

# Regional Conservation Forum

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*Bamako, November 2-5*

**Theme:**

**Biodiversity conservation and climate change control:  
sources of progress, stability and sustainable  
development in Central and West Africa?**



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**Report team:**

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## Introduction

In preparation for the 2016 World Conservation Congress, the IUCN Secretariat and Members of the Central and West Africa region and co-organized a regional conservation forum (RCF) in Bamako, together with the Mali Government. The Forum is a platform that allows participants from a given region to discuss emerging or dominant environmental issues and identify the most appropriate response actions. It also provides opportunities to build synergies among various environmental actors. Additionally RCFs provide IUCN Members and Partners with information on how the World Conservation Congress is organized and rolled out, identify important issues they want to take to the global scale in the form of motions and, discuss a draft version of the next IUCN Quadrennial Programme.

The Bamako RCF took place during the period of Nov. 2-5 with the following theme: *Biodiversity conservation and climate change control: sources of progress, stability and sustainable development in Central and West Africa?*

## Participants & Agenda

The Forum brought together 248 participants from Central and West Africa, representing States, and IUCN Member Organizations; Members of Specialist Commissions and Regional IUCN Councilors; IUCN Secretariat Staff (global and regional levels); Partner institutions and resource persons who were invited to share their vision and expertise.

The forum was organized in 8 sessions:

1. Biodiversity conservation policies and strategies,
2. Green economy, resilience of communities and adaptation to climate change,
3. Funding sources for climate change projects and access requirements,
4. The IUCN 2017 – 2020 Programme,
5. The 2016 World Conservation Congress,
6. IUCN Governance,
7. IUCN commissions,
8. General assembly meeting of IUCN Central & West Africa Members.

Each session included one or more presentations facilitated by specialists selected on the basis of their experience and expertise in the relevant field. There were also some group works on selected topics.

## Opening

The Forum was officially opened in presence of its designated Godmother, Mrs. KEITA Aminata MAÏGA, First Lady of Mali and president of AGIR, an IUCN NGO Member; also present were President Zhang XINSHENG, DG Inger ANDERSEN, Mr. Bocary TRETÀ Minister of Rural Development, Mr. Ousmane KONE Minister of Environment, Sanitation and Sustainable Development (MESSD), Mr. Mohamed Ag ERLAF, minister of Decentralization and State reform, Mr. Cheickna Seydi Ahamadi

DIAWARA, Minister of International Cooperation and African Integration. It was closed by Mr. Ousmane KONE.

Welcome remarks were made by Mr. Moriba NOMOKO, the president of the Mali IUCN National Committee and M. Isaac MOUSSA President of the IUCN Regional Members Committee for Central and West Africa. Both of them thanked the Government of Mali for hosting and supporting the organization of the Forum and Members for making it to Bamako.

Introductory remarks were made by Inger ANDERSEN and Zhang XINSHENG. Both praised the Government of Mali for its technical and financial support to the Forum and for its hospitality and, the First Lady for her commitment to conservation and poverty reduction. They both also made some points on the need to find a balance between Conservation and Development in a continent where rich ecosystems cohabit with vulnerable communities; they stressed the need to keep in mind the post 2020 Agenda and the recently adopted SDG in the strive to identify suitable solutions. Finally Zhang XINSHENG welcomed in advance all observations and suggestions from Members on the Governance of the Union.

Both Mr. KONE and Mrs KEITA expressed gratitude to IUCN President and DG for choosing Bamako as the venue of the Forum. After welcoming all participants, Ousmane KONE praised the First Lady for her long time involvement in Conservation and for accepting to be the Godmother of the Forum; he also made a point on the commitment of Mali to Conservation and sustainable development.

In her opening speech Mrs KEITA also discussed some of the environmental challenges of Mali and measures taken by the Government to reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss and, to boost the resilience of communities affected by ecosystem degradation, climate change and the recent socio-political crisis. She encouraged participants to be thorough and practical in their reflections.

## **Summary of presentations and discussions on the theme of the Forum**

### **Biodiversity conservation strategies and policies**

While the region is still the host of several key biodiversity areas and species of global significance, the ever increasing needs of a rapidly growing population are a source of environmental tension that is further complicated by climate change. Virtually all countries of the region have produced national environmental policies that are in line with global environmental conventions but in most cases, the level of implementation remains largely below targets. Discussions among participants revealed that:

- There are many sources of weaknesses: the drafting processes are poorly coordinated, sectoral policy documents are often too many and this creates confusion; additionally there is a lack of coherence between targeted objectives and available resources; all these factors contribute to a low level of implementation.
- In spite of various efforts, biodiversity decline and loss continue to be a reality owing to poor effectiveness of environmental laws, incomplete scientific data and insufficient capacity.
- Luckily there are processes and mechanisms working to improve conservation policies; these include regional protected area networks such as RAPAC and RAMPAC, regional initiatives such as WAPO and CTGV, Information systems such as RRIS and, capacity building programmes.

