



Moving from one Four-Year programme to another

2012 annual report



CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICA PROGRAMME (PACO)

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Editorial

Just like in 2011 with the Ivoirian crisis, year 2012 has been challenging for Central and West Africa due to the socio-political or military unrest that affected a number of countries. While in most cases, these crises have had a happy end, in some cases like in Mali, the year ended without any clear sign of return of sustainable peace or visible serenity among the people in the affected zones. Yet such phenomena that unfortunately tend to be recurrent undermine the economic development of the countries involved and that of the sub region as a whole. They make societies in entire regions fragile on both sides of the borders and sustainably affect the natural environment.

Moreover, year 2012 has experienced environmental and human disasters as well as severe crises in protected areas, notably in Central Africa with the mass killing of elephants in Cameroon and in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in the Virungas with oil exploitation, the killing of okapis and assassination of forest guards. Like the above - mentioned events, this shows that in Sub Saharan Africa, nothing is never achieved once and for all and that any development endeavor should come under a concerted action combining all available energies, a long term strategy and planning that is readjusted on a regular basis to fit the reality.

Luckily, it has been observed that regional institutions (ECOWAS, ECCAS, UEMOA, COMIFAC namely) are mobilized to find short, medium and long term solutions; strong mobilization has also been noted on the side of financing partners at the policy level like in Mali and Guinea Bissau and at the environmental level like in the case of large scale poaching control in Central Africa.

In such a context, it is obvious that in Africa, IUCN should permanently question itself and adjust its strategies and programmes as well. The crises that make institutions mobilize themselves in an emergency situation should not overshadow the significant progress made in the construction of long term responses by field actors, States and regional organizations. Be it in terms of policy and governance enhancement, capacity building for actors or organizing themselves for the restoration and sustainable management of natural landscapes, the

African institutions are more than ever committed in numbers to the environmental cause; IUCN should continue developing partnerships with them in order to consistently seek complementarity and synergy for greater and sustainable impact.

At the international level, the States are mobilizing themselves to find acceptable solutions to the great evils affecting the earth, notably climate warming and poverty; this has been the case at the Rio+20 Conference where the governments adopted the Declaration on the Future that we want.

Indeed, year 2012 marked the end of a programmatic period and the beginning of another one for IUCN. The World Conservation Congress held in Jeju (South Korea) has thus allowed the Union to learn lessons from the implementation of the four -year 2009-2012 programme set by the members at the Barcelona Congress (2008); and to define new ambitions for the future, specifically through a four - year programme and an operational plan for the 2013-2016 period. On this occasion, PACO disseminated the results obtained from the implementation of its 2009-2012 programme; PACO also set new ambitions through its 2013-2016 Programme, the outcome of planning work with the Members and Commissions, and which is legitimated by both the IUCN's programmatic framework and the often very peculiar realities of Sub Saharan Africa.

This annual report is therefore the last on the four – year period that ended in December 2012. It is designed to give an idea of the IUCN set –up in Central and West Africa, the actions undertaken and latest achievements; it also gives an idea of the IUCN Comprehensive Programme adopted in Jeju last September.



Pr. Aimé J. Nianogo

¹IUCN-PACO (2012). In search of sustainability. Some outputs of the implementation of the 2009-2012 Programme, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 44 p.

Technical and financial partners



Programme

IUCN has organized, facilitated or supported a wide range of events and processes aimed at strengthening its interventions and the impact of the activities of the Secretariat and Members in Central and West Africa. Below are some of the events and processes:

- The holding in February 2012 of the 6th edition of the Regional Forum of PRCM actors; this forum has made it possible to undertake a restructuring process that will transform the « P » of PRCM, i.e. from Programme to Partnership. As a reminder, the PRCM is a joint IUCN, WWF, FIBA, *Wetlands International* and the Sub Regional Fisheries Commission initiative in relation to more than 100 governmental and non-governmental national actors from seven coastal countries (Mauritania, Senegal, the Gambia, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Guinea and Sierra Leone). This new direction taken by the PRCM enables IUCN to envision new synergies in conjunction with Governmental and Non Governmental Organizations that are active in the coastal zone of West Africa;
- The organization of the River Senegal Delta's Transboundary Biosphere Reserve Days (RSDTBR);
- Adoption of the 2012-2017 sub-regional Plan of Action of the Central Africa Forest

Commission (COMIFAC) member countries for strengthening the enforcement of national legislations on wildlife (PAPECALF 2012-2017) at the extraordinary Council of COMIFAC Ministers held in Ndjamena in May 2012;

- The signing of the Collaboration Agreement between the Ministry for Forestry of Cameroon and the Director General of IUCN at the IUCN World Congress in Jeju, for the implementation of the project on the « Security of Community Livelihoods for the Sustainable Development of the Waza National Park and its Surroundings »;
- The 7th Forum of the Conference on Central Africa Dense and Rain Forest Ecosystems (CEFDHAC) held in Kigali in November 2012;
- The validation of the REDD+ (RPP) Preparatory Plan Document of Cameroon at the 13th meeting of the parties to the « Forest Carbon Partnership Funds » (FCPF) held in Brazzaville in October 2012.

Year 2012 was also marked by the first working visit by the Deputy Director General of IUCN to Ouagadougou and then to Yaoundé; this visit gave the DDG the opportunity to bring to the region significant technical support in finalizing their business plan and 2013-2016 regional four-year plan.

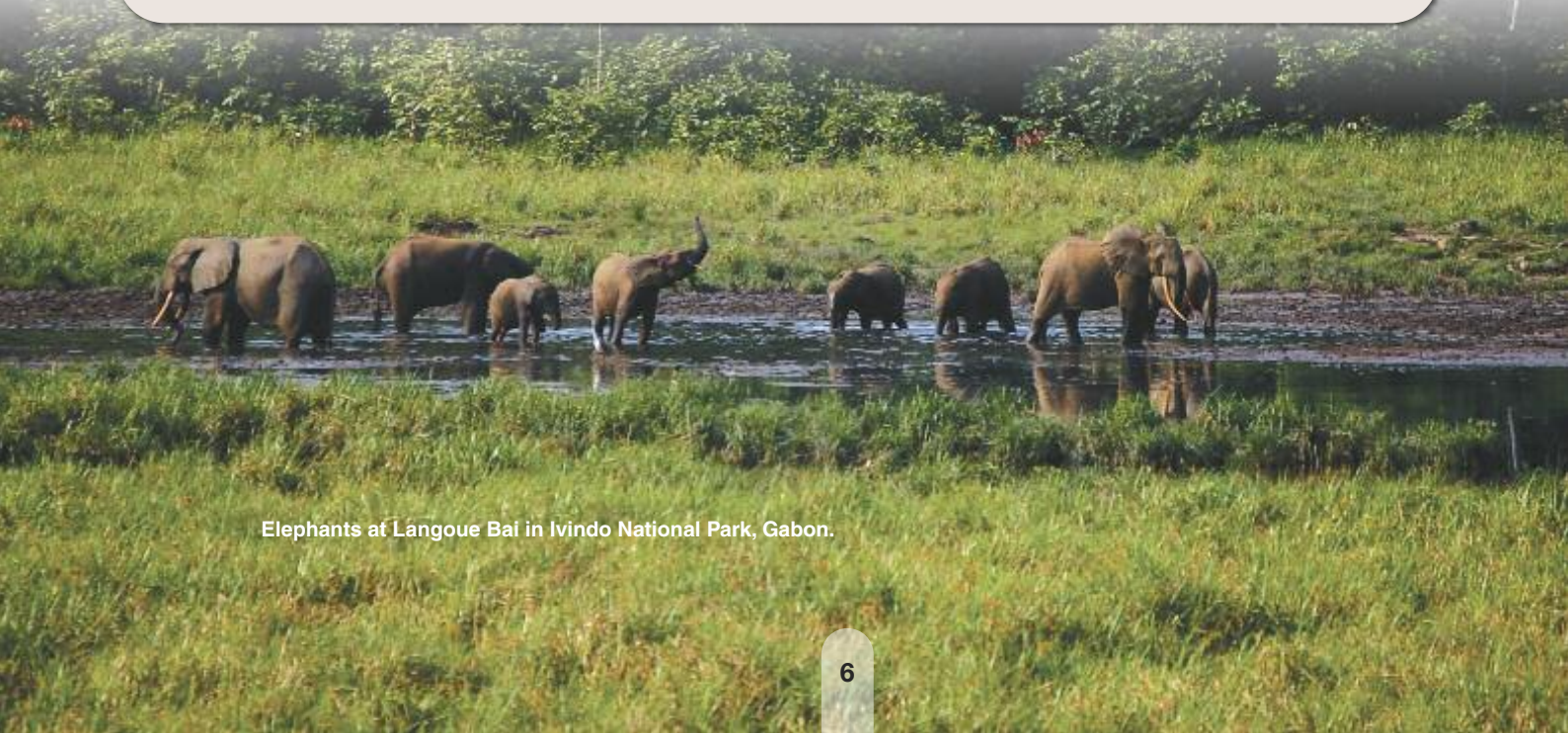
Flagship outputs and results of the programme

