



INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR  
CONSERVATION OF NATURE  
**WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA**  
REGIONAL OFFICE

**ANNUAL REPORT 2018**



**WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA**  
REGIONAL OFFICE

**ANNUAL REPORT 2018**

The designation of geographical entities in this book, and the presentation of the material, do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IUCN concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of IUCN.

**Published by:** IUCN - West and Central Africa Programme (PACO), Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

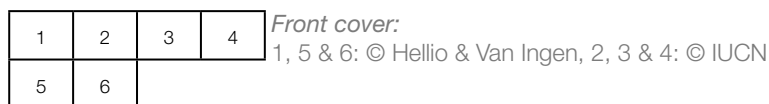
**Copyright:** © 2019 IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

Reproduction of this publication for non commercial ends, including educative motives is allowed without prior written authorization of copyright provided the source is clearly indicated.

Reproduction of this publication for resale or other commercial purposes is prohibited without prior written permission of the copyright holder.

**Citation:** IUCN-PACO (2019). *Annual Report 2018*. Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso: IUCN. 36 pp

**Photos credits:** Cover:



Inside:  
p6, p20, p22, p23, p24, p30: © Hellio & Van Ingen  
p5, p10, p11, p12, p13, p16, p22, p23, p24, p25: © IUCN

**Layout by:** S. Zida

**Translation by:** Mrs Barry Safietou

**Available from:** Regional Office  
Central and West Africa Programme (PACO)  
01 PO Box 1618 Ouagadougou 01  
Burkina Faso  
Phone: +226 25 40 99 42  
E-mail: [paco@iucn.org](mailto:paco@iucn.org)  
[www.iucn.org/paco](http://www.iucn.org/paco)  
[www.iucn.org/resources/publications](http://www.iucn.org/resources/publications)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>ACRONYMS</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>I. MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>II. IUCN AT A GLANCE</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>III. STRATEGIC DIRECTION</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>IV. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>A. Valuing and conserving nature</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>B. Promoting and supporting effective and equitable natural resource governance</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>C. Deploying nature-based solutions to address societal challenges</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>V. MEMBERS AND EXPERTS OF THE COMMISSIONS</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>VI. INVOLVEMENT OF MEMBERS IN PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>VII. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS</b> .....	<b>21</b>
<b>VIII. FINANCIAL SITUATION IN 2018</b> .....	<b>26</b>
<b>IX. HUMAN RESOURCES</b> .....	<b>27</b>
<b>X. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS</b> .....	<b>28</b>
<b>XI. PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER PRODUCTS</b> .....	<b>29</b>

# ACRONYMS

<b>AfDB:</b>	African Development Bank
<b>AGED:</b>	Environment Management and Development Association
<b>AGEREF/CL:</b>	Inter-Village Association for the Management of Comoé-Léraba Natural Resource and Fauna
<b>AGSAC:</b>	Association for Central Africa Great Ape Conservation
<b>ANR:</b>	Assisted Natural Regeneration
<b>BDP:</b>	Business Development Plans
<b>BEES:</b>	Benin Environment and Education Society
<b>BIOPAMA:</b>	Biodiversity and Protected Area Management Programme
<b>BRICKS:</b>	Building Resilience through Innovation, Communication and Knowledge Services Project
<b>CAFER:</b>	Centre to Support Women and Rural People
<b>CEC:</b>	Commission on Education and Communication
<b>CEPF:</b>	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
<b>CEW:</b>	Cameroon Environmental Watch
<b>CHF:</b>	Swiss Franc
<b>CILSS:</b>	Permanent Inter-States Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
<b>CITES:</b>	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
<b>CREMA:</b>	Community Resource Management Area
<b>CSO:</b>	Civil Society Organization
<b>CSTT:</b>	Civil Society Tracking Tool
<b>CWCS:</b>	Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society
<b>ECOWAS:</b>	Economic Community of West African States
<b>EFG:</b>	Garoua Wildlife School
<b>FAO:</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>FCFA:</b>	African Financial Community Franc
<b>FFEM:</b>	French Facility for Global Environment
<b>FODER:</b>	Forest and Rural Development
<b>GCF:</b>	Green Climate Fund
<b>GEF:</b>	Global Environment Facility
<b>GPPPAM:</b>	Global Partnership for Professionalising Protected Area Management
<b>GWP:</b>	Global Water Partnership
<b>Ha:</b>	Hectare
<b>IBAP:</b>	Biodiversity and Protected Areas Institute
<b>IMET:</b>	Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool
<b>IUCN:</b>	International Union for Conservation of Nature

