The designation of geographical entities in this publication, and the presentation of the material, do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IUCN concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.
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At IUCN, we believe in a just world that values and conserves nature! This belief underpins our commitment to people and nature for sustainability. Like other parts of the world, the region of Eastern and Southern Africa struggles with her fair share of the global crisis presented in various of climate change impacts, biodiversity loss and pollution amidst biting poverty, inequality and dysfunctional governance. All this at the backdrop of the impacts of COVID-19 that have disrupted entire economies and magnified disparities in the social order.

Faced with this unprecedented and complex reality, IUCN in coordination with its Members and Commissions refashioned its programme approach through a business continuity plan to adjust to the ‘new normal’. This report showcases the achievements that we jointly delivered for the concluded performance period. Key among them include: Africa’s strong participation at the IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) in France and dedication to advance crucial multi-lateral environmental agreements and conventions. The WCC set forth the vision and pathway for global conservation into 2030. This One Programme Approach will be deployed to implement the Regional Implementation Plan and the IUCN Operational plan for 2021–2024 respectively through involving all IUCN constituencies and partners. IUCN’s new President, Director General and Regional Councilors were unveiled at the auspicious event.

Recognizing the urgency of action and the call to balance between normative planning and concrete delivery, the report illustrates connection of IUCN’s science, policy and practice approach to inspire change and deliver on transformational impacts for people and nature. As you will read in the subsequent pages, the deployment of globally acclaimed conservation tools and standards including the Green List of Protected Areas, ROAM assessments, Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) target settings and Nature-based Solutions (NbS) framework have resulted in huge conservation milestones for the region. The outcomes and results identified herein build momentum towards the realization of the region’s agenda including the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030, 30 by 30 Western Indian Ocean conservation, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and attendant national determined contributions, and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework focus.

As we welcome the year 2022 there is cause for optimism for the region. The revamped scope and ambition of the regional programme is inspiring and the opportunities vast. We are on the fast track to implementing the first ever Africa Protected Areas Congress (APAC) to be held in Kigali, Rwanda. Moreover, our growth in programme reflects our commitment to transformational change for both people and nature. In tandem, our staff, partner network and geographic footprint continues to expand. We at IUCN ESARO look forward to continued collaboration with our Members, experts, National Committees and partners for greater impact in society and the environment!

Mr. Luther Anukur
Regional Director
“The time to invest in nature is now. Investment in nature is good investment - it pays off in the short and long-term.”

— Dr Bruno Oberle, IUCN Director General
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

IUCN and its Members are scaling up and expanding investments and efforts aimed at safeguarding the current and future health, productivity and resilience of the region’s landscapes, waters and seascapes.

ESARO is responsible for the delivery of the global 2021–2024 intersessional plan through a region strategic approach that is built upon a coherent set of priority thematic areas and the attendant crosscutting elements that was approved by Members and confirmed at the WCC in 2021. Building on the global framework, ESARO has distilled the priorities into three aspirational thematic areas namely: land systems, coastal and ocean resilience and integrated water resources management and the attendant crosscutting aspects of biodiversity, climate change, gender and youth. The key performance highlights for 2021 for the programme was as follows:

**Land systems management:** Two large landscape programmes were launched: the ‘Towards Ending Drought Emergencies’ (TWENDE) programme in Kenya US$ 33 million and ‘Transforming Eastern Province through adaptation’ (TREPA) in Rwanda US$ 49.6 million both programmes engaged in start-up activities. The REPLAP project, funded by ADA, established community nurseries with over 340,000 seedlings managed by district focal points and nursery committees. The construction of the shea production center scaled up the capacity to 5 tons, serving 250 community members. The National Bonn Challenge Barometer for Ethiopia, funded via IKI, was completed. In Rwanda, 194 Members formed Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) to strengthen agricultural supply chains.

**Coastal and ocean resilience:** The Great Blue Wall (GBW) initiative launched in November 2021 aimed at catalysing local action at scale to develop the blue economy and address challenges of climate and biodiversity loss. Funded by Sida, the Regional Circular Plastic Economy Innovation Lab (CPEIL) was established to facilitate accelerating plastic economy as a driver of development of sustainable, inclusive and resilient blue economy. National hot spotting methodology trainings were implemented in Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, and South Africa. Under the Coastal Resilience to Climate Change seven locally managed marine areas covering a total of 1,034 km² were assessed, mapped and approved by communities. These areas embed no-take reserves that function as protected areas for coral reefs, sea grass beds, sand dunes and mangroves. The Locally Empowered Area Protection (LEAP) project enhanced management effectiveness of seven locally managed marine areas with combined target area of over 90km2.