Natural resources management and biodiversity conservation

The work of IUCN was geared towards improving the management of Protected Areas (AP), of the biological diversity and natural resources. It involved the Members and experts from IUCN Commissions (the Commission on Protected Areas more particularly), and a large number of national, sub-regional (Basin agencies, sub-regional networks) and international partners (Wildlife Conservation Society - WCS, Fondation Internationale du Banc d'Arguin -FIBA). The main outputs and results of the year are described below per area of activity.

Protected Areas

- Production of Protected Area planning and management tools including a roadmap on the management of PAs in Africa in collaboration with the World Commission on Protected Areas; with the assistance of the WCS and other Members. IUCN has also worked towards developing the capacities of 150 PA senior managers in 14 African countries, through a University Degree (UD) and a Master's Degree in PA management. IUCN has further facilitated the setting up of a sustainable funding mechanism i.e. the West Africa Savanna Foundation in Benin (WASF).
- Promoting the fight against poaching and illegal forest exploitation to the Members of the Parliament of Gabon and to the Members of the Parliament, magistrates and other relevant actors in Central African Republic (CAR). In the latter country, assistance has also been given for enhanced awareness of the legislation on fauna and forest exploitation through targeted communication tools.
- Facilitation of the development of a transboundary governance system for the Transboundary Biosphere Reserve of River Senegal Delta shared between Mauritania and Senegal.
- In Mauritania, a strategy for the establishment and management of a national representative network of protected areas has been developed with the assistance of IUCN.
- Preparation of a draft management master scheme for the W, Arly and Pendjari (WAP) protected areas complex which straddles Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger and administration of trainings that aim to promote the setting up of green companies that develop natural resources in the surroundings of the complex.
- In Central Africa, a process has been started towards the establishment of a consultation and dialogue framework in the surroundings of the Protected Areas of Dzanga Sangha (CAR) and the National Park of Nouabalé Ndoki (Republic of Congo) which was initiated with the assistance of IUCN. There has also been an Emergency Plan for the security of Protected Areas in Cameroon, which was drafted following the mass killing of elephants in Bouba Ndjida. The Minister of Forestry and Fauna of Cameroon even used the opportunity of his attendance of the Jeju World Congress to widely promote this Plan. In addition, with the support of MIKE, IUCN has also given a technical contribution to and indirectly collaborated for the registration of the Sangha National Tri (SNT), a complex shared among Cameroon, the Central African Republic and the Republic of Congo on the list of United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization's (UNESCO) World Heritage Sites.



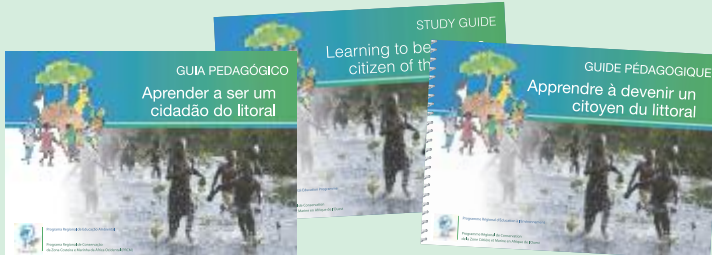
Elephants at Langoue Bai in Ivindo National Park, Gabon.

Marine Protected Areas

- Contribution to the *Work Programme* (2013-2015) of the Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment in West and Central Africa (2013-2015). The COP 10 of the said Convention has also validated the regional Strategic Plan on Marine Protected Areas (MPA) jointly developed by the Secretariat of the Convention and IUCN and aimed at strengthening the regional MPA networks, notably the West Africa Regional Network of Marine Protected Areas (RAMPAO) and the Central Africa Regional Network of Protected Areas (RAPAC). Moreover, the COP 10 has adopted a motion on the preparation of an additional protocol on mangroves, in recognition of the multiple environmental services rendered by these ecosystems that represent significant portions of littorals in West and Central Africa. Six PRCM countries had already signed two years ago, a regional charter on mangroves, following the work done by IUCN and Wetlands International. It is in reference to this regional process that 22 countries signatories to the Convention made this recent decision. UNEP, IUCN and Wetlands International are planning to get together and provide support to the Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention for the drafting of this additional protocol and for its future implementation on the field.
- Contribution to the acquisition of new scientific knowledge that has enabled the regional mapping of risks and priority zones for the conservation of marine turtles in Guinea Bissau.
- Development of a toolbox to guide the RAMPAOs' MPA managers in their work in collaboration with FIBA and RAMPAO.

Environmental Education

- In Guinea Bissau, a sub-regional environmental education network (EE) composed of Ministries of National Education and NGOs of the seven (07) countries in the West African coastal zone was put in place. It is a coalition of actors the aim of which is to promote environmental education (EE mainstreaming in curricula, production and dissemination of pedagogical tools, building the capacities of teachers and partners, etc.).



Wetlands and Water Resources

- Governance and harnessing tools for water resources in three river basins were produced and disseminated for local actors and policy makers. These tools include participatory mechanisms for local management in Burkina Faso (Sirba river basin, a tributary of River Niger), a master scheme for water resources development and management in Mali (lake Sourou), conflict prevention mechanisms in Senegal (Anambé basin), and sub basin governance system in Niger (Lower Valley basin of Tarka).
- Continued promotion of the inter actor dialogue and shared governance, notably at the level of the Volta basin. The dialogue was in particular marked by the institutionalization of the forum of stakeholders of the basin and the 2nd General Assembly meeting of the Transboundary Committee on Nakambe basin water resources management (TCNM); as a reminder, Nakambe is a tributary of the Volta River.

