



Promoting efficacy in Central and West Africa

2008 Annual Report



CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICA PROGRAM (CWAP)

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

- AD (NGO):** Action pour le Développement
- AFED:** Amis de la Forêt et de l'Environnement pour le Développement
- AIDS:** Acquired Immune-deficiency Syndrome
- AMCOW:** African Ministers' Council on Water
- AVP:** Accord de Partenariat Volontaire
- CARPE:** Programme régional de l'Afrique Centrale pour l'environnement
- CBLT:** Commission du Bassin du Lac Tchad
- CDB:** Convention sur la Diversité Biologique
- CEDC:** Centre d'Etudes de l'Environnement et du Développement au Cameroun
- CEFDHAC:** Conférence sur les Ecosystèmes de Forêts Denses et Humides d'Afrique Centrale
- CEEAC:** Communauté économique des États d'Afrique Centrale
- CEES:** Centre d'Etudes Environnementales et Sociales
- CEGIRE:** Comité d'Etat pour la Gestion Intégrée des Ressources en Eau
- CERAD:** Centre de Recherche et d'Action pour le Développement Durable en Afrique Centrale
- CEW:** Cameroon Environmental Watch
- CGET:** Conseil de Gestion de l'Ecosystème Transfrontalier Gourma/Sahel
- CICOS:** Commission Internationale du Bassin du Congo-Oubangui-Sangha
- CIFOR:** Center for International Forestry Research
- CITES:** Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species
- CMS:** Convention on Migratory Species
- COMIFAC:** Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale
- CREPA:** Centre Régional pour l'Eau Potable et l'Assainissement
- CRS:** Catholic Relief Services
- CSRP:** Commission sous-régionale des pêches
- CTGEN:** Comité Transfrontalier pour la Gestion des Eaux du Nakanbé
- CTO:** Cognizant Technical Officer
- CWAP:** Central and West Africa Program
- DGRE:** Direction Générale des Ressources en Eau
- DR:** Directeur Régional
- DRC:** Democratic Republic of Congo
- EMB:** Ecole Mobile de Brousse
- EU:** European Union
- FCFA:** Franc de la Communauté Financière Africaine
- FGF:** Forest Governance Facility
- FIBA:** Fondation Internationale du Banc d'Arguin
- FLEGT:** Forest Law Enforcement on Governance and Trade
- GAECA Palmerina:** Groupe d'Appui à l'Education et la Communication Environnementale
- GAED:** Gestion des Activités Extractives pour le Développement
- GASS:** Guidelines for the Assessment of Small-Scale and Data-Deficient fisheries
- GDP:** Gross Domestic Product
- GSEAF:** Groupe des Spécialistes de l'Eléphant d'Afrique
- GWI:** Global Water Initiative
- GWP:** Global Water Partnership
- GWP-CAf:** Global Water Partnership - Central Africa
- GWP-CAFTAC:** Global Water Partnership - Central Africa Technical Advisory Committee
- HIV:** Human Immuno-deficiency Virus
- IBAP:** Institut de la Biodiversité et des Aires protégées
- ICRAF:** International Centre for Research in Agro-forestry
- IUCN:** International union for the conservation of nature
- IWRM:** Integrated Water Resource Management
- LLS:** Landscape and Livelihood System
- MIKE:** Monitoring Illegal Killing of Elephant
- NGO:** Non Governmental Organization
- OIBT:** Organisation Internationale des Bois Tropicaux
- OMVS:** Organisation pour la Mise en Valeur du fleuve Sénégal
- PAGEV:** Projet d'Amélioration de la Gouvernance de l'Eau de la Volta
- PAP:** Plans d'Aménagement par Pêche
- PARTAGE:** Projet d'Appui à la GEstion de la Pêche ARTisanale Transfrontalière
- PAS:** Programme d'Action Stratégique
- PGIRES:** Programme de Gestion Intégrée des Ressources en Eau du Sourou
- PHAST:** Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation
- PND:** Parc National du Diawling
- PRCM:** Programme Régional de conservation de la zone Côtière et Marine en Afrique de l'Ouest
- PROFOR:** Programme sur les Forêts (a World Bank program)
- PU:** Planète Urgence
- RBT:** Projet Réserve de Biosphère Transfrontière
- RECOPA:** Réseau de Communication sur le Pastoralisme
- REPES:** Réseau des Parlementaires pour la protection de l'Environnement
- ROSE:** Réseau des Organisations Locales du Sud-Est
- RPT:** Regional Thematic Programs
- SICE:** Système d'Information sur le Commerce des Eléphants
- TRAFFIC:** The wildlife trade monitoring network
- USAID:** United States Agency for International Development
- WAP:** W, Arly et Pendjari
- WWF:** World Wide Fund for Nature

IUCN- CWAP DONORS

The IUCN Central and West Africa programme is most grateful to the numerous donors that provided financial and technical supports to implement the 2008 work plan.



- World Bank
- African Development Bank
- Ecosystem Partnership fund
- French Cooperation
- Agence Française de Développement
- Japanese International Cooperation Agency
- Swiss Confederation
- Belgian Cooperation
- Canadian cooperation
- Spanish Cooperation
- European Union
- African Union
- FAO
- DFID
- CRDI
- USAID
- ITTO
- Danida
- UNEP
- UNDP
- WWF
- SIDA
- GTZ
- IIED
- DGIS
- GEF
- FFEM
- CBLT
- FIBA
- CITES
- TRAFFIC
- SWISSAID
- GWP-CAFTAC
- Planète Urgence
- US Wildlife service
- Les amis de la terre
- Howard Buffet Foundation
- Mairie de Messok
- Ministry of Forest and Fauna
- Ministry of Lands, Forestry and Mines of Ghana
- Republic of Mali
- Republic of Ghana
- Federal Government of Nigéria
- Islamic Republic of Mauritania
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Ministry of Agriculture, of the Water Resources and Fisheries of Burkina
- IUCN (members)



FOREWORD



Pr Aimé J. Nianogo,
Regional Director

2008 was a year of major changes within the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in general and in Central and West Africa in particular.

In May 2008, the regionalization and decentralization process, which had begun some 15 years ago, finally resulted in the merger of the Central and West Africa Offices into one single program: Central and West Africa Program (CWAP). The new program covers 26 countries, and its coordination unit (the Regional Bureau) is based in Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso. It has a membership of 70, including 15 States.

The restructuring of IUCN in Central and West Africa was conducted collegially, from July 2007 to May 2008, and the purpose is to make the Union a strong institution; one that is able to influence policies and to efficiently sustain conservation and sustainable development efforts that are better adapted to the current needs of the African continent.

The year 2008 also marked the end of the 2005-2008 four year program and saw the preparation of a new program for the 2009-2012

period. Designed with the participation of IUCN's members and partners in Central and West Africa, the new four year program 2009-2012 contributes to the objectives of the Union's global program and will be implemented by all IUCN constituents (Secretariat, members, and commissions). One key innovation in the new program has to do with the place and primordial role conferred to IUCN's members and its six commissions in the planning and implementation of the program. It also provides that significant efforts should be made in the areas of communication and information technologies. The new program was adopted at the 4th World Congress on Nature held in Barcelona, Spain, from October 4 to 14, 2008.

During the forum and the Assembly meeting, IUCN's staff, members, and partners were involved in the preparation and implementation of the different activities organized in the thematic pavilion (water, forests, energy, safeguarding species, etc.); which helped Central and West Africa to participate in the Congress effectively. The forum and the Assembly were an opportunity for experience sharing and for discussion on the theme of the congress, which was: "A diverse and sustainable world."