**Integrated water resources management:** With funding from SDC, the Pungwe/Buzi/Save Basin transboundary tri-basin agreement was completed and ratified by Zimbabwe and Mozambique. In Rwanda, a comprehensive assessment was conducted of the water monitoring infrastructure in the Sebeya river catchment with support from DGIS.

**Biodiversity:** The KfW supported SADC Transfrontier Conservation Areas Financing Facility (TFCA FF) launched its first call for concepts for conservation. Through USAID/EA project, IUCN developed an Eastern Africa Trade in Wildlife Information eXchange (Eastern Africa-TWIX) and bushmeat Monitoring data for TRAFFIC’s wildlife trade information system (WiTIS). An anti-poaching tracking tool for the EAC partner states developed by RCMRD was rolled out in the six partner states. The first national workshop on the IUCN Green List was held in Mozambique, Seychelles, Kenya and Tanzania. The AFD funded BIODEV supported the development of a Biodiversity State Trend and Threat Assessment Report was developed for Mozambique. Under the EU BIOPAMA project, 14 countries updated their data in the Regional Reference Information Systems (RRIS). A total of 42 new organisations from other sectors benefited from capacity development. First SOPACA completed. Under EU funded ‘Save Our Species’, a total of 13 projects commenced work on mitigating human carnivore conflict in the region.

A remarkable growth in the programme was registered, with five new grant agreements totalling over US$ 84 million signed with various multilateral and bilateral development partners. Summarised as follows: SADC TFCA facility with KfW €13 million (which included €11 million for the financing facility and another €2 million for Zambian window); Rwanda GCG TREPA US$ 49.6 million; Kenya GEF 7 SFM$ 5.9 million; South Africa GEF 7 SLM$ 3.6 million; GEF 6 PUBUSA basin US$ 6 million; SUSTAIN 2 Tanzania/Mozambique US$ 6 million; Tanzania Seascape with Irish Embassy €400k.

Membership and constituency development grew impressively. A total of 7 New Members were approved by the IUCN Council.
This is the decade for our planet, the decade for action. It’s the totality of life that inspires us.

Razan Al Mubarak, President of IUCN (at IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille)
For over 70 years, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, IUCN, as a membership Union, has worked towards a sustainable future for people and nature. Our vision guides us: a just world that values and conserves nature. Drawing on a large and diverse membership, and thousands of IUCN Commission volunteer experts with global reach, IUCN is focused on the crucial mission of safeguarding our natural world and rebuilding a healthy and equitable planet for people and nature.

In 2021, IUCN Members approved the 2021–2024 IUCN Programme, Nature 2030. For the first time, the IUCN Programme sets its ambition in a ten-year time frame, from 2021 to 2030. Aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, Nature 2030 calls upon the entire Union to mobilise to fulfil its ambition.
IUCN covers 24 geographically connected countries in Eastern and Southern Africa and implements its Programme through the Regional Office in Nairobi, Kenya and seven country offices (Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe), with a dedicated team of technical experts and a strong Cooperate Services Department.

FIVE PROGRAMME AREAS

PEOPLE

Intact landscapes are protected while sustainable use balances the needs of people and nature on production and urban land.

LAND

Biodiversity is nurtured in harmony with human well-being, based on the principles of equity, equality and justice.

WATER

Freshwater systems support and sustain biodiversity and human needs.

CLIMATE

Global temperature rise is limited to 1.5°C through ambitious mitigation measures, alongside effective adaptation.

OCEAN

Stronger legal frameworks and investment in biodiversity restoration ensure a healthy ocean supporting nature and people.

ESARO STRATEGIC PROGRAMME FOCUS:

Key themes:
• Land systems management
• Integrated water resources management
• Coastal and ocean resilience

Cross-cutting integration:
• Biodiversity
• Climate change
• Gender & youth
IUCN ESARO MEMBERSHIP BY CATEGORY

Encompassing governments and civil society organisations, IUCN’s diverse membership helps drive its mission of informing and empowering global conservation efforts.