Participants agreed on two aspects: the need for conservation actors to strengthen collaboration with research institutions in order to help generate trustable data on biodiversity and ecosystems that can be used for improved decision making; and the need for States to allocate more funds and at the same time adjust their policies to available resources.

### *Green economy, climate change and communities' resilience*

Important discussion points were the following:

- While African communities are among the most vulnerable and also the most affected by climate change in the world, the continent in general and the sub region in particular have so far demonstrated little capacity to influence international environmental agendas; there is therefore need for more concerted efforts. African negotiators attending COP21 should not settle for any agreement that is not global or not legally binding; any agreement should take into account the need for financing mechanisms for adaptation as well as for mitigation and the great diversity among African countries.
- Current decision support mechanisms do not clearly address environmental challenges. A new logic should be sought, where only development models that address poverty while at the same time taking into account the totality of ecosystem services are promoted. IUCN should take advantage of the new SDG to support countries in the region with (i) adapted institutional and legal instruments, (ii) multi actor and multiscale influence strategies, (iii) knowledge and learning products and (iv) economic instruments that value ecosystem and environmental services.
- The Intergovernmental science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is an independent intergovernmental body established to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development. IPBES comprises only states but with the clear links that exist between the IUCN Programme, and the IPBES platform, IPBES represent a clear opportunity for IUCN and its Members to influence international policy. IUCN considers the active engagement of Civil Society as a mean to increase the relevance of IPBES work; Members are encouraged to contribute to IPBES through provision of experts, data, and staff time to review documents or through in kind contributions.

Insisting on such key words as single *African voice*, *climate justice* and *sustainable funding*, participants drew the attention of negotiators on the need to come back from Paris with clear positive and final outcomes. They also stressed the need to find sustainable solutions to damage caused by extractive industries in Africa.

### *Funding sources on climate change*

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is a unique global platform to respond to climate change by investing in low-emission and climate-resilient development. It was established by 194 governments to limit or reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in developing countries, and to help vulnerable societies adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change. GCF is accountable to the United Nations and it is guided by the principles and provisions of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

(UNFCCC). The IUCN Secretariat is currently seeking accreditation but to date, two IUCN Members are already accredited as national entities (CES-Senegal) and Observer (OPED-Cameroon).

IUCN is currently implementing the second IUCN-France framework agreement. The agreement provides French experts in five thematic areas and covers three geographic areas, including West and Central Africa. Outputs from the agreement include several dozens of professionals trained in PA management, red listing of threatened timber species and improved management of Marine protected areas.

The IUCN-French agreement was found to be very specific but participants found GCF to be a great opportunity for African countries looking for climate change related funding although (i) it requires competitive proposals and (ii) only institutions with good fiduciary standing and professional management capacity are eligible. IUCN Members seeking accreditation will need support from already accredited organizations.

## **Presentation and discussions on IUCN and relevant processes**

### *Vision for the future*

IUCN has brought very significant contributions to biodiversity conservation since its creation in 1948. With population growth, intensification of industrial development and new and emerging challenges however, many challenges remain to be tackled. Our vision is that by 2048, where IUCN will be 100 years old, the Union is a *world-class conservation leader influencing policy makers, media, and public for a sustainable future*. For this, IUCN will need: more effective communications Union-wide; a stronger scientific base; and to impact on conservation, expanded influence on the drivers behind the conservation and environmental challenges.

By 2020, which will be the end of the next programmatic period the target is, that with concerted leadership by IUCN and its Members, conservation positive actions are mainstreamed at policy and “on the ground” levels. Aichi targets to be exceeded and nature-based solutions to become a mainstay of economic development models. This will be achieved through several changes, including on Programme contents, Science and knowledge management, Outreach & Communications, Policy influencing based on science & on-the-ground evidence, Governance and Membership.