<b>IWRM:</b>	Integrated Water Resource Management
<b>LCBC:</b>	Lake Chad Basin Commission
<b>MA:</b>	Market Analysis
<b>MEA:</b>	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
<b>MINEPAT:</b>	Ministry of Economy and Land Planning
<b>MINEPDED:</b>	Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development
<b>MINFOF:</b>	Ministry of Forest and Wildlife
<b>MOLOA:</b>	West Africa Littoral Observation Mission
<b>MPA:</b>	Marine Protected Areas
<b>NANP:</b>	National Agency of National Parks
<b>NATURAMA:</b>	Friends of Nature Foundation
<b>NBA:</b>	Niger Basin Authority
<b>NGO:</b>	Non-Governmental Organization
<b>OSS:</b>	Sahara and Sahel Observatory
<b>PACO:</b>	Central and West Africa Programme
<b>PACOF-CC:</b>	Support Project on Climate Change Adaptation of Communities adjacent to the Forests
<b>PAGE:</b>	Partnership of Environmental Governance in West Africa
<b>PFCM:</b>	Permanent Framework for Coordination and Monitoring
<b>RASTOMA:</b>	Central Africa Marine Turtle Network
<b>RECONNECT:</b>	Restoring Ecological Corridors in the Mayo-Kebbi Quest, Chad, to Support Multiple Land and Forest project
<b>ROAM:</b>	Restoration Opportunity Assessment Methodology
<b>RTP:</b>	Regional Thematic Programmes
<b>SDGs:</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SIP:</b>	Small Initiatives Programme
<b>SMART:</b>	Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool
<b>TNS:</b>	Sangha Tri-national
<b>TRAFFIC:</b>	The Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network
<b>UNESCO:</b>	United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization
<b>VBA:</b>	Volta Basin Authority
<b>WAEMU:</b>	West African Economic and Monetary Union
<b>WAP:</b>	W-Arly-Pendjari Complex
<b>WCPA:</b>	World Commission on Protected Areas



MOROCCO

SPAIN

MOROCCO

ALGERIA

TUNISIA

MALTA

LIBYA

EGYPT

WESTERN SAHARA

MAURITANIA

MALI

NIGER

CHAD

SENEGAL

SUDAN

GAMBIA

GUINEA BISSAU

GUINEA

BURKINA FASO

A F R I C A

SIERRA LEONE

BENIN

NIGERIA

SOUTH SUDAN

IVORY COAST

GHANA

TGGO

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

LIBERIA

CAMEROON

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

SAO TOME & PRINCIPE

GABON

CONGO

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

BURUNDI

ATLANTIC OCEAN

ANGOLA

ZAMBIA

NAMIBIA

BOTSWANA

ZIMBABWE

SOUTH AFRICA

LESOTHO



# MESSAGE FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

2018 was marked by the celebration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature. As a Union of Members including States, Government Agencies, national and international NGOs, IUCN through innovative initiatives and the mobilization of actors in the region, has given a new impetus to conservation in Central and West Africa.

The current regional context is marked by low efficiency of natural resource management, accentuated by socio-political crises and insecurity. Despite this extremely instable situation, IUCN through efficient implementation of its four-year programmes, has consistently impacted positively on nature conservation in our region.

The particularity of IUCN lies in its 'One Programme' approach. This approach mobilizes and involves all the three pillars of the Union in the region made up of Members, Commissions Experts and the Secretariat for the implementation of its quadrennial programs. The know-how provided by Members, Commissions, technical and financial partners enables IUCN to provide holistic responses to current environmental issues in the region.

As a reminder, the IUCN Programme 2017-2020, that is currently being implemented, is based on the following three programmatic areas: ① Valuing and conserving nature; ② Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources and ③ Deploying nature-based solutions to address societal challenges.

This annual activity report highlights the achievements of IUCN and its partners in the region during 2018.

I wish you a very pleasant reading.



**Aliou FAYE**

Regional Director





# IUCN AT A GLANCE

IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

Created in 1948, IUCN is now the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, harnessing the knowledge, resources and reach of more than 1,300 Member organisations and over 10,000 experts. It is a leading provider of conservation data, assessments and analysis. Its broad membership enables IUCN to fill the role of incubator and trusted repository of best practices, tools and international standards.

IUCN provides a neutral space in which diverse stakeholders including governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development.

Working with many partners and supporters, IUCN implements a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects worldwide. Combining the latest science with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these projects work to reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people's well-being.