This report presents the main achievements of IUCN's interventions in Central and West Africa in 2008, and bridges the former and new structures of its program in Central and West Africa. So far, these two regions had been treated separately in the programs; but they now are united because they present the same stakes and face the same environmental and social challenges. IUCN is therefore in a position to promote experience exchange in terms of conservation and sustainable development more efficiently between the players and partners in Central and West Africa. As a result, the structure of the 2008 report rests on the new configuration of the Central and West Africa Program.

INTRODUCTION



Jean-Marc Garreau,
Regional Program Coordinator

For the first time ever, this technical report presents both the outcomes of the Central and West Africa Programs. However, it is not a juxtaposition of two reports; rather, it is a single and coherent report, reflecting the Regional Program CWAP.

The purpose of the report is also to account for IUCN's new orientations under its program entitled « Shaping a sustainable future, » which will be implemented up to 2012. More specifically, the point is to find ways to develop a single program for IUCN; one that serves as a reference and reflects the common ambition of Union's secretariat, members, and commissions.

The report is articulated along the five regional thematic programs (RTP), which now structure the regional program, to give it a genuinely regional scope. From Senegal to the Democratic Republic of Congo, and from Mali to Congo, the Forests, Water and humid zones, Protected Areas and Biodiversity, Marine and coastal ecosystems, and Rights / Policies / Governance programs operate on comparable themes, and

use identical approaches. The RTPs are responsible for designing and implementing interventions targeting biodiversity conservation, IUCN's reference subject. And, they rest on country program offices where IUCN has established special local relations with its members and partners.

Beside the regional and country programs, the report highlights one of IUCN's strengths in Central and West Africa: developing partnerships articulated on creative initiatives aiming to reinforce conservation and sustainable development interventions. Based on these initiatives, IUCN pools the knowledge generated by the different partners to develop technical and institutional innovations for the benefit of biodiversity and local populations.

Finally, IUCN would not be a Union without its members and commissions, which are the sources of its own dynamism. In several areas and countries, its members are involved in the implementation of the program. The report presents the key outcomes reached thanks to and with their actual participation.

THE FOREST CONSERVATION PROGRAM



CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICA COMMITTED TO BETTER MANAGING THEIR FORESTS

The voluntary partnership agreements (VPA) between the European Union and timber exporting countries are a central aspect of the EU-FLEGT action plan, which aims to support the forest sector reforms and to prevent illegal timber and derivative products from entering the European market. During the stakeholder dialogue organized as part of FLEGT/VPA, the following were achieved:

Voluntary partnership agreements were signed: Ghana signed a commitment with the European Union to launch the negotiation process, with a view to reaching voluntary partnership agreements by the end of 2008. On the other hand, Cameroon and the European Union are engaged in the same process.

Mobilization of actors in Cameroon and Congo: The different workshops organized to reinforce the actors' technical capacities in the field of negotiation helped to collect their opinions. The mobilization of the various actors was also made possible because ten participants of Cameroon and Congo received financial support to attend the VPA negotiation held in Brussels.

Preparation of dialogue strategies with the China: Forest governance in Central Africa now involves the participation of China, an important consumer of tropical African wood. In 2008, IUCN invited a team from the Chinese Forest Administration to visit Africa. Following from this Africa tour, the Chinese Administration recognized the need to pursue dialogue with African governments in order to curb illegal exports.

On the whole, the commitment of the Congo basin countries to the FLEG process is positive. Cameroon and Congo are committed and envisage signing their agreements in 2009. Gabon has expressed an interest in joining the momentum. Though not concerned by the

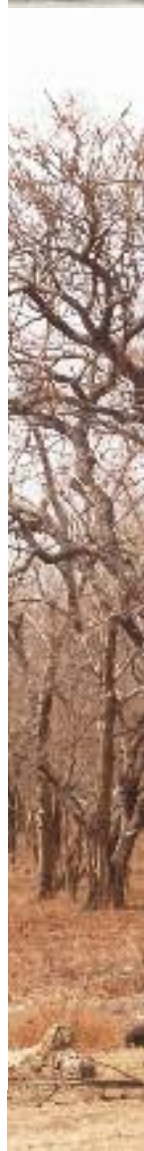
project, the Central African Republic is also actively preparing itself. One other challenge for 2009 has to do with involving rural populations in the governance of forests. The plan is therefore to establish and revitalize multi-actor dialogue platforms in the southern and eastern provinces of Cameroon.

In signing partnership programs, IUCN provides technical support to the process by facilitating technical and scientific data sharing and the participation of all stakeholders, namely civil society, small, medium-size and big firms, as well as Parliamentarians. The prospects are therefore good for the future of FLEGT in Central and West Africa. However, all the stakeholders must keep their eyes open to ensure that the implementation of the agreement signed by Cameroon remains a participatory process and serves as an example for the other Central African countries that are still hesitant.

FOREST LANDSCAPES IMPROVE LIVELIHOODS IN CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICA

The « Livelihood and Landscape Strategy » initiative (LLS) comprises four thematic components, which are: forests and poverty alleviation, markets and motivation factors, governance, and landscape change. The components are treated following an integrated approach, whereby IUCN aims to meet the challenges of improving poor people's living conditions in rural areas through sustainable use of biodiversity, while maintaining a good level of environmental surveillance. Several countries are concerned by the activities under this initiative: Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda.

In the Congo Basin (Cameroon, Congo, Central African Republic), achievements have been made in terms of reinforcing the links between conservation and development. A poverty evaluation framework has been established, and



it involves LLS's partners in the Congo Basin: WWF, CIFOR, ICRAF, CEES, CERAD, ROSE, TRAFFIC, CEW, Radio Environnement, and local partners. The participatory management of the fauna takes the communities' rights into consideration. More and more forest concessionaries engage in forest certification processes.

In the Great Lakes region (Rwanda, Burundi, DRC), through training and experience sharing, the capacities of civil society, grassroots communities and administrative representatives have been improved in terms of participatory definition of development and conservation indicators.

In Burkina Faso, a study of the state of forest resources and the socio-economic constraints involved in the management of Sablogo forest in the Center-East region reached the conclusion that the existing forest management structures and infrastructures are not operational, and that the forest has almost been entirely occupied (80%) by agricultural farmers, human habitations, and socio-economic infrastructures (such as markets, grain mills, schools, well and/or boreholes). For the triple communal forests of *Sablogo*, the rural communes of *Bissiga* and *Lalgaye*, including the urban commune (municipality) of *Tenkodogo*, have committed themselves to restoring and fostering the forest resources, including non wood ones, which they share.

CAMEROON SUCCESSFULLY TRIES OUT THE « POVERTY FOREST » TOOLKIT

The World Bank's Forest Program (PROFOR) provides forest resource actors with possibilities for learning in order to better understand the complex relations obtaining between forest conservation and the fight against poverty. In collaboration with its partners, including IUCN, it

is developing a toolkit likely to help better understand the contribution of forests to communities' living conditions. IUCN took part in the testing and improvement of the "poverty-forest" toolkit, which, henceforth, will be used to design forestry projects that contribute more efficiently to poverty alleviation.