- **105** Members organisations in **19** countries
- **78** National Non-governmental organisations
- **8** Government Agencies
- **1** Indigenous Peoples Organisation
- **8** State Members
- **2** Affiliate Members
- **1** Regional Committees
- **7** National Committees

Over **1,400** Experts in **6** Commissions
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The world’s largest and most inclusive environmental decision-making forum, the IUCN World Conservation Congress, was held from 3 to 11 September 2021 in Marseille, France. It brought together experts and leaders from national and subnational governments, civil society, indigenous peoples’ organisations and business, along with youth representatives, to tackle the world’s most pressing environmental and sustainability issues. The decisions taken at the IUCN Congress will guide humanity’s relationship with our planet for decades to come.

**MAIN OUTCOMES**

The IUCN Congress adopted a series of resolutions, commitments and actions, of which the most significant are captured in the Marseille Manifesto (https://www.iucncongress2020.org/programme/marseille-manifesto). It urges governments to implement a nature-based recovery from the pandemic, investing at least 10% of global recovery funds in nature, and to urgently address the climate and biodiversity emergencies, recognizing these are two sides of the same crisis. The Manifesto commits to inclusivity for all stakeholders, encouraging global cooperation as well as local action.

**Nature-based recovery:** To drive a post-COVID recovery based on nature, IUCN Members approved resolutions aimed at incorporating biodiversity conservation into economic and financial systems, strengthening the call to invest in nature.

**Biodiversity post-2020:** To halt global biodiversity loss, elevating the ambition of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP15 meetings, IUCN Members called for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to set concrete, measurable action targets and to protect 30% of the planet by 2030.

**Climate change:** Recognising that nature must play a significant role in climate change mitigation and adaptation, the IUCN Congress gave rise to concrete actions on nature-based solutions and protecting and restoring forests, coastlines and other ecosystems.

**Indigenous peoples’ voices:** The engagement of indigenous peoples’ organisations in Marseille resulted in ground-breaking decisions on the protection of the Amazon and the first ever self-determined global strategy for the governance of indigenous territories.
Caring for nature and biodiversity is our ethical duty, not just a scope of work. We need to accept in our core the contribution of nature to humanity. It is our duty to fight for nature, not only because of what it does for us, but for its own sake, its own intrinsic value.

— H.E. Razan Mubarak, IUCN President
SCALING UP REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE AND RESTORING FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS

UGANDA

In Murchison Falls Landscape IUCN supported empower communities for sustainable alternative Livelihoods and Ecosystem Conservation. Working under the COVID-19 situation, we worked with 612 community members in the five districts. They adopted agricultural land use practices with communities doing commercial maize growing, 133 households planting 1,900 organic fruit seedling. In Northern Uganda, the resilience for people and landscape project restored 550 ha of degraded lands.

RWANDA

IUCN together with ICRAF and the University of Gent analyzed agroforestry systems in the Eastern Province of Rwanda and the periphery of Kigali city under the EU funded DeSIRA project. Research results address the knowledge gaps in the impact of trees on soil ecosystems and crop productivity in farmers’ fields. Under the AREECA programme in collaboration with the Rwanda Forestry Authority the project restored 1,263 ha of degraded land; the EWMR project completed the development of over 100 Village Land Use Actions Plans (VLUAPs) and implementation commenced in over 25 villages;
TANZANIA

Studies on risks in the sugar cane supply chain and on the drivers of deforestation and degradation in the Kilombero landscape informed a deforestation-free supply expansion programme. Pilot of the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SACGOT) Inclusive Green Growth Toolkits for Medium and Large Enterprise was launched. The mobilize implementation of integrated options for climate smart agriculture (CSA) program, including agrobiodiversity-based solutions, soil fertility management, agroforestry and conservation agriculture (10,000 ha) under the GEF 6 restoration initiative. IUCN and CEOrt developed the Sustainable Finance Principles (SFP) for Tanzania in close dialogue with CEOrt banking and finance sector members as well as the Tanzania Bankers Association (TBA). The principles prioritize environmental and social sustainability, with the aim of strengthening and expanding sustainable business opportunities in Tanzania.