[www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)

<https://twitter.com/IUCN/>



# STRATEGIC DIRECTION

Central and West African conservation and sustainable management policies and strategies are henceforth envisioned in a transborder perspective. They focus on adequate investment aimed at mobilizing States and regional institutions around transborder ecosystems conservation and sustainable management. This approach helps to meet current challenges and requires collective action among actors towards the conservation and sustainable management of the natural capital in the region. Moreover, it makes it possible to reduce or eliminate the fragmentation and partitioning of strategies and actions among countries and among actors.

Conservation actors are of the opinion that it has become imperative now to clarify, adapt or achieve a paradigm shift of actions as well as strategic frameworks and field deployment approaches. There is a growing and pressing request for integrated, bold strategies that would be definitely result and measurable impact-oriented, leading to transformational change. The new financing mechanisms are now geared towards transboundary transformational dynamics at a larger scale. They focus more on integrated wide scope initiatives that use innovative approaches towards coping with the complex and interwoven challenges. There is obvious donor interest in financing environmental and sustainable development programmes in the region. And IUCN is positioned as one of the organizations of choice to support the scaling up of conservation. This constitutes a firm opportunity for the Union.

The IUCN West and Central Africa Programme (PACO) is an implementing unit of the IUCN mission and vision at the regional level. Through its thematic Programmes, its Country Programmes and multi-country initiatives, PACO is active in 21 of the 25 West and Central African countries. Thus, the overall configuration of PACO includes:

- **Four country programmes:** Burkina Faso; Cameroon; Guinea-Bissau; and Senegal.
- **Four regional thematic programmes (RTP):** Protected Areas and Biodiversity, based in Ouagadougou; Forest Conservation, based in Yaoundé; Marine and Coastal, based in Dakar; and Waters and Wetlands, based in Ouagadougou.
- **Four project offices:** Ghana, Mali, Mauritania and Democratic Republic of Congo.

PACO's action during 2018 was undertaken with the aim of contributing to the IUCN Programme 2017-2020 which was validated by the Assembly of Members in 2016 at the World Conservation Congress held in Hawai'i, United States. This four-year programme cycle that is built upon the three pillars in line with the Agenda 2030 for sustainable development, constitutes the bedrock of the intervention strategy of the whole of IUCN.

PACO is working towards bringing an outstanding contribution at different scales:

- At the level of transborder ecosystems: PACO strengthens natural resources conservation and sustainable management around major Central and West Africa transborder ecosystems including the Congo Basin, Lake Chad Basin, the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) Complex, Niger Basin, Volta Basin, Fouta Djallon Massif, Mano River Basin, Mono Basin, the transborder Ponasi-Mole-Comoe Protected Areas Complex, Sangha Tri-national, transborder Dja-Odzala-Minkébé landscape, etc.

- At country level, IUCN is engaged in facilitating and supporting national dynamics. The Union accompanies and implements concrete natural resources conservation and sustainable management initiatives, at both regional and in-country landscapes levels.

The deployment of PACO positions IUCN as a key player in the area of biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management. Its actions contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Aichi Goals.