Though the prospects for a wider application of the program in Cameroon are significant, the toolkit still needs to be fine-tuned during the next steps, by replicating the test under other forest and socio-economic conditions.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS INVOLVED IN BUSH FIRE SURVEILLANCE AND FOREST RESTORATION IN GHANA

In Central and West Africa, bush fires are one of the causes of forest resource degradation and the increase of green house gas. Whatever their causes, bush fires reduce the sponge function of plant covers, and, in the long term, facilitate wind and water erosion of soils. In Ghana, bush fires are still commonly used as a tool for hunting, honey collection, palm wine tapping, as well as during traditional ceremonies. However, these fires generate a loss of about 3% in the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Funds received from the International Organization for Tropical Wood (OITB) helped IUCN and its members in Ghana, namely the Forestry Commission through its Resource Management Support Center and the Forest Research Institute of Ghana, to design a Project on "Fire management and post-fire restoration with local community collaboration." The aim of the project is to increase the benefits drawn from forest products, through promoting a better management of bushfires. More specifically, the project seeks to guarantee the protection of wood and non wood forest products, and to restore fire degraded lands with local plant species.



In 2008, fire brigades trained: At least 100 community members have been trained and equipped to combat bushfires. These community fire-fighters will be given a practical guide, currently being drawn up. In the District of Dormaa, a nursery, with a capacity of more than one thousand plants, is being prepared with local forest species.

Furthermore, local communities permanently informed on how to manage bushfires better: A radio program in local languages is available for the communities. Notice signs for bushfire control have been produced and distributed to the local communities.

The project also helped to identify the various stakeholders (public, private, and local communities) and clarify their different roles, through a participatory approach. The current legislation on bushfire was reviewed, preliminary socio-economic studies were undertaken, and an assessment of the training needs was carried out in the Districts of Dormaa, Begoro, Juaso, Afram Plains and Winneba. The preliminary studies revealed that the main causes of the failure of fire management programs in the country hinge on two factors: bushfire management is excessively centralized, which translates into limited coordination between public agencies, and communities are underequipped to fight against the fires. The legislative inadequacies are, among other things: lack of legal support to volunteers to allow them to reprimand or arrest culprits, lack of recognition of the role of traditional legislative authorities, and absence of an assurance or a compensation scheme for firefighting activities.

Based on the outcomes of the preliminary studies, a participatory ecological survey was conducted to understand bushfire mitigation aspects, species' resilience and adaptation, and the forest species preferred by local communities. From this, some socially acceptable, economically viable, and ecologically resilient forest species were selected for field testing. The selection helped to launch a restoration process involving: (a) working with hunters to obtain information on species such as the fig tree, whose propagation depends much on wild animals, (b) promotion of snail farming as a short term restoration strategy, (c) engagement of faunal restoration in the monitoring of degraded forest lands, and (d) starting a management scheme, such as community resources management zones, to secure a rational management for restored fauna.

The way forward for the project will consist of revising the *taungya* restoration scheme (agroforestry system), to: (i) prepare a training programme with a view to increasing the number of volunteers, (ii) set up a training site for forest landscape restoration, (iii) establish an environment conducive to testing new environmental management tools such as the 'Cristal', 'Poverty' and 'Landscape modeling' toolkits, (iv) test and demonstrate the compatibility of certain species with natural resource based undertakings such as honey and snail farming, (v) establish a community carbon scheme to benefit from the existing social structures, including organized fire brigades, that are capable of actually combating bushfires.





FOR BETTER GOVERNANCE IN SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN CENTRAL AFRICA

In 2008, the Central African Regional Program on Environment (CARPE), namely, its component on “Improving natural resource governance” for which IUCN was made responsible, geared all its activities to supporting the important agenda of Central African countries in terms of environmental policy and legislation (forest, water, mining, etc.). Coordinating the actors led to remarkable changes in terms of natural resource policies and legislations in most countries of the Congo basin.

Based on participatory dialogue, the strategy adopted helped to plan and implement coherent activities, to reinforce the players’ capacities in terms of preparing, implementing, and monitoring priority micro-projects in each of the countries, to provide support for reforming CEFDHAC, to sensitize governments and other partners on land use, to prepare case studies with a view to publishing the lessons learned through natural resource management, etc.

The national teams trained in 2007 were consolidated in 2008 to foster a better synergy of action through consultation and realistic planning. Each of the countries was thereby enabled to design a work plan highlighting their policy and legislative priorities. The plans facilitate the involvement of the various environmental actors (parliamentarians, women, local populations, non-governmental organizations, women’s organizations, research institutions, etc.) in the planning, implementation, and monitoring.

In consonance with the implementation of the CEFDHAC reform, the focal points of CARPE Program helped to coordinate the efforts of the national actors, and to convene seven national CEFDHAC forums in Burundi, Rwanda, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Gabon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Congo, and Equatorial Guinea.

In addition, the program funded sixteen micro-projects in the nine countries, based on the recommendations made by the National Steering Committees and the Regional Steering Committee. The monitoring and supervision conducted revealed that the micro-projects were implemented satisfactorily. Their outcomes will be used to influence forest and environmental policies at both national and regional levels.

Similarly, accompanied by the Regional Program Coordinator based at IUCN, the office team based at USAID in Kinshasa, DRC, namely, the Cognizant Technical Officer (CTO), and the ambassador of the United States of America in Cameroon, CARPE’s Focal Points also conducted field visits to the different landscape areas. The visits aimed to assess the implementation of the field activities funded by CARPE and executed by WWF, African Wildlife Foundation, Conservation International, WCS, and their different partners. Also, not only did the visits facilitate a synergy between the different components of the Program, but they also laid out the orientations necessary to ensure that the activities are implemented efficiently in the different landscape areas.

THE WATER RESOURCES AND HUMID ZONES PROGRAM

NIGERIA HAS ADOPTED A CHARTER FOR PARTICIPATORY, SUSTAINABLE, AND EQUITABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES IN THE KOMADUGU YOBE BASIN

The Komadugu Yobe Basin, a hydrographical sub-basin of Lake Chad, covers 140 000 Km². The Nigerian part of the basin is 84 000 Km² and boasts of great agricultural, pastoral, and fishery potentials, which are necessary for the survival of millions of populations. It also boasts of a great potential for tourism, small and medium-size industries, and is the habitat for important ecosystems and natural landscapes. Climatic changes and demographic growth have exerted strong pressure on the ecosystems of the basin, thereby affecting the natural resources, namely water. The Federal Government and the States concerned with the basin therefore decided to use an Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) approach to manage the Basin. As a result, in collaboration with IUCN and an NGO member (Nigerian Conservation Foundation), the Federal Government of Nigeria designed the "Improving Land and Water Resources Management in the Komadugu Yobe Basin" Project. The primary aim of the project is to improve the institutional framework for water resource management in the basin.

Consequently, the project went on to identify the following key stakeholders involved the management of the basin's land and water resources: the States, represented by the relevant ministries, direct user groups, community organizations, customary authorities, and civil society.

A State Committee for the Integrated Management of Water Resources (SCIWRM) has been set up in each of the six Nigerian States (Bauchi, Borno, Jigaw, Kano, Plateau and Yobe) concerned by the basin. The committee involves all the stakeholders identified, including women's groups. A joint State Committee

comprising the Secretaries and Chairpersons of the six committees has been established to manage the resources.

The riparian States that have chosen to pool their financial resources to support the management plan of the hydrographical basin have set up a trust fund.

This has created an enabling environment conducive to the various stakeholders' participation in the decision making process of the management of water and other natural resources. As a result, it has been possible to undertake some collective maintenance initiatives in the reservoirs of the Komadugu Yobe Basin.

A BURKINA FASO-GHANA AGREEMENT ON CROSS-BORDER GOVERNANCE OF THE VOLTA WATER

The river Volta flows through six West African countries and represents a key socio-political resource binding populations that are different in terms of origin and culture. Consequently, it provides both an opportunity for regional cooperation and numerous possibilities for the member states of the basin. However, as with most other river basins in Africa, the potentialities of the basin have only been little harnessed, principally for lack of formal legal and institutional provisions bearing on the management of its water and other natural resources.