KENYA

In the drylands of northern Kenya, IUCN successfully mapped and opened ten watering corridors (8 in Garissa county and 2 in Tana river county). Delineation of these watering corridors for livestock/wildlife access to river water and pastures/fodder reserves is contributing to reduction of conflict between pastoralists and crop farmers, while ensuring sustainable utilization during dry seasons in Kenya.

IUCN developed one sub-catchment management plan for Shembirey WRUA with the aim of conserving the sub catchment as well as using the plan to source for funding from development partners. Established four community nurseries each with capacity of 100,000 seedlings for use in restoration of degraded landscapes.

The GCF funded TWENDE project reviewed its Environmental and Social Management Framework, produced a revised ESMF document and an ESMF ready-to-use manual and trained implementing partner staff on operationalization of the ESMF framework and tools.
An Expert Assessment Group for the Green List was established and four sites (North Luangwa National Park, Kafue National Park, Bangweulu Game Management Area and Simalaha Community Conservancy) were selected for Green Listing.

To combat the Impacts of COVID-19 on Bushmeat, Ivory Poaching, and Human-Wildlife Conflict covered a total of 48,155km in foot patrols (32% increase).

The country formally joined the Green List and nominated five sites for the Green List (Bwabwata National Park; Mudumu National Park; Nkasa Rupara National Park; Khaudum National Park and Mangetti National Park) and agreed on a roadmap for the Green List.

The Save the Rhino Trust upgraded the facilities and equipment for their rangers in the field, making the patrols much more efficient. This in turn is ensuring that the free roaming rhino population in the Kunene and Erongo regions is thriving, with no poaching incidents noted in the past 12 months.

An emergency action project helped to address COVID-19 related threats to the survival of mountain gorillas in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park (BINP) through production of a comparative viral pathogen profile of 44% (200/459) of the current Bwindi mountain gorilla population. At least 90% of park rangers, households and Gorilla guardians have the knowledge base and skills to prevent cross species disease transmission around BINP. Upto 5,926 households were sensitized on COVID-19 prevention and control, gorilla protection and forest conservation at least once in every quarter, reaching 31,006 people around BINP. In addition, 425 additional coffee farmers were trained in Gorilla Conservation Coffee through 25 model farmers reaching the set target by increasing the number of farmers from 75 to 500. In the degraded chimpanzee corridors around Kyabigambire sub-county, Hoima 60 community members have planted 1,900 organic fruit seedlings 2,800 organic woodlot trees species to restore connectivity.
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The Seychelles Island Foundation trained and equipped staff members that monitor all incoming goods before they get to the islands to ensure that no invasive species invade the islands. This is making a significant contribution to securing the local fauna and flora on these islands.

50 local community members (of which about half are women) were employed as community rangers, bringing much needed income to communities surrounding the Rugezi Marsh. In addition, pressure on the marsh through grazing of cattle has been reduced, due to extensive awareness programme.

Ol Pejeta (KE) provided a much more professional engagement to their visitors in the new Visitors Centre. In addition, their protection efforts for the area have been significantly improved through a migration to digital monitoring systems that makes real time data available and allows immediate response to incursions as well as the presence of wildlife in communities and possible human wildlife conflict.

Mondrian Reserve set up a monitoring system for endemic plant species and developed a specific management plan, ensuring the long-term survival of these endemic plant species in the reserve.

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MAIN OUTCOMES

To address illegal wildlife trade, the CONNECT project - funded by USAID - successfully launched the East Africa Association of Prosecutors website. The project monitored the poaching and trade in bushmeat at selected sites in Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya. CONNECT also completed an important assessment of “The role of seaports in the illegal wildlife trade: a focus on East Africa”.

BIOPAMA and global IUCN supported the improvement of governance and management effectiveness in protected and conserved areas across the region through capacity development. IUCN also supported sites and countries in the region to assess management effectiveness and governance and identify priorities for actions. The Blue Planet Hub was developed with a focus on the marine environment but also drawing on the information systems developed through BIOPAMA.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION POLICIES AND FRAMEWORK STANDARDS

Together with UNEP-WCMC, WCPA and other partners, IUCN ESARO engaged with government and civil society actors in Kenya and Namibia by providing technical guidance and support on other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) that will support the region to implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

IUCN Members and Commissions, with technical support from the Species Survival Commission (SSC) and the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group, held virtual consultation on the implementation of IUCN Resolution 076 WCC-2020-Res-076-EN Building and strengthening wildlife economies in Eastern and Southern Africa (https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/49215).