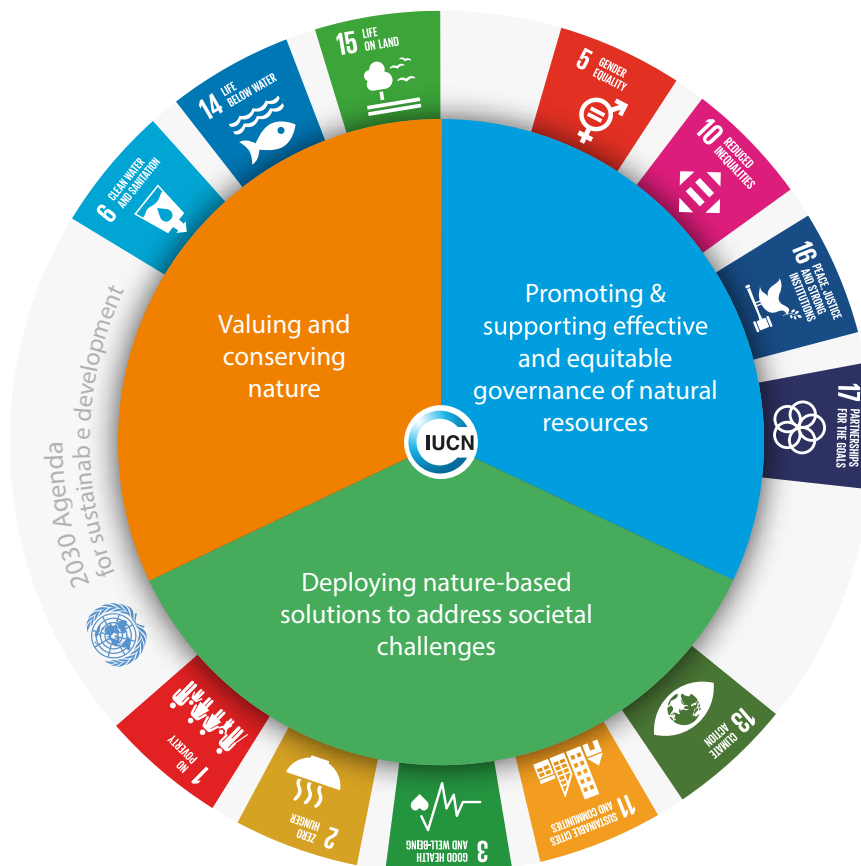


Figure 1: The IUCN Programme 2017-2020

# MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

## A. Valuing and conserving nature

Forest and land degradation constitute today a serious issue in West and Central Africa. This degradation is defined as being a persistent decline in the goods and services delivered by ecosystems, notably water-related biological goods and services and those relating to social and economic services. In the region, IUCN supports structures working within the scope of natural resources conservation, through generating and availing credible and reliable knowledge.

- **Availing knowledge tools on the state of biodiversity**

Diagnosis tools on the state of biodiversity were made available, used, analyzed and disseminated. IUCN, through the Restoration Opportunity Assessment Methodology (ROAM) has collected data, produced and made available to actors, knowledge to inform decision-making on the identification of effective biodiversity conservation measures. Trained teams have implemented ROAM in four transborder landscapes (Liberia, Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone and Guinea).

With the support of IUCN, some countries (Senegal, Cameroon), have started developing the Red List of species and the Red List on ecosystems. Such tools that produce data, knowledge and information on the state of biodiversity inform decision-making.

As part of the knowledge improvement project on Lake Chad Basin, IUCN has produced current data on large and medium-size mammals, avifauna (birds), Ichtyofauna, woody plants and the



*RFP / MEOR training in Niger*

socio-economic status of the Cameroonian and Chadian portions of the Lake. These data were made available to UNESCO, Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and all actors in the region to be used in the basin conservation strategies.

- **Setting up and support for structure to achieve effective natural resource governance**

IUCN is committed to setting up appropriate structures and accompanying them in view of ensuring effective natural resource management in Central and West Africa. Concerning water resource management for instance, West Africa is engaged in a regional integrated management process which led to the establishment, under the aegis of ECOWAS, of an IWRM Permanent Coordinating and Monitoring Framework (PCMF). With the support of IUCN, ECOWAS has put in place a monitoring – evaluation mechanism of the

West Africa regional water resource policy, with a plan of action. This mechanism should help to better document progress towards expected outcomes and facilitate accomplishment of the mission of the PCMF in terms of water resource management in West Africa.

### • Capacity development of actors

IUCN has built the capacity of actors for natural resource management and for conservation (experts, teachers, students, female groups' members and the youth). This aimed at contributing to effectively influencing decisions on the management of protected areas and of their surroundings, at the local, national or even regional level. Overall, nearly **3 865 actors from the entire region** were trained on a wide range of natural resource conservation-related themes.

Furthermore, in collaboration with its partners, IUCN worked to anchor environmental education, notably in schools. Thus, in partnership with Senghor University, the ministries in charge of national education of **4 countries** (Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Mauritania and Senegal) have developed teaching tools to introduce environmental education in the curricula that have been prepared and validated. The contents of the tools that were prepared relate to the sustainable tapping on forests, marine sand extraction and erosion, sustainable fishing and the use of natural resources, waste management, attitudes and behaviors to be adopted in order to preserve and restore degraded ecosystems.

**Hundreds of schools** have tested the mainstreaming of such tools in their curricula: **more than 120 schools** distributed all over the national territory in Guinea, **40 schools of the Nouakchott Wilaya** in Mauritania and **150 schools of the hinterland** in Guinea-Bissau. **In Senegal**, knowledge was generated and disseminated to **at least 2900 schools**, with the aim of enhancing the beneficiaries understanding of ecosystems, biodiversity, climate change, ecosystems conservation and restoration. This is notably an **educational film** on coastal erosion; **posters** on environmental cleanliness, deforestation and coastal erosion; a **comic strip** on marine sand extraction and coastal erosion; and a **collection of teaching sheets**.

To fight against species trafficking, the capacities of 100 workers were developed. IUCN has accompanied and supported the Ministries in charge of wildlife management, the justice department, the police, gendarmerie, customs and Interpol on various areas: **1** identification techniques of wildlife commodities, **2** the information system on trade in wild species products, **3** CITES structure and functioning and, **4** Crime investigation techniques in relation to wildlife. This support has led to greater effectiveness in environmental crime control.