Additionally, the governance of water faces the following challenges: absence of a reference framework for information management and data sharing, risks of conflicts stemming from divergent interests up and downstream, land and soil degradation leading to the silting of the canals and reservoirs, proliferation of aquatic weeds, absence of mechanisms to ensure the participation of populations in the decision-making process.



The Volta Water Resource Governance Improvement Project (PAGEV) supported the authorities in charge of water resources in Ghana and Burkina Faso, as well as riparian communities to set up water resource governance mechanisms and tools. This resulted in 2008 in the ratification of a concerted cross-border water resource management agreement. Indeed, on June 20, 2008, the Regional Minister for the Upper-East region of Ghana and the Governor of the Center-East Region of Burkina Faso signed an agreement creating a Cross-border Committee for the Management of the Water Resources of the Nakambé or White Volta sub-basin (CTGEN).

Having taken place after a process of several consultations with all stakeholders at the local, national, and cross-border levels, the signing inspired new agreements and protocols aiming to improve and reinforce concerted cooperation between the two countries in the area of natural resource management. These culminated into a strategy designed jointly by the technical bodies and target communities of the two countries, and which spells out the following:

- Mobilize the strategic partners around the communities: decongestion and decentralized administrative authorities, and technical structures supporting local communities and civil society. This required the organization of consultation forums at all levels, from bottom to top. The forums provided platforms where the impediments to the sustainable use of natural resources in the shared basin were discussed, and possible solutions identified.
- Establish committees for the protection of river banks in eight pilot communities, which consequently reforested more than 20km long of banks, with the purpose of checking soil erosion and thereby protect the river water quality. Fruit and firewood trees were planted to protect the banks, promote sustainable environmental management, and support income diversification at the local level.
- Support the improvement of communities' livelihood by providing them with motor-pumps to develop dry season gardening, and helping women to generate revenues through small ruminant farming.
- Reinforce communities' capacities to ensure the sustainability of their interventions, through several training modules including soil fertility improvement, farmland management, hygiene and HIV/AIDS education.
- Finally, promote experience and good practice exchange visits between cross-border communities in order to promote friendship and collaboration between agents, equivalent structures, officers, and neighboring or cross-border communities.



COMMUNITY LAND AND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT APPROACHES TO IMPEDE THE DEGRADATION OF THE LAKE CHAD BASIN

The degradation of the Lake Chad Basin is partly due to non-concerted uses that do not take into account existing ecosystems. To reverse the trend, the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and IUCN decided to pool their competences to support riparian communities and countries to design management and/or communal use approach for their land and water resources, to draw the lessons thereof and to promote the successful experiences in Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria. The interventions focused on the following three aspects: (1) funding of community initiatives in the flood plain of Waza Logone, (2) collection and dissemination of lessons, and (3) implementation of the strategic action program of the Lake Chad Basin.

- The communities contribute to the strategic action program of the Lake Chad Basin: In April 2008, at a workshop organized in Maroua, Cameroon, the communities that had tested the community management approaches exchanged experiences with the Lake Chad Basin resource management actors. The workshop helped to produce a synthesis of the achievements of the different project implementation experiences and to identify the relevant ones for large scale reproduction in the Lake Chad Basin, as part of the Strategic Action Program of the Lake Chad Basin.

- The Strategic Action Program of the Lake Chad Basin adopted takes the communities' concerns into account: During the 5th meeting of the Steering Committee, held in Niamey, Niger, in April 2008, IUCIN and the national coordinators disseminated the lessons learned from implementing the Lake Chad Basin community management approaches. The Steering Committee recommended that the lessons learned from preparing and implementing the Strategic Action Program of the Lake Chad Basin be adopted in June 2008 by the Council of Ministers.

Encouraging results in 2008

With 30 million CFA Francs granted them to undertake community initiatives, the Lake Chad riparian communities managed to:

- to plant 38 000 utilitarian wood plants species (*Acacia senegal*, *Acacia polyacanta*, *Azadirachta indica*) and fruit trees in Chad, Niger, and Cameroon ;
- provide access to drinking water to 91 000 people who were sensitized on hygiene rules and good sanitary behaviors around 8 boreholes in Cameroon and Chad;
- reclaim about 10ha of degraded lands in Niger and Cameroon;
- reinforce communities' capacities to manage two secured livestock trails of about 20 kms long, and two secured livestock ponds around the Waza National Park. Management conventions have been prepared and signed by resource user groups;
- create 6, 173 ha of fenced orchards.





THE GLOBAL WATER PARTNERSHIP IS BEING REINFORCED IN CENTRAL AFRICA

The year 2008 marked the end of GWP's 2004-2008 strategic plan. In Central Africa, the strategy's objective was to promote the implementation of IWRM and its contribution to the achievements of the region's socio-economic objectives. Several actions were carried out over the five years to help meet this objective. The key outcomes for the present year are the following:

GWP's network in Central Africa has been reinforced: In 2007, GWP's network in Central Africa comprised the Cameroon's National Water Partnership and about fifty partners distributed throughout the sub-region. In 2008, three new National Water Partnerships were established in Congo, the Central African Republic, and Sao Tomé and Príncipe. Presently, the networks boast a membership of 120, coming from all water sector activities.

The regional water partnership of Central Africa has been established: GWP-CAf held its constituent assembly in Douala, Cameroon, on November 29, 2008, to mark the end of transition between GWP-CAfTAC and GWP-CAf. At the end of the deliberations, GWP-CAf's statutes were adopted and its bodies (Partners' General Assembly, Steering

Committee, Scientific and Technical Committee and Secretariat) determined. The missions conferred to the new Chairperson, M. Jean Pierre Bidjocka, for the coming two years are the following: set up the different GWP-CAf's bodies, define and establish funding mechanisms for the water sector in Central Africa.

GWP-CAf has been institutionalized: New prospects and challenges arise from this; for instance, create an IWRM coordination unity at CEEAC, support preparation by CICOS of a Strategic Action Plan (PAS) for the Congo Basin, develop a common action plan in collaboration with AMCOW's technical committee for Central Africa, and make the Regional Partnership and its network of partners viable. These challenges are all detailed and articulated in GWP-CAf's 2009-2013 strategy along four strategic objectives: help Central African countries and institutions to integrate the IWRM approach in their development plans, promote water resource management to tackle climatic changes and other critical challenges in Central Africa, position GWP-CAf as a water resource management advocate, and reinforce the GWP network in Central Africa.



PROTECTED AREAS PROGRAM



PROTECTED AREAS MANAGED PARTICIPATORILY AND EQUITABLY IN WEST AFRICA

The first generation of national parks in West Africa looked at the populations and the natural environment in which they lived as two separate and independent entities. More recently, with the creation of protected areas, a more balanced approach combining biodiversity conservation and the development of neighboring communities has been adopted. As a result, there is an attempt to involve riparian communities along the protected areas in the making of some decisions. However, in the implementation of this participatory process, men have often held the key roles, leading de facto to a marginalization of the groups considered as "minorities." For example, though they are the primary users of the parks, women have been largely excluded from the consultation processes.

IUCN supports its members and partners in West Africa to help them engage the process of reflection on the role of participation and equity in the efficient management of protected areas. By organizing workshops and mobilizing the appropriate knowledge and communication tools, it seeks to help its conservation partners to better understand equity in the management of protected areas. It appears that, most often, women are perceived as natural resource predators; they remain marginalized in the surveillance and data collection activities and are not involved in the making of decisions. The key achievements during 2008 are:

About twenty actors and partners were sensitized on the issue of equity in protected areas: About twenty people including ministers, parliamentarians, and environmental NGO leaders participated in a regional workshop in Cotonou, Benin, in April 2008. Sponsored by Benin's Minister in charge of Environment, the workshop helped to sensitize the participants and to collect their concerns and suggestions.