SADC and IUCN convened a virtual consultation with the SADC Region on implementing Ministerial Decision 7.2.1.7 urging SADC report on the implementation of “Local Communities First Line of Defence in Combatting Wildlife Crime (FLoD)” Guidelines as a tool to promote community engagement in management of natural resources”.

The EAC Transboundary Wildlife Conservation Areas Working Group validated and endorsed a concept note for the establishment of an EAC Transboundary Wildlife Conservation Areas Network. A policy brief was introduced on Building Forward Better towards a Carbon Neutral and Equitable Nature Positive East Africa.

IUCN in collaboration with the Natural Capital Coalition held a series of webinars on natural capital for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises and local communities dubbed “Valuing Natural Capital & Local Communities for Business in Eastern & Southern Africa”. This culminated in a number of recommendations and decisions including the establishment of a Natural Capital Hub for the EAC region.

The Eastern Africa Trade in Wildlife Information eXchange (TWIX) website was launched. This website contains a centralized database of wildlife seizures carried out in participating countries. TWIX training for 38 law enforcement officials from Kenya and Uganda strengthened the use of the Eastern Africa-TWIX platform.

IUCN supported the improvement of governance and management effectiveness in PCAs across the region (in support of Aichi Target 11 and the new proposed Target 1 in the GBF) – through capacity development on the governance framework and practical tools to support improved governance as well as on the use of assessment tools such as IMET.

The Regional Resource Hub, hosted by the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) and supported by EU funded BIOPAMA project, made great advances in 2021 in developing a network of stakeholders that contributes and uses data and information related to protected and conserved areas and is fast becoming the ‘go-to’ hub for the region, positioning itself well as the ‘Centre of Excellence’ for the region which is noted in the GBF. In addition, the Blue Planet Hub was developed with a focus on the marine environment but also drawing on the information systems developed.

As a result of a scientific diagnostic and multi-stakeholder dialogue BIODEV2030 identified economic sectors to engage on the voluntary commitments to reduce the threats to biodiversity by 2030 and restore it by 2050. In partnership with WCS and WWF in Mozambique, IUCN supported the familiarisation process of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework leading to the prioritization of themes and targets to be negotiated at the CBD COP15.
“We owe it to ourselves and to the next generation to conserve the environment so that we can bequeath our children a sustainable world that benefits all.”

— Wangari Maathai

IUCN Africa Councilors (2016–2021) participate in the 2021 IUCN World Conservation Congress held in Marseille, France. From Left to right: Jennifer Mohamed-Katerere, Ali Kaka, Hon. Jesca Eriyo and Mamadou Diallo

©IUCN
A project seeking to scale up turtle conservation, facilitated the establishments of a 4 km² locally managed management area in collaboration with the Marereni Community. This was supported by a draft co-management plan that was developed and accepted by the BMU assembly.

The finalisation and socialisation of the Marine Spatial Plan (POEM) and its mainstreaming within the National Territorial Development Plan (PNDT) was achieved. Support was provided to MIMAIP for the revision and approval of the Maritime Fishery Regulation (REPMAR). This landmark law is a milestone for sustainable fisheries in Mozambique, setting a policy framework that enables community-based co-management through the LMMA model.

SOMN has worked transversally to support MIMAIP and to engage stakeholders in the support for the implementation of the Mangrove Strategy.

Two partnerships are under development for restoration of 2 mangrove areas and the Government, through the Minister of Land and Environment, has endorsed the Mangrove Principles, at the WCC.

Communities and local governments to support the participatory process of creation and approval of seven Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) in Inhassoro, Dondo and Membas districts covering a total of 1,034 km² and co-management plans were developed and submitted for central government approval, together with other 3 LMMAs Management plans for Mecufi district. Under LEAP discussions with local Government on the creation of a network of LMMAs in Cabo Delgado province was initiated. All these efforts will contribute to preparing the Mozambican government to realize its commitment of increasing to 30% the areas of conservation by 2030.