### *The draft 2017-2020 IUCN Programme*

The next intersessional IUCN Programme is being drafted in a context where the planet is at the cross-roads and the international community is setting the way to sustainable development and looking for convincing solutions to climate change and to halt biodiversity loss; thus the recently adopted 17 SDGs and the 20 biodiversity Aichi targets adopted in 2010 constitute a strong foundation for the next IUCN Quadrennial Programme; the 2017-2020 Programme will be built essentially on the same three programme areas as the 2013-2016 Programme with the envisaged three global results, but these will need to be more strongly linked to the SDGs and the Paris climate change COP 21 outcomes:

- Reducing the risk that species and ecosystems face;

- Integrating good governance principles in all natural resource governance systems in order to systematically associate social equity and efficient conservation outcomes;
- Healthy and restored ecosystems bring positive contributions to help face climate change, reach food security and address sustainable economic and social development.

IUCN Members provided oral and written comments on the draft Program and the coming Congress (Annex 1).

### *The Central and West Africa work plan*

IUCN Central and West Africa has drafted a work plan designed to implement the global 2017-2020 Programme in the region. Threats to biodiversity in the region are linked to development processes, which are characterized by continuous expansion of cultivated lands, overexploitation of natural resources, infrastructure development that care little about environmental costs. The work plan takes into account the regional situation analysis as well as the capacity of IUCN Members and Secretariat in the region. Participants commented on the work plan and promised to send additional observations in writing.

### *The 2016 IUCN Congress*

The outcomes of the 2012 WCC congress were explained to participants and the theme of the next congress discussed. The 2016 WCC will include a Forum and a Members general assembly (AGM) that were both explained to participants; The forum will include workshops, knowledge cafés, poster sessions and campuses; the AGM will comprise discussions and adoption of motions, governance reforms, IUCN Programme and funding plan, and election processes. Members showed great interest in the 2016 WCC and promised to actively prepare for it.

### *Communication tools*

IUCN communication tools in the region were presented, with the objective of increasing their use by participants; they include web sites, a portal, information bulletins, social networks (Yammer, facebook, twitter), a radio (radio environment in Cameroon) and various publications.

### *IUCN Governance*

Several subjects were discussed:

- Some changes discussed by Council and put to general discussion before they decide whether or not to include these in the Congress agenda; council expects comments from Members on the inclusion of indigenous and tribal people, collectivities, the authority of the Council and the election of the President by 12 February 2016.
- Awards offered by IUCN and which will be attributed at the 2016 Congress: John C Phillipds and the Harold Jefferson Coolidge medals and the title of IUCN Member of Honour. Members were invited to nominate potential candidates.
- An activity report from the regional councilor; important activities include attendance to Council and CREMACO meetings, participation in significant Secretariat and commission activities;
- Motion processes before and during Congress.

At the end of the session Members felt better informed on Governance issues and processes; they were able to discuss various aspects of Council and congress and had identified some ideas which they will take to Congress in the form of motions; these relate to the following issues:

- Acceleration of the *red listing of ecosystems* in Central & West Africa, notably mangrove landscapes and river basins.
- Promotion of active partnerships against *environmental crime*, with the participation of civil society organizations.
- Issues that relate to *environment and security*: drafting of national strategies to combat invasive plant species; harmonization of laws among countries sharing a transboundary area, more effective environmental law enforcement, strengthening of transboundary management of natural resources, combating plastic waste and its effects; waste management.
- *Extractive industries and biodiversity*: law enforcement, implication of communities, social responsibility of corporations, territory management.

### IUCN Commissions

Four IUCN commissions (WCPA, CEC, CEM and SSC) presented their structure, work and future work plan. Participants were happy to learn that the youth from the region is very active in the commissions; at the same time they noted that the number of experts from the region is very small and also unequally represented in the six IUCN Commissions.

## Summary of financial report

The € 217 010 RCF budget was funded by at least five different sources, Government of Mali (48%), Ford Foundation (8%), PACO Forest Programme (2%), PRCM (10%) and IUCN-UDG (32%). Expenses were globally equivalent to the budget (table 1)<sup>1</sup> although some unpredicted expenses (such as those related to security) caused some budget lines to exceed previsions.

**Table 1. Summary of consolidated financial report (all sources of funds)**

Funding Source	Funding	Expenditures	Rate (%)
Government of Mali	104 359	104 312	99,95%
Ford Foundation	18 286	18 286	100,00%
PACO Forest Programme	4 573	4 566	99,84%
PRCM	21 220	21 220	100,00%
IUCN-UDG	68 572	68 631	100,09%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>217 010</b>	<b>217 015</b>	<b>100,00%</b>

Because there was last minute hesitations as to whether the RCF should be held in Bamako we confirmed air tickets reservations rather late, causing costs to increase, with total ticket related

<sup>1</sup> Final financial report to be produced by Finance in the next few weeks.

expenditures exceeding provisional budget by 15% (table 2). There was however a final balance of € 59 for this budget at the end of the RCF.