Equity related sensitization tools are available in the protected areas: A booklet on equity in West Africa has been published (in partnership with


the International Foundation of Banc d'Arguin) and was disseminated during IUCN's world congress on Nature held in October 2008 in Barcelona. The booklet presents, among other things, case studies conducted in West Africa and practical intervention suggestions. Ultimately, a 35 minutes documentary was shot and screened for the first time during the congress. Targeting the general public, the film upholds women's role in protected areas by portraying women in Burkina Faso, Benin, and Guinea Bissau.

Taking equity into consideration within protected areas remains a challenge for policy makers and park managers. Consequently, the Central and West Africa protected areas program aims to transform the lessons learned into concrete actions. The main challenge has to do with ensuring that the current management plans address the issue of equity, in order to develop new approaches. To meet this challenge, it is necessary to continue to provide information to the decision-makers within the protected areas, support promising initiatives as models, and learn from past and current experiences.

A COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN GHANA AND BURKINA FASO FOR CONCERTED MANAGEMENT OF SHARED ECOSYSTEMS

The Ghanaian Minister in charge of Lands, Forests and Mines and his Burkinabe counterpart in charge of Environment and Living Framework signed a long negotiated agreement on July 2008 in Accra, under IUCN's facilitation and in the presence of the Regional Director of CWAP, as well as numerous technical officers from the two countries. The aim of the agreement is to establish a concerted, integrated and sustainable management system of shared wildlife resources, between Ghana and Burkina Faso, in consonance with the principles of international legislation and the secular cooperation agreements between the two countries.

With this agreement, the two parties commit themselves to consulting one another regularly in



order to better coordinate their natural resource conservation policies, and to make the necessary legal, institutional and technical provisions necessary to implement their commitment on the conservation of natural ecosystems. Furthermore, they commit themselves to:

- protecting the wildlife migration corridors and developing cross-border migration corridors, with appropriate statutes guaranteeing a better protection for wildlife species;
- accelerating the prevention of activities destructive to wildlife species in the areas concerned, and speeding the application of deterrent penalties;
- undertaking joint surveillance actions in the conservation zones.

A joint committee comprising key actors from the two countries will be responsible for implementing the agreement. The committee will produce an annual activity report addressing the state of implementation, and make observations and recommendations aiming to improve the Agreement, for the appropriate national authorities. Finally, the Agreement provides for a joint periodic evaluation of the state of progress.

A sizeable elephant population in West Africa

The Ghana-Burkina Faso border is rich with protected areas:

- On the Burkina Faso side, the Sissili classified forest, Nazinga game ranch, and Kabore Tambi National Park.
- On the Ghanaian side, Mole National Park, Gbele Resource Reserve, and several forest reserves, including Red Volta West, Red Volta East, Gambaga West, and Gambaga East.

Were this set of areas managed coherently, with its 1100 elephants, it would boast the second largest savannah elephant range in West Africa, after the complex of the W, Arly and Pendjari (WAP) parks, which hosts more than 4000 heads.

TOWARDS GENUINE INTEGRATION OF THE MANAGEMENT OF THE RIVER SENEGAL DELTA AREA

Following from the support provided to the Djoudj and Diawling national parks, the Cross-border Biosphere Reserve Project (CBR) of the river Senegal delta aims to establish a common approach in Senegal and Mauritania. Only such an approach will help consolidate the progress made in terms of restoring and co-managing the extremely rich ecosystems of the region. Additionally, the ecosystem approach adopted seeks to federate national and international competences and capacities, in order to promote genuine integration of the management of the delta area, and to preserve both its biological receiving capacity and its economic value for the local populations.

In 2008, the CBR was subjected to a weekly ecological monitoring, and the actors also worked to develop a strategy for the management of the warthog population.

In terms of consultation, experts from the Cross-border Steering Committee of the river Senegal Delta CBR, the Organization for the Improvement of the River Senegal (OMVS), IUCN, and parliamentary institutions were convened to an information exchange workshop. They had fruitful discussions on possibilities of interaction between the various parties concerned by CBR, and made several recommendations aimed to operationalize the CBR.

For the eco-development component, the efforts focused on continuing and transferring activities, as well as on training the staff of the Diawling National Park (PND) on all dossiers on community development. This activity was carried out by IUCN in support to the Management Department of the park.

Further, 2008 saw the inauguration of a Community Development Center whose construction was completed in December 2007. For the conservation of the park, the Center will have to determine, in collaboration with the various actors of the zone, a new work procedure giving more importance to the actors' direct involvement (municipalities, populations, and groupings). The Center will also have to give meaning to the Biosphere Reserves concept; a concept cherished by UNESCO, one which places human being at the heart of natural resource conservation and management, and seeks to increase actors' involvement and responsibility. The Center will host the headquarters of the Micro-finance Program, an Eco-Museum, a handicraft show and sale room, as well as a multifunctional room for training sessions and workshops.

MARINE AND COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS PROGRAM



PARTAGE: A FRAMEWORK FOR CROSS-BORDER FISH RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

In accordance with IUCN's intervention rationale in terms of support to fishery management in Mauritania and Senegal, PARTAGE Project (Project for Support to the Management of Traditional Cross-border Fishing) had to support the initiative of the Fishery Development Plans (PAP) for four cross-border fish species (yellow and black mullets, spot, and bluefish), based on regionally coherent national plans as part of CRSP (Sub-regional Fishery Commission). Consequently, after finalizing the project's intervention framework, it was possible to undertake the necessary upstream preparation to allow the beneficiaries to take good ownership of the process in 2008.

As part of this undertaking, a yellow mullet (*Mugil cephalus*) sampling protocol was established to determine the structure of the stocks in Mauritania. Indeed, it is suspected that a sedentary population and a migrant stock are present in Mauritania, and that Mauritania's reproduction zones provide significant contribution. Further north, the Marine Stewardship Council has just completed an

evaluation of the yellow mullet fishery in the Banc d'Arguin National Park, as part of the GASS (Guidelines for the Assessment of Small-Scale and Data-Deficient fisheries) project.

Furthermore, the project's beneficiaries (representatives of fishery administration and professionals, research institutions of Mauritania and Senegal) organized themselves to assess the past actions and to prepare the launch of the project. This long participatory process led to a joint preparation and validation of the project's action plan.

Finally, the project provided support to professional organizations in the two countries, thereby allowing them to convene several times throughout the year. With this, the professional organizations were empowered to play their roles in the co-management process, and to support the two countries' fishery administrations, as a way of solving the fishery control and monitoring problems, but also of facilitating the implementation of the bilateral fishery agreement.





NEGOTIATE DEVELOPMENT FISHERY AGREEMENTS

IUCN reinforces national competences in the area of fishery agreement negotiations in the member States of the sub-regional fishery commission.

For all CSRP member States, fishery agreements with the European Union (EU) are an important source of income, but also of overexploitation of the fish resources. Fishery agreements have also been signed with other fleets from more remote countries, such as Asian fleets. However, unlike with the EU, the latter agreements are not generally signed after sophisticated negotiation sessions. Also, with the non EU fleets, the stakes of the agreements are generally less important.

If these agreements are important for CSRP countries, the negotiation capacities of their administrations are generally poor. At a meeting of their fishery directors held in 2006, IUCN and its partners from WWF and CSRP were asked to provide training around this theme.