Environmental Legislation

- Law enforcement was promoted in various countries: In Guinea Bissau, it is a law on environmental impact assessments that was promoted; In Cameroon's proposals for the enhancement of the forest law so as to better take the rights of indigenous populations and of women into consideration, were made to the authorities. A sub-regional Plan of Action for fostering the enforcement of the 2012-2017 national wildlife laws, produced with the support of IUCN was adopted by the Council of Ministers of COMIFAC member countries. In Senegal, it is with the «Parliamentarians' Network for the Environment» that advocacy on illegal, non Declared and non Regulated Fishing (INN) was conducted to the ACP/EU Parity Parliamentarian Assembly.

Climate Change

In the area of climate change, the programmes gave support to many countries, notably for the preparation for the REDD process (Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation) and the inclusion of climate change (CC) in development planning.

The Mainstreaming of Climate Change

- In Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal, IUCN has continued implementing its support programme on climate change mainstreaming into the development planning process, using customized tools such as the *Tool Box for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation of Climate Change Adaptation Capacity (TOP-SECAC) and the Climate Proofing*. With these tools and the training of trainers and resource persons, the action was replicated in Mali, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Ghana and Niger. As a result, several municipal and regional development plans were readjusted, notably in Mali, Senegal and Burkina Faso and the approach promoted by IUCN was incorporated into the municipal development plan preparation guide to be used by all municipalities in Burkina Faso ;
- In Mauritania, a process was launched with the national and sub regional partners so as to move towards a regional oasis conservation and sustainable management strategy to cope with climate change.

Preparation Plans for REDD+

Thanks to the multiple support and collaboration of IUCN, Cameroon (see next page box) and the Central African Republic (CAR) have confirmed their political commitment to the REDD+ process. These two countries have thus developed REDD+ Preparatory Plans (R-PP); which gives them financing windows for the drafting of national strategies, notably in CAR where the World Bank has expressed interest in what could lead to the signing of a USD 3.6 million Agreement.

REDD+ and Gender

- In Ghana, the actions carried out helped to include the poor in the forestry investment plan and to prepare a roadmap on gender in REDD+; these actions also facilitated capacity building for the various actors (civil society, national and regional conservation organizations, State representatives) in the area of climate change and REDD+.
- Gender was also promoted in Liberia where a *plan of action on Gender in the Face of Climate Change* was developed in a multi-actors process.
- The actions contributed to the development of REDD+ Readiness Preparation Plans in Cameroon and in CAR; in Cameroon, the multiple types of support (advocacy, training, policy briefs) have further contributed to the adoption of the roadmap for gender mainstreaming in the REDD+ process and to the development of capacities in a number of regional networks (REPALEAC, REFADD, REPAR) in the area of REDD+.



Tree nursery establishment providing additional livelihood support to women in forest dependent communities.

Participation of the civil society in the REDD+ process in Cameroon

Given the climate-related stakes of deforestation, the reduction mechanism of emissions due to deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) is one of the preferred solutions in support of the conservation of the Congo Basin. Since 2009, several Congo basin countries including Cameroon have started their preparations for REDD+.

In its basic principles, the REDD+ mechanism should not only be accessible for the local and indigenous communities and civil society, but also raise their strong mobilization and involvement in such a way that they can make the best use of this opportunity. Through the *Towards Pro Poor REDD* Project, IUCN has assisted Cameroon in developing its REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal or RPP at the technical level and by involving all stakeholders.

Drafting and validation of the REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal

The success of the REDD+ process will contribute to improving the living conditions of the grassroots populations. To this effect, the REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal requires the active participation and commitment of the civil society.

Fully committed in 2010 to the development of its national REDD+ strategy, the government of Cameroon has officially requested the assistance of IUCN because of its expertise in the facilitation of processes and multi-actors dialogue.

The Cameroon REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal was validated right from the first submission, by FCPF (Forest Carbon Partnership Funds) Participants' Committee, during its 13th Assembly meeting held from October 21st to 22nd, 2012 in Brazzaville, Congo. This was a major event since the launching of the REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal review process.

Flagship activities /outputs

- Establishment of a national platform for the civil society, REDD+ and Climate Change at the national level with a dynamic and influential coordinating team;
- Effective participation of the civil society in the drafting of the REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposals, through written contribution and position papers;
- Effective participation of the private sector in the drafting process of the RPP during a workshop organized in July 2012 in Yaoundé, Cameroon;
- Production of sensitization tools (leaflets) and organization of sensitization campaigns and consultation meetings;
- Needs assessment in terms of capacity building for the various actors;
- Training of different groups of actors on different aspects of REDD+;
- Conduct of several studies on the technical and socio-economic aspects notably on deforestation factors and institutional analysis of actors operating in the chain, governance systems, etc.;

- Drafting of a roadmap to ensure the full involvement of women and indigenous people in the REDD+ process;
- Organization of regional and national workshop to validate the RPP document before submitting to the FCPF;
- Active participation of the civil society in the 13th meeting of the FCPF participants' Assembly from October 21th to 22nd, 2012 in Brazzaville. The Cameroonian delegation at the 13th meeting of the FCPF Participants' Assembly was made up of the sectoral Ministries involved, the national civil society platform, representatives of the indigenous population, women's and IUCN's representatives.

Indicators of success

- The official recognition of IUCN's expertise on REDD+ by the World Bank, which contributed to the financing of the national consultation process in Cameroon.
- The validation of Cameroon's proposal from the first submission.
- IUCN is being approached by other countries of the Congo Basin because of the satisfactory results obtained with Cameroon.
- The effective involvement of the civil society, a key component in this process especially with regard to partners supporting it such as FCPF, was evidenced by the statement made by the platform.
- The setting up of branches for the civil society platform in the 10 regions of Cameroon, with regional coordinating bodies that take gender and indigenous peoples into consideration.
- The existence of several initiatives that will sustain the new regional dynamics. These are the following projects : « *Improved participation of the Congo Basin stakeholders in REDD+ activities at the national, sub -regional and international levels*»; « *Support to the participation of multiple actors in the REDD+ process in Cameroon, Gabon, Congo and CAR*» developed by IUCN and supported respectively by CIDA and FFBC/AfDB; « *Institutional Capacity Building for REDD+ for sustainable management of forests in the Congo Basin*» of the Central Africa Forest Commission (COMIFAC) financed by GEF/WB.