**Table 2. Financial report for IUCN/UDG funding**

ITEM	PROVISIONAL BUDGET		EXPENDITURES		Ratio
	XOF	EUR	XOF	EUR	%
Air tickets cost	29 018 600	44 239	33 499 100	51 069	115%
Participant DSA	5 100 000	7 775	3 585 000	5 465	70%
Organization	1 550 000	2 363	968 550	1 477	62%
Logistics	4 475 000	6 822	3 440 000	5 244	77%
Visa Fees	438 784	669	266 845	407	61%
Miscellaneous reimbursement to participants	4 397 899	6 705	3 259 667	4 969	74%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44 980 283</b>	<b>68 572</b>	<b>45 019 162</b>	<b>68 631</b>	<b>100%</b>

## General assembly of IUCN Members

During their meeting, Members discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the CREMACO and decided to postpone the renewal of the existing executive committee to the Hawaii Congress; before that, an activity report and a road map for the future will have to be produced. Members also discussed the eligibility for financial support to attend the 2016 Congress and recommended that IUCN extends the deadline for annual dues payment.

It is important to note that participants paid tribute to Sidibe the active head of ONG Donko, a Malian NGO Member deceased in August 2015. Members collected some funds to help the family.

## Conclusions and recommendations

The Bamako Forum reached some important results: identification of conservation and natural resource management challenges in the region; the sharing of positive experiences and lessons on responses to environmental challenges; a higher level of preparation of Members for upcoming international events, such as the Paris COP21 and the Hawaii Congress.

Members recommended that IUCN Secretariat postpones the deadline for dues payment in order to allow the maximum number of them to attend the Hawaii Congress. Proposed motions related to several issues: Red listing of ecosystems in Central & West Africa, environmental crime, environment and security, extractive industries and biodiversity.



## Annex 1. Résumé des commentaires et questions sur le programme quadriennal 2017-2020

Éléments importants de la discussion (Questions importantes posées, amendements portés, commentaires importants soulevés)	Éléments de réponse apportés pendant la session sur le programme quadriennal 2017-2020
<p>Comment prendra-t-on en compte des priorités de la DG pour la mise en œuvre du programme ?</p>	<p>Le programme est en construction, le plan opérationnel et le plan financier ne sont pas encore élaborés. Ceux-ci intégreront les préoccupations de la DG et le développeront des priorités programmatiques. Cette proposition de programme est basée sur une analyse de situation et des grands enjeux mondiaux influant sur la conservation</p>
<p>N’y a-t-il des problèmes à élaborer en même temps le programme global et le plan de travail régional ?</p> <p>Il aura été mieux d’attendre les résultats recommandés au niveau global avant de les prendre pour en faire les résultats régionaux. Sinon, il y a un risque de double travail.</p>	<p>Le cadre du programme est suffisamment ouvert pour permettre d’intégrer les inputs régionaux. En plus, les régions sont directement impliquées dans l’élaboration du programme. S’il y a des changements dans le programme global, ils seront répercutés dans le plan de travail des régions. Il y a donc une mutualisation dans l’élaboration concomitante du programme global et du plan de travail de la région.</p>
<p>Comment les Membres vont-ils contribuer au dispositif de suivi-évaluation des résultats du programme précédent ?</p> <p>Ils ont la volonté de contribuer davantage au suivi des résultats</p>	<p>S’il y’a des propositions concrètes des Membres sur le programme global et/ou le plan de travail régional, les commentaires sont recevables jusqu’au 12 février 2016. Pour les contributions, au programme global et/ou au plan de travail, Il est souhaitable de les envoyer par pays plutôt qu’individuellement.</p>
<p>L’UICN peut-elle appuyer les pays à faire un état des lieux approfondi de leur environnement ?</p>	
<p>Quels sont les rapports de l’UICN avec les données générées par les institutions de recherche ?</p>	<p>Le travail à l’UICN est financé par l’Aide publique au développement pour générer des biens et services public sans protection de propriété intellectuelle. Certaines institutions de recherche disposent des données protégées par la propriété intellectuelle qui rend complexe la collaboration avec ces institutions pour leurs données.</p>
<p>Avec ce programme, l’UICN ne sort pas trop de ses sentiers habituels. Elle doit sortir de ce qui peut être juste une réponse had hoc. Par exemple, L’UICN doit</p>	