During the first half of 2008, and based on a manual published specifically for the purpose, a workshop involving about twenty participants was organized in each of the seven CSRP countries by a team comprising the project coordinator, one CSRP representative, and one fishery negotiation expert. The workshop targeted fishery administrations, but also other ministries for which the fishery agreement is important, and the representatives of industrial and traditional fisheries. Indeed, the fishery agreements and their financial spin-offs are often concentrated in fishery administrations and financial

departments, without genuine consultation with the professional organizations or other ministries.

The training sessions were well received, and the actors requested CSRP to repeat such initiatives. The open-mindedness that characterized the workshop allowed traditional fishery representatives from Guinea to take part, for the first time ever, in a meeting on this topic, and to voice their concerns. The process launched at this workshop became concrete only recently, with the EU's decision to accept applications from traditional fishery representatives in the agreement under negotiation.

After the first wave of training sessions, a joint team visited the Republic of Guinea and Cape-Verde to assess the social, economic, and environmental impacts of the fishery agreements, in collaboration with local experts and administrators. In addition, based on a methodology previously designed, some data were collected and analyzed jointly. Because they found the methodology developed user-friendly in assessing the advantages and drawbacks of fishery agreements, the administrations of the two countries decided to create a fishery agreement impact monitoring/evaluation committee, which will convene twice annually. With this endeavor, it may be hoped that the negative impacts of the fishery agreements will be mitigated and the positive spin-offs improved.



THE RIGHTS, POLICY, AND GOVERNANCE PROGRAM



FINALLY EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES IN GUINEA-BISSAU TAKE THE ENVIRONMENT INTO ACCOUNT

The year 2008 was certainly pivotal in terms of mining resource exploitation in Guinea-Bissau. Yet, neither the authorities, neither civil society, nor even the potential investors have enough data on the environmental stakes of their activities. A strategy based on a "formative research/action" approach was developed to reinforce the participation of Parliamentarians and civil society in the process of mining exploitation.

Twenty-five Parliamentarians (1/4 of the National Assembly), fifty national NGO actors, and about one hundred rural producers were trained and appropriately sensitized on the stakes of mining and oil exploitation for natural resources and Guinea-Bissau's populations. About ten national managerial staffs were empowered to promote performing methodological and organizational tools in the mining sector.

The following impacts resulted from these outcomes: adoption and enforcement of the

environmental impact study law, dissemination of phosphate and oil related information by the authorities and extractive firms, appeal to the government to set up a multi-sector panel to orient mining and oil related issues.

SENEGAL: ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE

Senegalese Parliamentarians are gradually becoming environment-sensitive, as a result of the intervention of the Parliamentarian Network for the Environment in Senegal (REPES), supported by IUCN and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

During 2007, REPES developed various information, sensitization, and awareness-raising activities targeting its members and local populations. Through organizing ecological site discovery tours nation-wide, industrial plant visits, advocacy and lobbying actions targeting public authorities technical and financial partners, it contributed to promote the importance of environmental stakes in Senegal.

These undertakings significantly contributed to reinforce their image as advocates of the concerns attached to their term of office, and set an example for the technical commissions and the other networks of Senegal's Parliament. By reinforcing Parliamentarians' knowledge and awareness with regard to environmental issues, REPES contributes to improve the quality of parliamentarians' deliberations and to help them better address environmental issues.

The Regional network of Parliamentarians for the Environment in West Africa, created recently with IUCN's support as part of PRCM, will usefully draw from these outcomes to extend and disseminate them in the Parliaments of the other PRCM member States.

EXPERT PANEL: IMPROVE THE OIL AND GAS SECTOR ACTIVITIES

After launching its activities in October 2007, the Panel of independent scientific experts in charge of reviewing the environmental and social aspects of oil and gas exploration and extraction in Mauritania organized two missions in February and May 2008. Though exploration is on-going both on and off-shore, the Panel noted that the current production respite in the Chinguetti off-shore -the only oil field having reached the exploitation phase- may be used as an opportunity to prepare the country for the new phases of the oil era. The point is to establish a short-term national learning curve in terms of the environmental and socio-economic management of hydrocarbon production, which implies a considerable increase of the capacities of the State and civil society.

Outside the project's communication activities, the experts also organized the actors into a network by setting up a platform for dialogue on oil related activities, involving State representatives, local governments, elected representatives, academics, civil society, and oil companies.

To improve the oil and gas sector activities in Mauritania, the experts have already made some initial proposals, taking into account different contextual factors: SMEs currently with low capacities in terms of planning, monitoring, control, and intervention to face any accident in the hydrocarbon sector; value and exceptional sensitivity of some ecosystems; and heterogeneity of the actors.

In addition, the Panel organized various meetings with academicians, including a group of professors from the University of Nouakchott responsible for a Master level training on Management of Extractive Activities for Development (GAED). The rationale of the project is to train professionals likely to deal with the issue of relations between extractive activities and their receiving settings (environment, riparian populations, States), whether inside mining firms, State services, local governments, or civil society.

The Panel conducted its missions in a context where oil revenues in Mauritania are still lower than expected initially, because the Chinguetti off-shore production is lower than planned.



Radio Environnement: a permanent sensitization tool

Radio Environnement is a platform for information and sensitization activities and for popularizing the experiences of the actors involved in sustainable natural resource management, and the major events related to the conservation of nature. It broadcast from Yaoundé in Cameroon.

Documentation center

Mobilizing information for conservation actors.

Here, readers in the documentation center of IUCN office in Yaoundé, Cameroon.



PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES



CONTROLLING ILLEGAL KILLING OF ELEPHANTS

The goal of the "Monitoring illegal killing of elephants" Program is to provide the data needed to make management decisions, as well as decisions on institutional capacity building for a sustainable management of elephants. This is a CITES initiative. In 2008, MIKE program began making contacts with the Group of specialists on African elephants and TRAFFIC Program, with a view to contributing to a study on bush meat in Central Africa.

In Central Africa, the Program's direct collaborators are the national and site officers, and the members of the steering committee (Wildlife department authorities). This multi-actor partnership helped to make known the various sites and to identify the support needs. Improvement of communication proved relevant, especially in the various sites; hence, there is a permanent need for support to build up a data base.

With the various training sessions organized for two national officials and twelve site personnel,

MIKE now boasts of more competent human resources. The training courses covered data collection techniques and the management of data on illegal killing of elephants.

Excepting Monte Allen in Equatorial Guinea, all the program's sites received financial support in 2008 to help boost their activities.

Scientific and technical knowledge was also mobilized in order to reinforce elephant conservation actions in Central Africa. A survey of the elephant population was done in the Boumba Bek National Park, Cameroon, one of the program's sites. WWF Jengji, the partner in charge of the site, conducted the survey. Furthermore, a review of the national reports of Cameroon, Chad, Gabon and the Central African Republic revealed that some countries are beginning to integrate the program in their management systems, in accordance with the recommendation of the third meeting of the Steering Committee. However, despite these achievements, one major challenge remains, namely, how to improve the methods for data collection and for continued management of a data base on elephants' populations and their illegal killing.





SUPERVISING THE TRADE OF WILDLIFE FOR A BETTER CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES

After providing distant assistance on wildlife trade for several years, the TRAFFIC Program opened an office in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in April 2008, with the following priorities: bush-meat trade, timber trade governance, and illegal ivory market. TRAFFIC therefore represents a valuable support for the priority action program of the regional initiatives (COMIFAC and CEFDHAC) and the national, regional and international conventions or agreements (CITES, CDB). The TRAFFIC-Central Africa Program covers eight of the nine COMIFAC member States: Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Sao Tomé & Príncipe.

TRAFFIC is a joint WWF-IUCN Program in charge of managing and coordinating the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS), and is implemented in close collaboration with the Secretariat of CITES.