The Way Forward

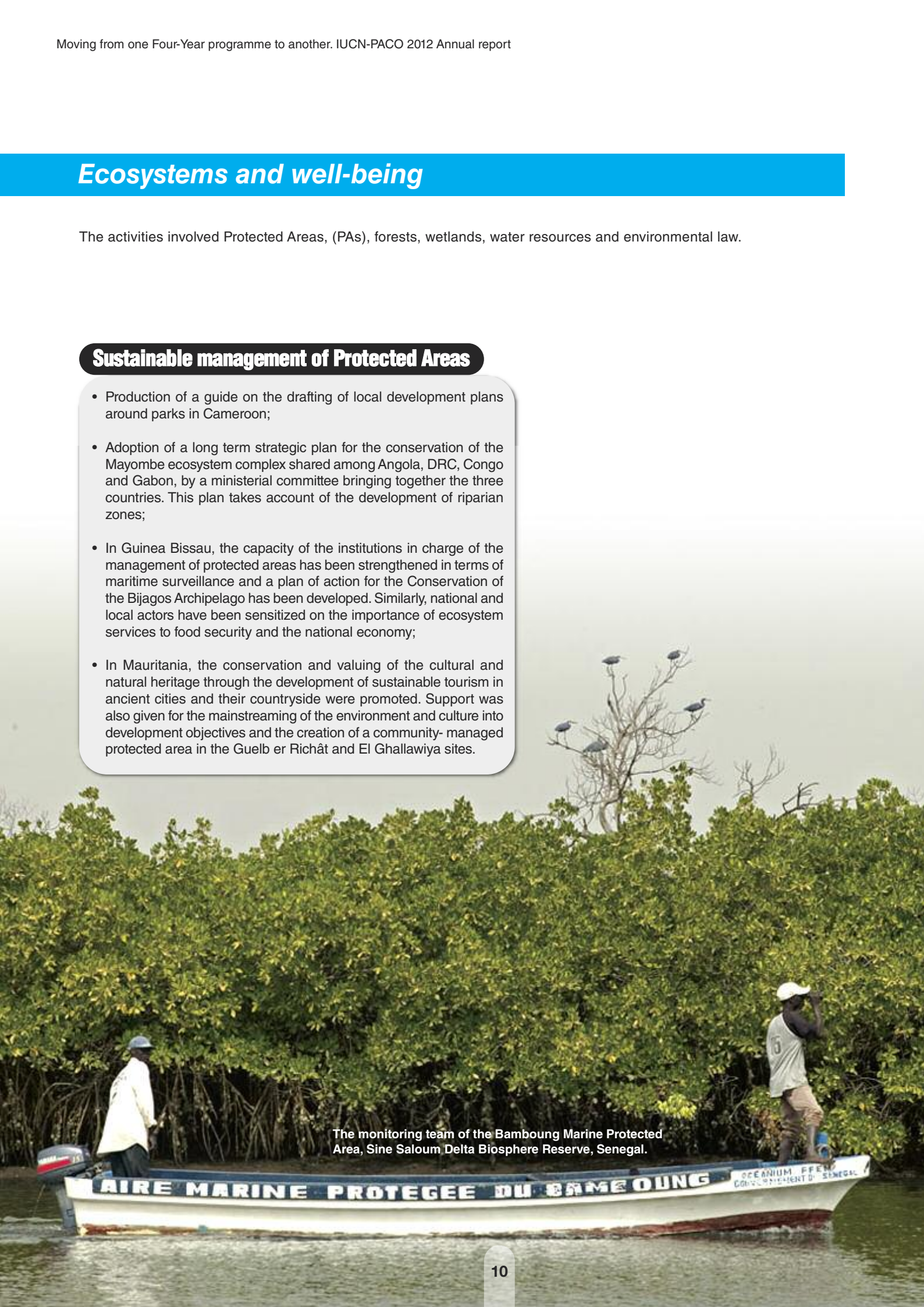
The next step for Cameroon consists of developing the national REDD+ strategy with the financial and technical support of FCPF, IUCN and other partners (WWF, WCS, CIFOR, etc.) which have expressed their readiness to support the process under the coordination of the Ministry concerned. In this new phase, IUCN intends to continue facilitating the dialogue between the civil society and the Government ; facilitating the establishment of platform branches at the departmental and decentralized local government levels; and building the capacity of the various groups, namely local communities, indigenous populations and women.

Ecosystems and well-being

The activities involved Protected Areas, (PAs), forests, wetlands, water resources and environmental law.

Sustainable management of Protected Areas

- Production of a guide on the drafting of local development plans around parks in Cameroon;
- Adoption of a long term strategic plan for the conservation of the Mayombe ecosystem complex shared among Angola, DRC, Congo and Gabon, by a ministerial committee bringing together the three countries. This plan takes account of the development of riparian zones;
- In Guinea Bissau, the capacity of the institutions in charge of the management of protected areas has been strengthened in terms of maritime surveillance and a plan of action for the Conservation of the Bijagos Archipelago has been developed. Similarly, national and local actors have been sensitized on the importance of ecosystem services to food security and the national economy;
- In Mauritania, the conservation and valuing of the cultural and natural heritage through the development of sustainable tourism in ancient cities and their countryside were promoted. Support was also given for the mainstreaming of the environment and culture into development objectives and the creation of a community- managed protected area in the Guelb er Richât and El Ghallawiya sites.

A photograph showing a white boat with a blue stripe on a river. Two people are on the boat. The background is a dense mangrove forest with several birds perched on a tree. The boat has text on its side: 'AIRE MARINE PROTEGEE DU BAMBOUNG' and 'OCEANUM PFER' and 'GOVERNEMENT D SENEGAL'.

The monitoring team of the Bamboung Marine Protected Area, Sine Saloum Delta Biosphere Reserve, Senegal.

Sustainable management of forests

- Mapping of potential forest landscape restoration areas in Ghana in collaboration with the Commission on Forests, a Member of IUCN; this mapping exercise has been validated by the Ghana Government (see Box).
- Continuation of the support to the *regional dialogue* on forests, under the aegis of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), promoting the participation of the civil society and big international conservation NGOs; the actors have now identified the strategic areas of a convergence plan for West African forests;
- Continuation of the support to the financing of environmental NGOs in Central Africa (22 grants of about Euro 21,000 each) for natural resource governance and sustainable management, protected area management, REDD and ecotourism, with the assistance of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and as part of the Central Africa Regional Programme on Environment (CARPE);
- Production and promotion of methodological guides on the mainstreaming of the environment into development programmes and preparation of land tenure charters in Burkina Faso;
- Support to the enhancement of legislations governing transboundary timber sectors in the Great Lakes countries by the IUCN Programme in DRC.
- Production of a policy brief to influence reforms in order to make them consistent and equitable in the Cameroon forestry sector.



Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) mapping national validation meeting, Busua- Ghana



Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) mapping sub-regional stakeholder consultations, Kumasi- Ghana

Assessing and Capitalizing on the Potential to Enhance Forest Carbon Sinks through Forest Landscape Restoration in Ghana

Introduction

The environmental role of forests world-wide is known and quantified. This explains why the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) initiated the negotiations on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) in developing countries. REDD+ is a set of steps designed to use market and financial incentives in order to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases from deforestation and forest degradation. But REDD+ is more than just avoided deforestation. It also includes the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. REDD+ recognizes a broad range of activities aimed at reviving degraded forests, while pure REDD only recognizes programs that save endangered virgin forests. The post Kyoto agreement being negotiated under the UNFCCC clearly targets the role of forests in storing carbon as this may offer additional opportunities for generating multiple benefits.

Implementation of successful REDD+ actions need to ensure that forests and the services they provide to humankind are conserved, managed and restored in ways that achieve climate change mitigation targets, help secure sustainable livelihoods and maintain the ability of an ecosystem to function healthily and continue to provide goods and services.

As REDD+ negotiations continue to define the initiative at the international level, one key aspect that has become prominent is the need to integrate REDD activities with forest restoration activities at the landscape level. This would not only ensure a more holistic and sustainable approach to reducing emissions and optimization of benefits, but also contribute to the efficient use of rather scarce resources. In 2011, IUCN, in partnerships with the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration, mapped worldwide potential for landscape restoration, resulting in the issuing of the Bonn Challenge target during a ministerial roundtable hosted by the German Government calling for restoration of 150 million hectares of deforested and degraded lands by 2020.

