



Regional forum on environment in Central and West Africa

Theme:

“ Coalition for biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of forest landscapes faced with climate change ”

Brazzaville, Congo, from July 5th to 8th, 2011

BACKGROUND

In view of the 5th World Conservation Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to be held from September 6th to 15th, 2012 in Jeju, Republic of Korea. In preparation for this global event, the IUCN Regional Programme for Central and West Africa (PACO) is preparing, as is the case every four years, its four-year regional Intersessional Programme for the 2013 to 2016 period. This regional programme will be submitted, with the Global Intersessional Programme of the Union, for approval by the Congress.

The preparation of this Intersessional program should be elaborated in a participatory manner and take sufficiently into consideration the concerns of all conservation stakeholders in Central and West Africa. It takes place in a context characterised by the launching of the "one programme" approach by IUCN, under Resolution 4001 of the last World Conservation Congress that was held in Barcelona in 2008. The "one programme" approach, which was the subject of a declaration of commitment by the above mentioned three pillars that constitute the IUCN, aims "to execute in a consistent and harmonious manner the IUCN programme. This programme enables and leverages the resources and strengths of IUCN components to deliver results in the area of conservation and promotes the IUCN vision of a just world that values and conserves nature optimally, effectively and efficiently".

In a bid to submit to the next World Conservation Congress a four-year programme that reflects in the fairest possible way the concerns of all conservation actors in Central and West Africa, on the one hand, and prepare its Members (States, NGOs and government agencies) to take a more active part in the meetings of the said Congress, on the other hand, IUCN-PACO plans to organize in Brazzaville, Congo from July 5th to 8th, 2011, a Regional Forum on the central theme: « *Coalition for biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of forest landscapes faced with climate change* ».

OBJECTIVES OF THE FORUM

Main

To better prepare Members, commission experts and IUCN partners in Central and West Africa to fully play their role in influencing the international agenda of environmental conservation and sustainable development.

Specific

- Define, in a concerted manner, priority avenues and intervention areas of the three pillars of IUCN for the 2013-2016 period, taking into consideration the specific context of the region, lessons learned from experiences of stakeholders and major international events to come (Rio + 20 Summit, the World Conservation Congress in 2012, COP 17 on Climate Change);
- Assist IUCN Members and partners in central and west Africa to agree on an approach to take into consideration the concerns of the region in international events on the environment in general and the World Conservation Congress in particular.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- Major ongoing initiatives and strategies in the field of environmental conservation and sustainable development in Central and West Africa are known, and best experiences capitalized.
- The 2013-2016 Intersessional programme of IUCN is enriched and includes the priorities, positions, resolutions and recommendations of Members, members of commissions and partner networks in the region.
- A States - civil society coalition for environmental action Central and in West Africa is set up to support regional and national policies aimed at better reconciling conservation and development needs.
- IUCN Members in Central and West Africa are better prepared to design and make timely specific motions for their region, as well as any proposals for reform of the IUCN governance system to be submitted for adoption by the Assembly of Members of the next World Conservation Congress.
- IUCN Members in Central and West Africa fully exercise their voting rights at the World Conservation Congress, take part in discussions and have well-prepared candidates to elective offices of the various governing bodies of the IUCN (IUCN Council, Commission Presidents, ...).

CONDUCT OF THE FORUM

The Forum will be held in four days according to the following agenda:

- A day of brainstorming on scientific issues, all related to environmental conservation and sustainable development in the climate change context. The resource persons will make presentations followed by discussions on various aspects of the Forum Central theme.
- A meeting of IUCN Members in Central and West Africa, including with various sessions:
 - Getting participants set for the upcoming World Conservation Congress, to enable them to fully play their role;
 - Elaboration of points of interest for Central and West Africa to be submitted at the upcoming World Conservation Congress;
 - Amendments or recommendations proposals on IUCN governance;
 - Amendment and validation of the proposed 2013-2016 four-year program of IUCN-PACO, with a clear definition of roles and responsibilities of each IUCN pillar, in preparation for the "one program" approach.

PARTICIPANTS

The Forum will bring together some 80 participants from central and west Africa, representing:

- IUCN Members;
- IUCN Thematic Commissions Members and Regional Advisers;
- IUCN Secretariat Staff (global and regional level);
- Partner institutions and resource persons invited to share their vision and expertise.

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