The last ETIS report produced by TRAFFIC clearly indicated that Cameroon, China, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, and Thailand are the countries heavily involved in illicit ivory trade; and that less than 5% of seizure cases world-wide and involving Cameroon, the DRC, and, more generally, African countries are actually reported to ETIS. The TRAFFIC-Central Africa Program seeks to contribute to establish an ETIS network in Cameroon and the DRC, and to revise and prepare a national strategy for the conservation of elephants.

In 2008, the Program helped to reinforce the technical capacities of the actors involved in the conservation of elephants in Central Africa, through organizing ETIS training workshops. In the DRC, 23 participants from public institutions in charge of enforcing wildlife legislation received training on elephant trade information system. In Cameroon, 25 agents from national and international institutions operating in the conservation of biodiversity were also trained on ETIS.

PARTNERS FOR RATIONAL AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF MARINE AND COASTAL RESOURCES

The Regional Coastal and Marine Program is a West African initiative launched by IUCN, FIBA, WWF and CRSP; it started its second phase in 2008. As a key actor in the process of making the Program's actions coherent, the Coordination Unit had a particularly busy agenda, and produced the following key outcomes:

Funding mobilized to support sustainable management of the coastal zone : A total of 21 projects covering different sectors received financial support to reinforce the organizational, technical, and scientific capacities of West African marine and coastal zone actors, for the purpose of rational and sustainable management of natural resources;

West African actors reinforced their participation in international conventions: The PRCM's Coordination Unit was involved in West Africa's preparation for the Conference of the parties to the Convention on Biodiversity, and it mobilized PRCM's partners to sensitize member States' authorities on the importance of ratifying the convention. Similarly,

PRCM supported the ratification process of the Abidjan Convention in Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, and Cape Verde. Finally, as part of the Convention on Migrating Species (CMS), PRCM engaged in a process aimed at supporting the inclusion into the convention' annexes of two endangered marine mammal species (sharks and sawfish) still existing in PRCM member States.

Coordination endeavors are still on-going in terms of providing support to funded projects to help them actually launch their activities, and establishing an effective monitoring and evaluation mechanism. Particular attention will be given to resource mobilization in order to supplement the budget of Phase 2 Program. It will also be necessary to identify the gaps between the current programming and the needs that have not been taken into consideration, to make the program more coherent and to organize a regional coastal and marine Forum in Bissau on 16-20 February 2009. The forum will provide an opportunity to share experiences in the area of sustainable management of coastal and marine resources, to analyze their current situations, and to allow technical and financial partners to exchange on the support needs of the populations concerned and on the possible solutions.





The Global Water Initiative
A Partnership Initiated by the Howard G. Buffett Foundation

SUB-BASINS MANAGED IN AN INTEGRATED MANNER

The Global Water Initiative is implemented in West Africa through consortium whose composition varies from a country to other. Thus, in Burkina Faso, the both principal partners are IUCN and CRS. The General Directorate for Water Resources (DGRE), the Regional Center for Drinking Water and Sanitation (CREPA), Association Tin Tua, and the RECOPA Network are also involved. The initiative is innovative, both in terms of the type of partnership and the water resource management approach that it promotes. The activities executed thus resulted in the following key outcomes:

Strategic relations were established, which will allow for the involvement of a variety of actors from the water sector, at the launch of the project. These actors were directly involved in the diagnostic survey, which helped identify the intervention zone. Two sub-basins (Sirba and Tapoa/Mekrou) were selected to test the integrated water resource management approach in the Eastern region of Burkina Faso. The partners also agreed on a monitoring and evaluation mechanism for the project and the various field activities. The aim of the project's participatory and inclusive nature is to improve the visibility of its achievements and the local partners' ownership of these.

Development of integrated water resource management plans on the pilot sites. This requires building the capacities of the projects' actors who need to understand the nature of the

issues discussed. Sanitation infrastructure building norms and guidelines are being developed, and they include the terms and conditions, the technical specifications, and the communities' abilities in terms of water point management.

More competent actors through providing targeted training: Three training workshops were organized on the following items: Knowledge-Attitudes-Practices, Knowledge-Practice-Coverage, Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST), including other subjects not directly related to the Global Water Initiative. By reinforcing the actors' capacities, particular attention is given to exposing participants to the legal and institutional frameworks of Burkina Faso, as well as to the establishment of local water committees.

In Senegal, the project on integrated water resource management and sanitation in the region of Tambacounda is jointly managed by IUCN and CRS. Its intervention zone comprises two rural communities in the District of Tambacounda, East of Senegal, in the Sandougou basin, a sub-basin of the Gambia.

In Mali, the Integrated Water Resource Management Program of the Sourou region (PGIRESS) concentrated on undertaking baseline surveys (hydrographical studies, socio-economic studies, water infrastructure and sanitation studies), and on training GWI Mali's partners on integrated water resource management (IWRM).



VOLUNTEERS SERVING COMMUNITIES AND PROMOTING NATIONAL PARKS

For four years, IUCN has been working with Planète Urgence and a number of its members and partners to ensure communities' welfare and to promote National Parks in Cameroon. This collaboration translates into both transfer of knowledge and skills / or competencies from Europe to Cameroon and grant allocations. The importance of this support is the increase in the number of applications by new partners wishing to benefit from the support of the volunteers of Planète Urgence (PU).

As with the partners' applications, the number of volunteers going on mission to Cameroon has been rising: from 42 in 2004, the number shored up to 164 in 2008, well beyond the 130 volunteers initially planned, all the missions taken together. And to further contribute to the fight against rural poverty, the volunteers' intervention zones have also been broadened. Some partners have received training on marketing, in addition to the habitual modules: ecological monitoring, socio-economic surveys, support for schooling, computer related training, data base and website development, human resource management, and project design. Targeting one women's association, the training on marketing consisted of a practical phase on biscuit and soap manufacture, and the processing of cassava into flour. These are commodities that may be sold or consumed by the households themselves.

In April 2008, an IUCN/PU team conducted a field visit to a number of partners to measure the

impact of the volunteers' interventions. The mission visited three national parks that had been collaborating with Planète Urgence since 2004: Waza National Park, Douala-Edéa Game Reserve, and Campo Ma'an National Park. Additionally, the team visited the Bénoué Park, where some volunteers have been working since January 2008. It was possible to concretely measure the impact of PU's actions through exchanging with the guides, eco-rangers, conservators of the parks, local communities, headmasters of the various schools where the volunteers are working, etc. For instance, it is noteworthy that in the school of N'Diguina, the success rate has increased in some sections, the social conditions of some children have improved thanks to the benches and tables that have been made available, some schools now have set up libraries with more than one hundred books allowing children to borrow, and some guides can speak French and actually use it with tourists visiting the exceptional biodiversity found in Cameroon's parks. Furthermore, some eco-rangers are now able to use computers, and the living conditions of local populations have significantly improved; for instance, one of the villages lying in the periphery of Waza Park now has direct access to water.

In the light of the progress made, PU envisages to establish an autonomous Planète Urgence platform in Cameroon to improve on the impact and efficacy of the various missions, for the benefit of national park riparian communities. Additionally, Mobile Bush Schools (MBS) will be set up in the most remote regions of Cameroon.



THE COMMISSIONS AND MEMBERS AT WORK

COLLABORATION WITH IUCN'S COMMISSION ON SURVIVAL OF SPECIES

Through the African Elephant Specialists Group (GSEAF), the Commission for Safeguarding Species supported the Program's implementation, alongside the Secretariat, in Central and West Africa. In particular, the West Africa Group provided technical assistance to the States as part of the implementation of the Memorandum of Agreement for the conservation of elephants in West Africa.