Ghana's remaining forest cover has been quite reduced in recent years. In order to continue to meet Ghana's forest resource needs, it was decided to map the potential for restoring Ghana's forests. This was why IUCN decided to contribute to the Ghana REDD+ process by implementing the project titled "Assessing and Capitalizing on the Potential to Enhance Forest Carbon Sinks through Forest Landscape Restoration while Benefiting Biodiversity". This project was supported by the International Climate Initiative (ICI) of the German Ministry of Environment (GME).

Composition and scope of the project

The forest restoration assessment was carried out to contribute to the implementation of the existing Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Aichi Target 15 to restore at least 15% of degraded ecosystems by 2020, as well as the UNFCCC's REDD+ goal of slowing, halting and reversing forest cover and carbon loss and the Conference of the Parties (COP) decisions on REDD+ including enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

The project worked with both international and national partners – notably World Resources Institute (WRI), the Ghana Forestry Commission (FC), the Centre for Remote Sensing and Geographical Information System (CERSGIS) of the University of Ghana, and stakeholder groups to carry out cutting edge analysis using practical methodologies and innovative platforms for assessing the restoration and climate change mitigation opportunity in Ghana. The assessment was carried out using the merger of best of science – through Geographic Information System (GIS) and best of local knowledge (from the community of practitioners) obtained through sub-national multi stakeholder dialogue.

Activities and outputs

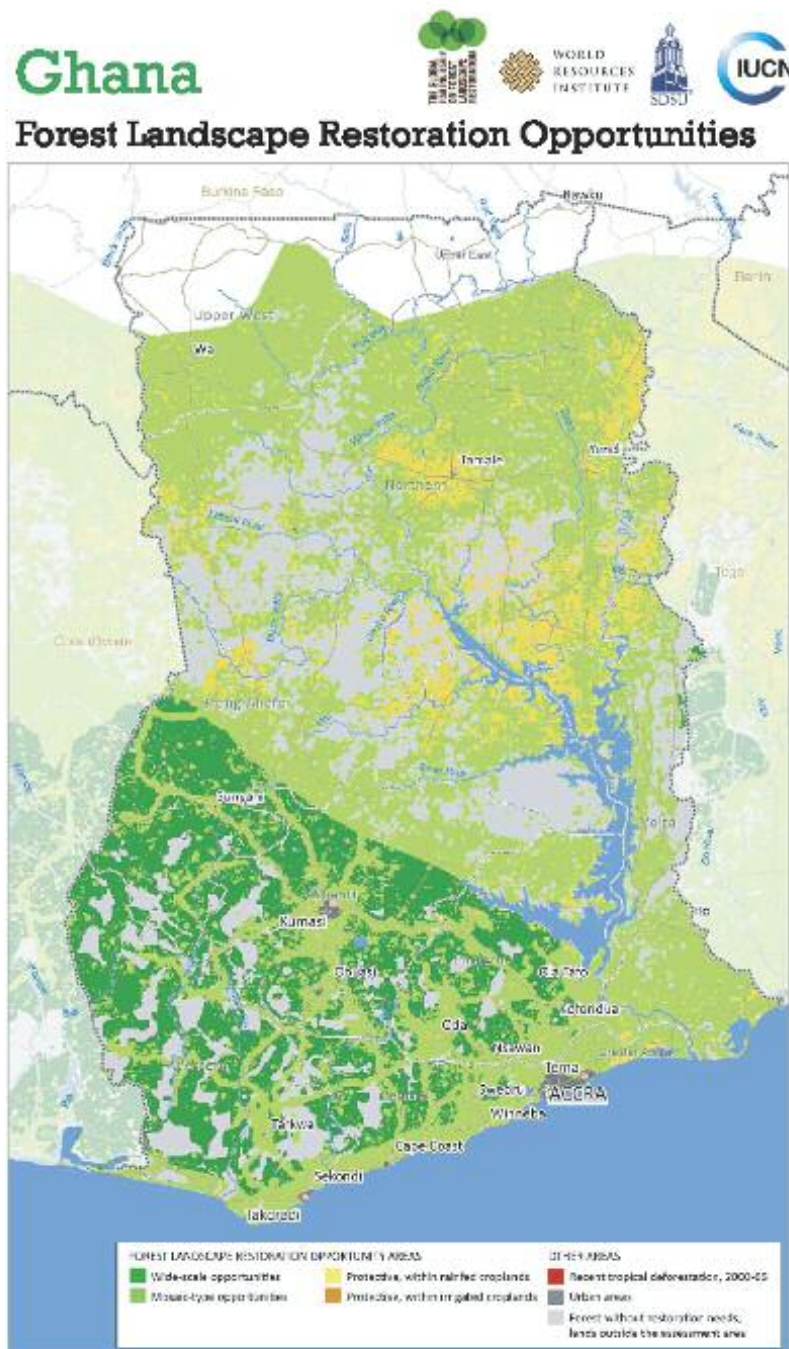
- A project inception workshop was carried out – involving the participation of representatives of government ministries, departments and agencies, as well as civil society, NGOs and the private sector actors working on forest management and rehabilitation of degraded forests.
- Production of the forest cover maps for the 10 geographical regions in Ghana. This was produced by CERSGIS with support from the Resources Management Support Centre (RMSC) of the Forestry Commission and WRI.
- Organization of 6 sub-regional multi stakeholder dialogues involving scientists, farmers, civil society groups, etc. This was an effort to engage local knowledge in estimating forest restoration potential in regional settings. The workshops were also used to gather relevant information used for economic analysis of the various restoration options.
- A detailed economic analysis of the restoration options was also carried out. The analysis led to the production of cost abatement curves that identify the cost – benefit of a series of interventions.
- Both the national forest landscape restoration opportunities map and the economic analysis results were validated through a national multi stakeholder workshop involving representatives from government, civil society, research organisations and the private sector.

Indicators of success

- 1) The national FLR opportunity map produced has been in constant demand by the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, the Forestry Commission, the National REDD Working Group, and other national and international stakeholders
- 2) The map and the economic analysis are currently being used for decision making in the forest sector – e.g. the Ghana Government used the result of the project to prioritise the region for their Forest Investment Programme.

Perspectives/Prospect

- i) It is envisaged that the project will contribute to participatory development of national REDD+ strategies and could also be used to influence international discussions and initiatives on REDD+.
- ii) The approach used in the project is an avenue for broader engagement between the various stakeholders especially the decision-makers and stakeholders. It is envisaged that more countries in West and Central Africa will carry out their national assessment using the same approach.



