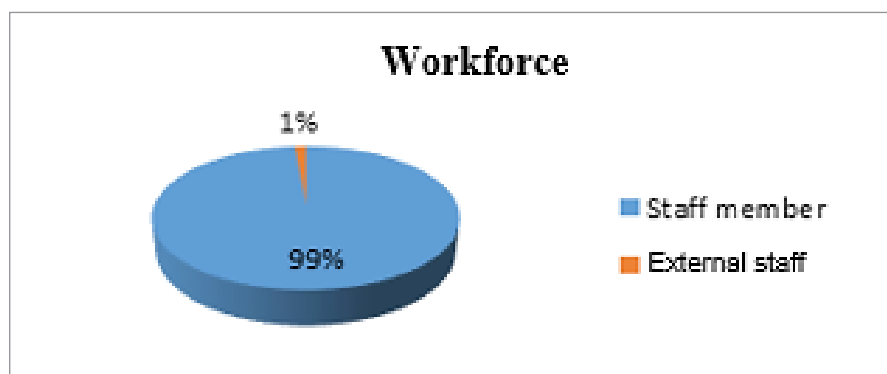
The sources of funding remain quite diverse and consist of above twenty donors. Note the very substantial new funding provided by SIDA and the UNCCD.



HUMAN RESOURCES

Total headcount 2020

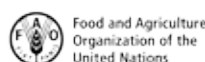
Category	Male		Female		Total
Staff Member	51	68.5%	23	31.5%	74
External staff	0	00.0%	1	100.00%	1
Total	51	67.6%	24	32.4%	75



Despite the decline in workforce between 2019 and 2020, the % of women remained more or less stable.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

IUCN-PACO is grateful to the various financial and technical partners support received in the implementation of its programme. The Union wishes to thank them for their multiform support:



PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER PRODUCTS

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 - English: <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/49032>
 - French: <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/49033>
- > Howard, P. C. and Bertzky, B. (2020). *Natural World Heritage in Africa: Progress and prospects*. BIOPAMA Programme, IUCN Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa (ESARO), Nairobi, Kenya and IUCN Regional Office for West and Central Africa (PACO), Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.
 - English: <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/49029>
 - French: <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/49059>
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- > Policy Brief: Integrating Climate Change into the School Curriculum in Chad. (French). <https://bit.ly/3eyh2R4>
- > Forest Brief N° 27, May 2020: <https://bit.ly/31iJgeO>
- > Documentary of capitalisation of the GCCA project: "projet UICN/AMCC : adaptation aux changements climatiques au Tchad" : <https://youtu.be/O--aANhXDVk>
- > Forest Brief 'A Seat for Everyone at the Table For Sustainable Natural Resource Management in Ghana' <https://www.iucn.org/theme/forests/resources/forest-briefs>
- > <https://www.iucn.org/news/forets/202005/renaissance-a-protected-area-democratic-republic-congo>
- > <https://www.iucn.org/fr/news/forets/202005/renaissance-dune-aire-protegee-en-republique-democratique-du-congo>
- > ORLOA Liaison Bulletins: <https://www.orloa.net/> (French)
- > Interview on soft solutions in St Louis: http://www.newspress.fr/Communique_FR_313386_4139.aspx (French)



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