With the support of the Wildlife and Fishery Service of the United States of America, it was possible to develop projects in collaboration with the countries lying within the elephant distribution zone in West Africa. In Togo, a national sensitization campaign on the need to protect elephants is on-going, and the legislative texts are being updated. Similarly, the local communities of the Comoé province in South-West Burkina Faso received support to improve their capacities in terms of use of modern methods and tools to repel elephants and to protect their farms.

The African Elephant Specialists Group also supported the development of national strategies for the conservation of elephants in Liberia, Guinea, and Benin. Similar initiatives have been started in Mali and Sierra Leone.

In terms of reduction of Human-Elephant conflicts, the Group did a case study in the Park of the two Ballés and Nazinga Ranch, Burkina Faso, where such conflicts are recurrent. With this study, it has been possible to establish an integrated vertical management of conflicts at the national level, and to train four Burkinabes in Zambia on the use of community-based approaches for the management of Human-Elephant conflicts.

Beyond sub-regional initiatives, GSEAF played a significant role in West Africa in terms of developing a Pan-African strategy for the conservation of elephants in Africa, in collaboration with the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Wildlife Species (CITES). It provided technical support for the development and drafting of a strategic plan, which was thereafter submitted to CITES and the countries concerned for review and future approval.





IUCN'S SECRETARIAT WORKING FOR ITS MEMBERS

As a Union of its members, IUCN is unique in its kind. Its Secretariat gives specific attention to the work with its members in order to advance biodiversity conservation policies.

Its regional level initiatives focused on building the capacities of members in Central and West Africa. More specifically, the members were regularly informed on the creation process of CWAP, and they received supports to take part actively in the world conservation congress organized by IUCN in Barcelona, Spain, from 5-14 October, 2008.

By 2008, its membership in Central and West African was 70, including 15 States, 12 governmental organizations, and 43 non-governmental organizations. IUCN's members are organized into two sub-regional Committees (one in Central Africa and one in West Africa). There are also three National Committees in Senegal, Mali, and Guinea Bissau.

Whenever possible, the Union's Secretariat developed partnerships with its members. In Guinea Bissau, it contributed to strengthen the environmental civil society from which its members originate. Their collaboration is part and parcel of IUCN's operation in that country. For instance, the Institute for Biodiversity and Protected Areas (IBAP) and the International Foundation of Banc d'Arguin (FIBA) involved IUCN in the implementation of a project providing assistance to the Joao Vieira-Poilao and Orango National Parks, and the Biosphere Reserve of the Bolama Bijagos Archipelago.

The project allowed for a greater involvement of local communities in the participatory surveillance process, and helped the population of the village of Angôr (located in Orango National Park) to gradually take ownership of the community eco-tourism development initiative.

The secretariat also supported Non-Governmental members like Action pour le Développement (AD), GAECA-Palmerinha, and Tiniguena to design their programs. The first received financial resources to restore mangroves. The second got a favorable notice for the funding of a project on participatory management of fish resources as part of poverty alleviation in the mangrove national park of Cacheu. Finally, the third was given technical assistance to improve the efficacy of the management of the marine community zone of Urock.

In Cameroon, IUCN worked with CEW (Cameroon Environmental Watch) to implement activities related to the Landscape and Livelihood Initiative in the Sangha Tri-National (TNS). The agreement mainly seeks to facilitate sustainable local marketing of forest products for the benefit of the poor, and to support game trade constraining actions.

In the DRC, IUCN signed an agreement with the NGO Amis de la Forêt et de l'Environnement pour le Développement (AFED) to implement the activities of a similar project in the geographic area of the Great Lakes. This project component aims to rehabilitate forest ecosystems that are affected by pressures from displaced populations.

The implementation of the project on Promotion of Natural Insecticides to Protect Cowpea in the Recessed Water Basins of Lake Chad continued through 2008. One year earlier, a collaboration convention was signed to this effect with the Center for Environmental Studies and Development in Cameroon (CEDC), in Northern Cameroon. The purpose of the project is to protect the environment by substituting pesticides with integrated methods for combating plant destroyers, and thereby prevent the use of imported pesticides, which pollute the products and the area.

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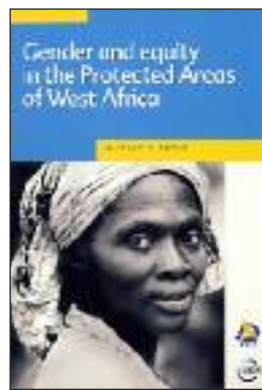
Aspects contemporains du droit de l'environnement en Afrique de l'Ouest et Centrale; UICN; 2008; 224 pages



Trinational de la Sangha - Directives relatives aux approches de conservation et de développement des paysages de forêts dans le Bassin du Congo; UICN - Programme Forêts; 2008; 18 pages



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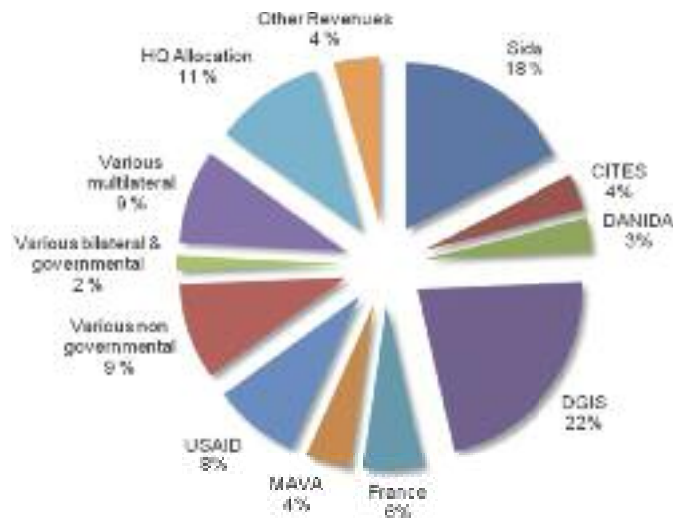
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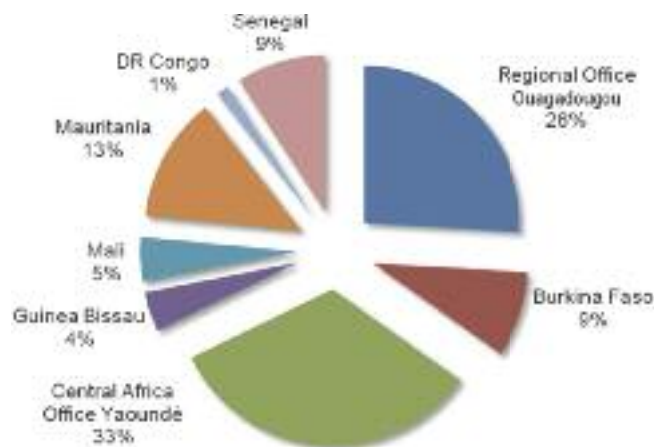
FINANCES

SOURCES OF FUNDS SPENT IN 2008



The total income of the IUCN PACO in 2008 amounted 8.05 million Euros, which is stable as compared to 2007. Although the Netherlands remains the major donor to IUCN Central and West Africa programme, the sources of funding is more balanced than in the past.

EXPENDITURES BREAK-DOWN BY OFFICE



The IUCN PACO first exercise shows expenditures distribution between the former regional offices in Central and West Africa. These former regional offices have continued to manage projects implemented in countries without IUCN offices. The Democratic Republic of Congo is a newly established country programme. The Burkina Faso programme has substantially increased in 2008 compared to 2007.



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