Water Resources and Wetlands

- In Nigeria, IUCN has supported a process to institutionalize Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) in the central Niger basin shared among three States of the Federation. The process helped to set up platforms of the watershed stakeholders and a financing mechanism for IWRM committees.
- In Guinea, it is a very dynamic process that was undertaken in the Tinkisso basin with the support of local authorities and effective participation of neighboring actors: multi-actors dialogue, development of a shared vision, strengthening of shared natural resource governance, setting up of village consultation committees, launching of actions to restore catchment areas and forest galleries at the request of the populations.
- IUCN also helped the Volta Basin Authority Observatory (VBAO) to hold the 1st forum of actors on the theme of the Volta Basin water quality. The forum made it possible to identify the basic parameters for comparative monitoring of the quality of surface and ground waters and to organize a data collection system.
- Continued support to the regional dam in partnership with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and, this in an approach aimed at improving equity in the sharing of benefits derived from some large dams in Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal.
- In order to promote the inclusion of the economic value of wetlands in land development policies, a simplified economic evaluation tool for wetlands was produced and disseminated based on work done in Burkina Faso, Mali, Guinea Bissau and Senegal. The national *Ramsar* committees that bring together all sectors involved in wetlands development and management were also supported, trained and equipped for economic evaluation in the four countries.
- Based on the shortcomings observed, IUCN also carried out actions designed to promote environmental information in West Africa. Several workshops dedicated to the enhancement of environmental information dissemination and use were thus conducted in Senegal, Guinea, Mali and Burkina Faso in partnership with the African Environmental Information Management Network (RAGIE), the West African Water Partnership (GWP/WA), the Environment Journalists Network « Share Info », the IUCN Environment Radio in Cameroon and the Scientific Journalists and Communicators' Association of Burkina (AJCS/BF). In Gabon, the capacities of a « Green » Journalists' Network were developed. In addition, on line communication tools (blog, electronic platform for knowledge sharing, bi-monthly environmental watch newsletter) were put in place to collect and facilitate the sharing of environmental information and replicate good practices.
- Guides and tools on the equitable use of large dams were produced: *an orientation guide on equitable sharing of benefits derived from large water works in Burkina Faso; a policy brief titled « Rethinking the objectives for improved economic viability and equity promotion in the multiple uses of dam reservoirs in Senegal»;* an information brochure on legal procedures for expropriation and compensation of displaced populations from the Kandadji dam site in Niger.

Environmental Law

- Work done with national partners (States) and international (Development Research Institute – IRD, Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission - CSRFP) and private institutions enabled the publication of pedagogical manuals on maritime law in Senegal and Mauritania.
- In Senegal, support was given for the ratification of the Maputo Convention on the conservation of Nature and Natural Resources; and the development of a Plan of Action for the effective enforcement of Environmental Law in Africa was facilitated with the support of the Energy and Environment Institute of the Francophony (EEIF) and the IUCN's Commission on Environmental Law.
- In Mali, it is the preparation of the local natural resource management agreements by all actors involved that was facilitated.

Green Economy

In this area where IUCN has not been very active, actions were carried out together with government institutions and big NGOs (WCF, WWF, CI, WCS notably) working in the countries.

- In DRC, these actions have facilitated the drafting of ministerial decrees that should enable the standardization of timber exports. Additionally, the discussions on the FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) were resumed with the European Union (EU) for the preparation of a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) ; and a directory of forest users in Bas-Congo was developed;
- In Cameroon, land planning and use frameworks were approved in various forestry sectors.
- In Gabon, the recycling of waste from forest exploitation was promoted.
- In Guinea Bissau a Working Group on Oil and Extractive Industries – WGO-EI, was facilitated by IUCN; and a multi-stakeholder dialogue on the mining issue and its environmental impact was promoted. As an unprecedented result, the Government of Guinea Bissau has accepted to release a copy of all signed mining contracts to the IUCN office (see Box).



Public hearings in Varela, northern Guinea-Bissau in the framework of evaluation of environmental impacts of the Zircon mining project, Ilmenite and Rutile

Extractive Industry Management in Guinea Bissau

Most often, riparian populations of mining sites end up being disappointed by the little economic benefits given to them whereas they are the ones who suffer most from the environmental degradation that directly affect ecosystem services which their livelihoods depend on (decrease in fish and forest resources, farmlands confiscation, reduced soil fertility, water and air pollution ...).

In Guinea Bissau, IUCN has initiated a national dialogue on extractive industries through the project on « *Support for Raising the awareness of the Guinean Public on the Oil and Extractive Industry Issue* » financed by SWISSAID. The purpose of this partnership is to build the capacity for advocacy to the Guinea Bissau Members of Parliament for the adoption of an adequate legislation on oil, the commitment to ratify oil conventions, in particular MARPOL (Marine pollution) and the setting up of a panel around oil and other minerals exploitation.

Composition and scope of the WGO /EI

The project has facilitated the setting up of a Working Group on Oil and other Extractive Industries / WGO-EI which brings together directorates of the Public Administration (General Directorate of Geology and Mining, General Directorate of Environment, General Directorate of Forestry and Fauna), national institutions (PETROGUIN, IBAP and CAIA), strategic networks (Parliamentarians' Network on Environment and Sustainable Development and Eco-journalists' Network) and civil society organizations (IUCN, SWISSAID, TINIGUENA, KAFO, National Movement of Civil Society for Peace, Democracy and Development).

Initially geared towards the oil issue, the WGO –EI has gradually expanded the scope of its activities to cover all extractive industry projects of the country so as to be able to meet the expectations and respond to the concerns of riparian populations of future mining sites.

Flagship Activities & Outputs

- Enhanced awareness of civil society and parliamentarians of environmental and social stakes of oil and mines;
- Facilitation of numerous information and capacity building sessions with riparian populations of mining sites;
- Integration of the Guinea Bissau civil society in international networks around extractive industries (sub regional network with neighboring countries, ICMM-IUCN dialogue, « *Publish What You Pay* », EITI...);
- Participation in the organization of the 1st national conference on «extractive industries and sustainable development», at the initiative of the Guinea Bissau Prime Minister's Office. The conference brought together over 150 participants specialized in the areas of mining, oil and environment drawn from the Ministries involved and civil society organizations from Guinea Bissau, Senegal and Guinea and was held in Bissau from March 26th to 30th, 2010;
- Participation of the WGO-EI in an evaluation and strategic thinking workshop on the dialogue between ICMM and IUCN which was held in Switzerland in November 2011;
- Production and dissemination of a presentation and information flyer on all extractive industry projects in Guinea Bissau;

- Production of a publication (in French, English and Portuguese), on the outcomes of the stakeholders' consultations in several mining sites in four countries in the sub region including Senegal, Guinea and Sierra Leone. These consultations at the level of active mining sites has in fact revealed the lack of communication and consultation, corruption, lack of transparency, non-compliance with the local legislation, weak implementation of mitigation or compensation measures and the non non-rehabilitation of sites after exploitation;
- Implementation of information sessions on mines and oil at the People's National Assembly;
- Active participation in the validation and revision process of the Mining Code and the Law governing oil drilling activities in Guinea Bissau in 2010;
- Advocacy for a law on environmental impact assessment in Guinea Bissau adopted in 2010;
- Active participation in the first environmental impact assessment of the future Zircon / Rutile de Varela mine and preparation of the local populations to get them play an active role during public hearings;
- Very good collaboration with the IUCN Ecosystem Management Commission (EMC) and the international Network named «*Publish What You Pay*».