CRCC collaborated with MIMAIP for the promotion of site level mangrove conservation and restoration initiatives, including training sessions on community-based mangrove restoration covering several topics such as site selection, nursery establishment, mangrove plantation and participatory management and assisted community groups in restoring about 15ha of degraded mangroves. CRCC also continued providing guidance to 14 grassroots community organizations active in the implementation of income generating activities (IGAs) initiated in 2020 with the subsidies given by the project, benefiting over 5,000 people.
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KENYA

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MOZAMBIQUE

Mangroves at the Kenyan Coast ©IUCN

Development of a diagnostic of the status, scope and impacts of plastic pollution in Tanzania and in the Western Indian Ocean region (Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa) using the IUCN-UNEP National guidance for marine plastic hotspotting and shaping action methodology – MarPlastics

Under the MARPLASTICCS project, IUCN established the Regional Circular Plastic Economy Innovation Lab (CPEIL) to facilitate accelerating plastic economy as a driver of development of sustainable, inclusive and resilient blue economy.

Four countries (Mozambique, Seychelles, Kenya and Tanzania) initiate the revision and adoption of national protected and conserved area governance policy frameworks that better promote effective participation of local and non-state actors in the conservation and management of coastal, island and marine biodiversity and ecosystems.
I dream of our vast deserts, of our forests, of all our great wildernesses. We must never forget that it is our duty to protect this environment.

- Nelson Mandela

Panel discussion during the official launch of the SADC TFCA Financing Facility at the IUCN World Conservation Congress held in Marseille, France.

From left to right: Harriet Davies-Mostert – IUCN Regional Chair for Eastern and Southern Africa, Vongani Maringa – Assistant Director Biodiversity and Conservation-South Africa Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment, Christiane Laibach – Member of the Executive Board of KfW Group, Dr. Clement Chilima Director of Forestry – Malawi Ministry of Forestry and Natural Resources, Mateus Mutemba – Director General, National Administration for Conservation Areas (ANAC), Mozambique ©IUCN
2021 BY THE NUMBERS

- **200** Village Land Use Action Plans (VLUAPs) implemented in Rwanda and Tanzania
- **6,500** direct beneficiaries from conservation activities
- **12,000** green jobs created from land and seascapes restoration
- **3,000** hectares of land under improved management
- **80%** increase in patrols
- **300,000** reached via social media and community radios on natural resources governance
- **18** protected areas undertaken GreenList assessment and PAME
- **8** agreements for transboundary basin management
- **4** marine plastics pollution plans adopted
- **4** regional blue economy strategies unveiled
- **15** COVID-19 response grants for parks and conservancies disbursed
- **1st** State of Protect and Conserved Areas report published

- **12,000** green jobs created from land and seascapes restoration
- **3,000** hectares of land under improved management

2021 ANNUAL REPORT
In Uganda, IUCN supported review of the draft Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) through financial support of the sectoral consultative workshops and through technical presentation on lessons on Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) effectiveness and natural climate solutions in increasing resilience of people to the impacts of climate change.

In Kenya, a five-year, US$ 34 million project was launched under the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to help reduce the cost of climate change-induced drought on the country’s national economy. The project titled ‘TWENDE’ – Towards Ending Drought Emergencies – is an ecosystem-based adaptation project to be implemented in Kenya’s Arid and Semi-Arid rangelands.

In Rwanda, a six-year over US$ 33 million GCF funded project was launched. The project titled “Transforming Eastern Province through adaptation” (TREPA) aims to restore over 60,000 ha of drought-degraded landscapes into climate resilient ecosystems through re-forestation, agroforestry, restoration of pasturelands, and erosion control measures in 7 districts of the Eastern Province of Rwanda.

In the SADC region, working with UNCCD, IUCN supported the development of the first region-wide drought management plan covering the 16 countries.
IUCN is currently chairing the Resources Mobilization and Private Sector Committee of the AFR100, which presents a great opportunity to shape the implementation of the US$ 2 billion-challenge fund and coordination of the process towards COP 27.

In SADC region, The SADC Transfrontier Conservation Areas Financing Facility was officially launched with a total budget of €25 million. As of end of 2021, the IUCN SOS African Wildlife Initiative had reached an investment level of €2.5 million in Rapid Action Grants and €4.1 million in Threatened Species Grants supporting conservation action across the ESARO region. At the same time, the BIOPAMA Action Component grew to a portfolio of over €4 million in the ESARO region, of which about €2.4 million are invested in larger and longer-term Medium Grants.