s'impliquer dans la problématique du commerce illégal plutôt que de rester sur des généralités de la gouvernance environnementale.	
Concernant le plan de travail régional, il faut revoir la cohérence entre pilier, sous-résultats au niveau régional et ce qui est prévu au niveau global. Puis, il faut soutenir davantage le pilier 2 et le mettre en relation avec sous résultat 1 ;	-
La question de l'extraction minière est importante pour la région. Quelle est la stratégie de l'UICN en la matière dans la région ?	La région est en train de développer une stratégie régionale sur les industries extractive et un certain nombre de pays sont identifiés pour poursuivre la réflexion sur cette stratégie.
La gouvernance de la science et connaissance est une des grandes faiblesses de l'UICN. Les Membres n'ont pas souvent accès à des informations produites	C'est un défi pertinent du fait de la diversité des membres (Etat, ONG, etc.). Mais, on peut améliorer l'accès à l'information au sein de l'UICN.
Quelle est la stratégie que l'UICN a mise en place pour améliorer l'accès aux connaissances générées ?	La question de vulgarisation des connaissances générées est cruciale. Mais, elle présente également un défi pour rendre l'information accessible dans les langues locales. La communication peut jouer un rôle.
Comment l'UICN peut mettre à contribution les organismes de recherche des pays dans la génération des connaissances ?	
Y'a-t-il une Liste Rouge des espèces floristiques ?	La Liste Rouge actuelle donne l'impression qu'on met trop l'accès sur la faune, mais en réalité la flore est également prise en compte. Elle le sera encore davantage dans les prochaines éditions de la Liste Rouge.
L'UICN doit s'engager plus dans la lutte contre la désertification.	L'UICN soutient au niveau global les processus de lutte contre la désertification, bien que pour cette convention l'UICN n'a pas été vraiment aussi active en comparaison à d'autres conventions internationales
Il faut permettre aux Membres d'être à jour de leur cotisation en prenant en compte les difficultés auxquelles certaines ONG font face?	Les cotisations sont une politique de l'Assemblée Générale. Cette question doit donc être adressée à l'Assemblée Générale. La baisse des budgets constatée ne concernent pas uniquement l'environnement ou un pays, elle touche le monde entier.

<p>La question que se posent certains Etats est de savoir quel est l'intérêt qu'ils ont en étant Membres de l'UICN ?</p> <p>Pourquoi les états quittent l'UICN ?</p>	<p>Cette question devrait être rediscutée au cours de la rencontre des membres pendant ce Forum.</p>
<p>Comment faire pour que tous les Membres contribuent à l'approche « One Programme » ?</p> <p>Quelle est la stratégie pour que les Membres dans les pays sans bureau UICN contribuent à l'approche « One programme » ?</p> <p>Quelle est la stratégie pour faire travailler les Membres dans l'approche « One programme » ?</p> <p>Il faut investir du temps, des moyens et de l'énergie pour trouver les formules à l'application de l'approche « One programme ».</p>	<p>Le problème de financement du programme est en partie responsable des difficultés de mise en œuvre de l'approche « One programme ».</p>
<p>Comment les différents programmes de l'UICN peuvent être alignés avec ceux des Membres pour pouvoir l'évaluer dans l'approche « One programme ».</p>	<p>Le programme de l'UICN doit être compris comme appartenant aux trois piliers de l'Union. Par conséquent, le programme doit couvrir les priorités de trois piliers.</p>
<p>Quelle est la stratégie mise en place par l'UICN pour qu'il y ait plus Membres ?</p> <p>Comment peut-on organiser des plaidoyers pour ramener les pays au sein de l'UICN ?</p>	
<p>Comment l'UICN peut-elle mieux influencer les Etats et les décideurs politiques ?</p>	
<p>Quelle est la stratégie pour impliquer les jeunes et les femmes dans le futur du programme de l'UICN ?</p>	<p>La question est plus de savoir comment inspirer les jeunes et les femmes à adhérer au futur programme de l'UICN.</p>
<p>Comment allez-vous appliquer votre principe que les instruments d'hier ne peuvent pas être utilisés pour résoudre les problèmes d'aujourd'hui ?</p>	<p>La question est de savoir comment nous devons tous accepter de tourner la page du passé.</p>
<p>Quel est le mécanisme en place pour mettre à niveau les catégories de membres pour l'utilisation des outils et connaissance de l'UICN ?</p> <p>Il existe des moyens de communiquer les informations aux populations locales à travers la boîte à images</p>	
<p>L'élaboration de la liste rouge des écosystèmes a été lancée depuis 2010 : Quelle est la situation actuelle ?</p>	
<p>Est-ce possible que l'UICN organise des formations en ligne pour ses Membres ?</p> <p>Quelle stratégie pour le renforcement des capacités des membres ?</p>	