Indicators of success

1. Communication actions and field work have enabled the WGO-EI to have legitimacy recognized by all partners (Government, Assembly, Enterprises, Civil Society and Representatives of riparian populations). Thus, the WGO-EI is now consulted on all issues relating to the development of extractive industries in the country and copies of all mining contracts signed by the State of Guinea Bissau are henceforth made available to the IUCN services.
2. **A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the WGO-EI and the Ministry for Natural Resources.** This Memorandum includes the opening of multi-stakeholders' consultations and ensuring that the impacts on people and environment are taken into consideration;
3. The People's National Assembly of the country has approved (i) the law on environmental impact assessments and (ii) the ratification of the MARPOL Convention on Oil Transport and Pollution in July 2010, notably through advocacy to the top ranking decision-makers of the State.
4. Moreover, the WGO-EI is now part of a sub regional network on the social and environmental impacts of the mining sector in West Africa.
5. The experience of the WGO-EI and its standard operating procedures were hailed by the institutions and organizations meeting within the framework of the IUCN and ICMM (International Council on Mining and Metals) dialogue www.icmm.com

The Way Forward

The ambition of the WGO-EI is to focus henceforth on ensuring a transparent information flow, building people's capacity to understand the stakes and acquire negotiation skills through specific trainings and support to formal consultation frameworks among all actors at the level of each future mining and oil site. The WGO-EI also intends to help in promoting dialogue with the mining sector in other African countries.

Constraints encountered in the implementation

Three types of impediments were encountered:

- First, impediments resulting from political instability in the countries, which affected the Guinea Bissau programme in particular (maritime surveillance strengthening project) and Mali (implementation of the main REDDIN Project).
- Then, constraints caused by the complexity of donors' or technical partners' procedures, which affected the Cameroon Programme, notably in the implementation of the *Project on the Security of Communities' Livelihoods for Sustainable Development of the Waza National Park and its Surroundings with the Cameroonian State and of the Support Project on*

Congo Basin Multi-Stakeholders' Participation in the REDD process in Cameroon, Congo, Gabon and CAR with the African Development Bank (AfDB) ; and the Project on Enhanced Participation of Congo Basin Stakeholders in REDD+ activities at national, sub -regional and international levels with ECCAS.

- Other constraints resulted from poor planning at the internal level. The project on «*Development of Usable Timber Species Red List in DRC*», is affected by inadequate data on the private sector and the project on «*Sustainable Management of Water and Fish Resources in Burkina Faso*» (SUSFISH-Burkina) where the expertise of the Species Survival Commission (SSC) was long expected.

Development of the Portfolio and 2013-16 Programme

The portfolio of PACO has registered notable progress with several new contracts signed for over Euro 9.67 million in total including 33.44% for thematic programmes and 66.56% for country programmes. Regarding the thematic areas of the 2013-2016 programme, the results expected from these new projects include the following:

- Biodiversity development and conservation (area 1) accounting for 31% ;
- Effective and equitable governance in the use of nature (area 2) worth 45% ;

- Nature-based solutions to take up global climate, food and development challenges (area 3) which accounts for 24%.

Additionally, the programmes have continued working on new initiatives. Thus, for regional thematic programmes, 13 initiatives share 52% in area 1 of the 2013-2016 programme; 26% in area 2 and 22% in area 3. Of the 21 initiatives in country programmes, 55% relate to area 1; 17% are in area 2 and 28% in area 3.



Institutional development

Members and Commissions



The IUCN Members have actively participated.

With the 2012 new members, IUCN had 97 Members as of 31/12/12, (against 87 in 2011) in Central and West Africa including 15 States, 9 Government organizations, 3 international NGOs and 70 national NGOs.

The region also has more than three hundred members of Commissions, a regional Committee of Members (RECOME), and six national committees in six countries in the region. These are Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Guinea Bissau, Mali and Senegal.

In 2012, the Commissions that were most involved in the Programme were the Species Survival Commission (SSC, for the works on the red list), the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP, for the management of Protected Areas and APAC governance systems), the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA for trainings on PA and drafting of PA development and management strategies), the Commission on Environmental Law (CEL, for the

promotion of environmental law in Africa and setting up of an African Journal on Environmental Law).

The programmes as a whole made efforts in 2012 to ensure the effective involvement of Members and Commissions from the design of new projects. As a result, most of the new initiatives were jointly developed with the Members and Commissions, which helped to define from the beginning the roles and responsibilities of each pillar in the implementation and access to required resources. Good examples of effective and successful implementation of the Single Programme Approach are many (Programmes of Burkina Faso, Guinea Bissau, Cameroon, Mali, etc.).

The **World Conservation Congress** saw a change in the IUCN leadership with a 66% renewed Council and a new President in the person of Zhang Xinsheng. According to the manifesto of the new president, his mandate will be marked among other things by more efficient communication, consensus and partnership



Mamadou Diallo, IUCN Regional Councillor for Africa

building as well as innovation. It should also be noted that Mr. Mamadou Diallo, the former president of the Regional Committee of Members of the Central and West Africa region, has been elected as a councillor during this congress.

The visibility of the region at the World Conservation Congress has been remarkable with the attendance of 89% of the 66 Members from the region who had paid off their membership dues, some forty staff members (half of whom recruited for a broad range of functions by the organizing committee of the Congress), commission members and 4 VIPs originating from the region. The members initiated about 12% of the motions and with the Secretariat; they organized about forty workshops and knowledge cafes and *contributed to the facilitation of conservation campuses*. Their effective

participation in the various motions has also increased compared to the last Congress (Barcelona 2008) ; thus, 100% of Members have voted at least once; 90% have voted in more than 50% of cases and 67% have voted in 80% of cases or more.



The CREMACO officers in consultation.



A new Programme for the 2013-2016 period

In Jeju, the Members approved the 2013-2016 Programme. This 2013-2016 PACO Programme directly contributes to the IUCN global Programme. Built upon a reflection initiated from early 2011 in the various PACO units, the programme has been the topic of periodical discussions with the Members. In compliance with the single programme Charter, the 2013-2016 PACO programme is seeking to mobilize all IUCN components in the region, while recognizing the initiatives owned by Members and which are not covered in this programme.

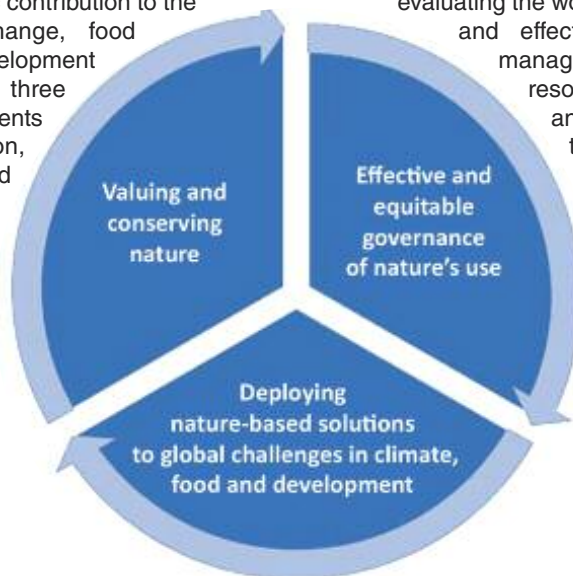
Built upon three major areas, this is the most concise programme that IUCN has ever had. It is also a programme that best takes on board the subtleties of the IUCN vision. The core domain is of course the conservation of nature but also the enhancement of its value. The second domain aims at building a fair world as stated in the IUCN vision, through improved environmental governance.

Finally, using the same approach, the third domain provides a response to the global challenges that biodiversity can address. This domain introduces the notion of nature-based solutions that value ecosystems to bring a fair and economic contribution to the resolution of climate change, food security and economic development issues. Through these three domains, the IUCN components present in the PACO region, will work in a coordinated

manner to ensure broad utilization of biodiversity tools and knowledge for improved conservation policy; the implementation of fair and effective arrangements among stakeholders in the utilization of natural resources; and the adoption by stakeholders and governments, of nature-based solutions that respond to the needs of Central and West African societies.