On the climate change front, IUCN secured new US$ 33 million grant to build climate change resilience in Eastern Rwanda.
EMBEDDING INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN RWANDA (EWMR)

Colette Nyirakadari, a 60-year-old farmer with five children in Arusha Village, Nyabihu District, Western part of Rwanda is thankful to the EWMR project for having provided her with a rainwater harvesting tank at no cost.

"It was a challenge for us to find water in this area, and even when it rained we had to carry water from a distant source and carefully manage its use. Today we are happy that the EWMR Project has provided us with a much better option to obtain water for our household use," said Colette.

“When farmers work to protect soil, they are restoring the health of their farmland and this provides them with multiple benefits,” added Colette.

AREECA PROGRAMME IN RWANDA

As you enter Nyagatare district, it is noticeable how bare the farms are: some of the trees are drying out (caused by drought), others are cut down (for domestic consumption) which accounts to why there is an increasing decline in the forest cover.

“With support from this project, we are going to stabilize our climate so that it provides solutions to our agriculture and livestock. These agroforestry trees we are planting have the ability to protect our lands from degradation but also increase rain and clean air,” said Jean Mbonigab, Nyagatare district’s forestry and natural resources office, Rwanda.
TRANSFORMATIONAL ADVOCACY FOR RESILIENCE

CRCC in partnership with local radios stations facilitated a strong awareness creation through behaviour adoption campaigns reaching over 600,000 fishing community audiences to inform and dialogue on ecosystem-based fisheries co-management issues and climate change. This has resulted in mobilization of communities for their active participation in (i) community fishing council meetings; (ii) fishers’ registration and licensing; (iii) fish catch recording and (iv) ecosystem conservation and restoration. The efforts have helped to change attitudes towards fisheries management, ecosystem conservation, climate change and resilience building.

DEMONSTRATING IMPACTS OF LOCALLY DRIVEN NATURE-BASED RESTORATION APPROACH

The Embedding Integrated Water Resources Management in Rwanda project, aka Sebeya project, started in 2019 and is funded by the Embassy of The Kingdom of The Netherlands. The project is implemented in the Sebeya River catchment in the northwest of Rwanda. Key to the Sebeya project approach is to empower and build capacity of local stakeholders to take the lead in landscape restoration. This grassroots approach is being achieved through the participatory development and implementation by local communities of 200 Village Land Use Action Plans (VLUAPs) that prioritize interventions that increase resilience by addressing the challenges that they are facing. These interventions include terracing, agro-forestry, improved and sustainable climate-smart agricultural practices, climate-resilient agricultural value chains, village savings and loan associations (VSLAs), riverbank restoration, afforestation, and the dissemination of improved cooking stoves and rainwater harvesting tanks. Because of those efforts thousands of green job opportunities have been provided, over 3,000 ha in the Sebeya catchment have been put under restoration, while in 2,400 ha of forest, erosion prevention measures have been put in place, generating direct and indirect benefits for people and nature. By taking care of nature, the project is helping nature to equally take care of people.
IUCN is grateful to our growing membership and our partners who make our work possible. Special thanks to our supporters and development partners!

- **ADA** Austrian Development Agency
- **AFD** Agence Française de Développement
- **BMU** Germany’s Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection
- **DGIS** Directorate-General for International Cooperation
- **EC** European Commission
- **EU** European Union
- **GEF** Global Environment Facility
- **Irish Embassy**
- **KfW**
- **Mitsubishi Corp**
- **Norad** Norwegian Directorate for Development Cooperation
- **SDC** Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- **Sida** Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
- **UNCCD** United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
- **USAID** United States Agency for International Development
FINANCIAL RESULTS

The project portfolio for ESARO has grown tremendously over the years from CHF 64 million in 2017 to CHF 125 million in 2021.

The available budget for 2021 was CHF 21 million. The budget is distributed per thematic area as depicted in the chart below.
2021 PORTFOLIO BY DONOR TYPE

- Government Agencies: 58%
- Multi-Lateral Agencies: 39%
- International Organisations: 2%
- Corporations & Others: 1%