Finally, the IUCN strategies for the implementation of these objectives remain the same, namely the generation and dissemination of reliable knowledge; building partnerships for action through governments and civil society; building bridges between policy and action from the local to the global level and; developing standards for conservation and sustainable development. Such an approach enables IUCN to work towards producing good results on the field, generating knowledge and improving environmental policy and governance.

The entire programme is designed as a direct contribution to the implementation of the strategic objectives and targets of the Aichi Plan of Action of the Convention on Biological Diversity. This is the reason why the indicators that will serve as a basis for evaluating the work of IUCN relate to the scope and effectiveness of protected area management, contribution of natural resources to household well-being, and to increasing the benefits that societies can draw from the services of ecosystems.



Central and western Africa IUCN's Programme framework 2013–2016

Partnerships

In order to further anchor its programme in the sub regional institutional landscape and in line with the implementation of the Single Programme concept, PACO has worked in close collaboration with several types of partners.

- International institutions : one can note the involvement of the International Agency of the Francophony (notably on initiatives relating to the promotion of environmental law) ; CIFOR for the development of the Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation System (PM&E) designed by IUCN for the Cameroon *sentinel landscape*) ; also UNEP through the Great Apes Survival Partnership (GRASP) for the conservation of the Mayombe protected area complex and the Abidjan Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment for marine protected areas and the Mangroves theme.
- Regional institutions including ECOWAS (for forest and dam dialogue and implementation of the poverty reduction and environmental management initiative (PREMI), ECCAS (anti-poaching, implementation of the regional water policy, etc.), the West African Economic and Monetary Union - UEMOA (coastal erosion control, setting up of a regional West African Coast Observatory), the CRSP for PRCM and the fisheries theme, COMIFAC for forest and fauna management policy, the Inter States Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel-CILSS on climate change, the Niger Basin Authority –NBA and the Volta Basin Authority -VBA for integrated water resources management (as part of PREMI and GWI notably).
- The programme has also involved several regional networks: The Local and Indigenous Populations' Network for sustainable Management of Central African Forest Ecosystems (REPALEAC), the African Women's Network for Sustainable Development (REFADD) and the Parliamentarians' Network for Sustainable Management of Central African Forest Ecosystems (REPAR), the Youth Network for Central African Forests (REJEFAC), and the Central African Community Radios' Network (RERAC) - communication, CEFDHAC and national fora, the Senegal Parliamentarians' Network for Environment (REPES) - Policy and Legislation, the Central African Protected Areas' Network (RAPAC) - regional protected marine areas strategy, the African Environment Legal Experts' Network (environmental law promotion), the West Africa Protected Marine Areas' Network - RAMPAO (shared governance of Protected Marine Areas).
- Great international NGOs including : FIBA, WWF, and WI (Wetlands International) within the framework of PRCM; WCS within the framework of DU trainings on PAs; CRS and CARE for GWI projects, GWP for PREMI ; OSFAC, WRI, WCS, AWF, WWF, CI and AWF as part of CARPE implementation.
- The private sector: with the International Technical Association of Tropical Timber - ATIBT on Central Africa Forests and with diverse mining companies in Guinea Bissau.



Oceanium and Ali El Haidar in a session of rustic animation in Sine Saloum, Senegal.

Human resources

With the end of certain great projects, the personnel has decreased from 203 workers in 2011 to 181 permanent workers including 27% of women; this personnel is distributed among countries where PACO is active depending on the size of the; but the two countries that have the largest number of staff members are Cameroon (52 workers) and Burkina Faso (46 workers).

As part of a staff appraisal programme which purpose is to promote the culture of excellence within IUCN, a panel put in place to this end has elected Mrs. Colette Tondi Mavungu, administrative assistant of the DRC Programme as the best employee of PACO for year 2012. Mrs. Mavungu thus received a certificate, congratulations and a bonus from the regional directorate.



Mrs. Colette Tondi Mavungu

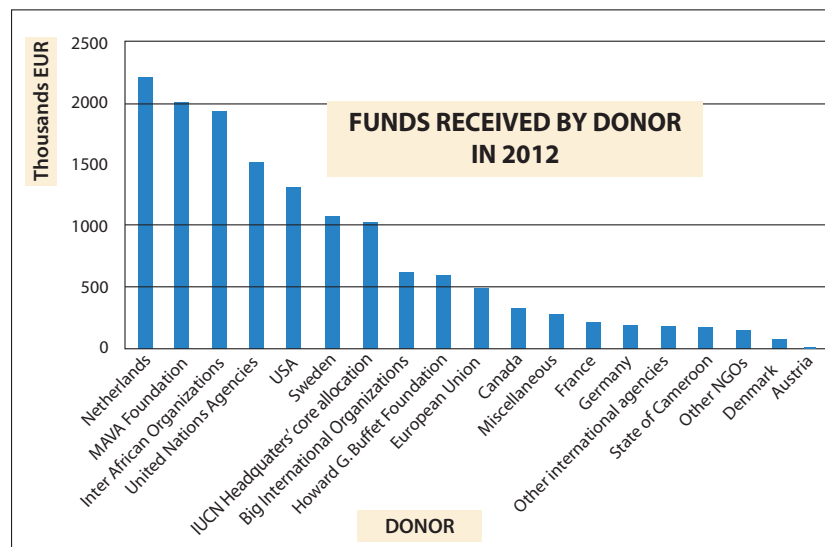
Finance

IUCN makes distinction between two components in its budget: the budget of the secretariat which includes salaries and overheads for teams and projects and is completely devoted to the implementation of specific conventions.

Hence, the 2012 provisional budget for the Secretariat amounted to Euro 5,428,436 of revenue and Euro 5,356,468 of expenditure. As of December 31st, 2012 however, the revenue collected was 83% of forecast revenue and expenditures 84% of planned expenditures. With this, the financial results of technical programmes have ranged from slight deficit to little surplus.

As for the annual budget for projects, this was a total amount of Euro 17,481,480 with a 77% execution rate. This relatively low execution rate is partly due to the unrest that countries like Mali and Guinea Bissau have experienced and the late start of projects in some cases.

39% of the funds received by PACO for its programmes come from bilateral donors (the three main ones being the Netherlands, the United States and Sweden), 29% from multilateral donors (inter African organizations, United Nations Agencies) and 23% from foundations (MAVA, Howard G. Buffett, ARCUS) and great NGOs (Figure below); the *core fund* received from IUCN Headquarters accounts for 7% of total budget while various other partners contribute the remaining 2%.



The management of these funds requires an adequate and well monitored mechanism; As such, the various units of PACO are submitted to internal and external audits (3 and 21 respectively in 2012) every year, which helps to check the consistency of operations and

compliance with procedures and contracts. These audits have allowed the identification of weaknesses that have for which corrective measures have been taken or are underway.

Conclusion

Year 2012 has been a hard one at several levels, which somehow affected the implementation of PACO's projects and programmes and resulted into a financial balance that fall short of expectations. In spite of this, the Central and West Africa Programme has further strengthened its synergy with UICN's Members and Commissions and recorded some significant achievements that were disseminated at several regional events (6th Marine & Coastal Forum) and international events (Rio+20 Conference, UICN's World Conservation Congress). The programme has also initiated new partnerships and strengthened its portfolio of projects in order to get prepared for the implementation of the 2013-2016 four-year programme.

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