*School teachers and moderators trained, Djilor commune, Senegal*

• **Support for local enterprises in promising sectors for natural resource value enhancement**

IUCN has also disseminated and facilitated the use of the Market Analysis Approach (MAA), an alternative for small size rural enterprises engaged in natural resource valuing. The aim of this approach is to assist rural communities in creating businesses that will generate and increase incomes while ensuring sustainable forest resource management. A total of 3 women's / youth groupings were supported to develop their Business Plans (BPs) in major promising local sectors.



*Training GIE women Moudéri on ADM*

• **Support for effective law and policy enforcement**

IUCN has supported the development and use of several appropriate natural resource management policies (legislative and institutional frameworks, laws) at country level. It has also continued assisting in effective law enforcement. To this effect, IUCN's support has led to the following outcomes:

➔ **Current laws to fight against poaching:**

IUCN in Guinea Bissau has assisted in the enforcement of such laws through trainings and provision of equipment. Logistic support for some parks was also given to the protected areas conservation department staff. This has built their intervention capacity and allowed greater field presence of eco-guards in protected areas for control and surveillance. This operation has helped to achieve:

- ➊ **effective law enforcement** over a surface area of more than **400.000 ha**,
- ➋ **arrest and prosecution of many poachers**,
- ➌ **seizing of poaching items**, as well as poaching equipment,
- ➍ **heightened patrol efforts** by eco-guards,
- ➎ **improved effectiveness in the management** of such protected areas,
- ➏ **reduced poaching and stabilizing of the wildlife population growth** in these protected areas.

Moreover, in collaboration with the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF) of Cameroon, IUCN has undertaken a revision process of the national anti-poaching strategy so as to consider the new issues such as further involving certain actors (law enforcement officers, national agency of financial investigation, customs officers, etc. on one hand), and taking account of the growing crime in poaching. This strategy which is now referred to as the 'Strategy to combat crime against wildlife' was adopted in 2018 and it helps Cameroon in providing a strong response to the issue of crime against wildlife and this, at the policy, strategic and operational levels.



→ **Legislative Decree on the National**

**Ecotourism Law:** IUCN in Guinea Bissau has supported the validation and promulgation of the National Ecotourism Strategy in collaboration with key partners (Ministry of Tourism, National Directorate of Territory Planning, Secretariat of State for Environment, IBAP, City Council of Bissau).

→ **National Wetlands Management Policy of**

**Niger:** IUCN has supported the updating of this policy that now meet the obligations of Niger in relation to the Ramsar Convention and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA).

→ **National Water Policy of the Republic of**

**Guinea:** IUCN has also worked towards the adoption of this policy that frames, through clear management principles, objectives and strong policy directions, the actions and interventions of all water actors on the field of socio-economic and environmental development.



*Marking pivot zones in Niore du Rip, Senegal*

• **Promotion of local conservation initiatives for the well-being of communities**

IUCN has worked towards preserving resources and managing natural habitats in a sustainable manner in order to sustain the livelihoods of the communities. Hence, the Union has supported conservation measures (reforestation, use of best farming practices) that also preserve the biodiversity (stone belts, direct sowing, grafting, Assisted Natural Regeneration and tree planting). This has resulting into the restoration of degraded lands (**60 hectares** in Burkina Faso), reclaim and enriching of **6 shea nut tree parks**, freeing and enriching water course banks. Nearly **23,000 seedlings** were produced and planted in a bid to restore gallery forests on the sites of the PAGE programme in Burkina Faso, Niger, Senegal and Ghana.

IUCN has further contributed to reducing the pastoralists' footprint on resource degradation by acting on pastoral system governance and improving their livelihoods. This is illustrated by the **4,000 hectares of enriched grazing areas** that were delineated and secured in the Pétte Commune in Cameroon.

A total of **840 youths** were trained and professionally integrated. Early tangible change includes increased incomes (two and sometimes three-fold) for these youths and their quitting of illegal activities to engage in natural resource sustainable use and valuing.

## B. Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resource

### • Provision of tools for effective governance of natural resource

In Burkina Faso, IUCN has developed a tool for evaluating the effectiveness of natural resource governance. Depending on the level of environmental and social risks, the tool makes it mandatory for developers to implement a management plan for reducing the ecological and social footprint of a project/programme to a bare minimum. The tool was used in **53 micro-projects** that were implemented by civil society and local governments, leading to the development of environmental management plans.

The IUCN Regional thematic programme on Protected Areas supports local actors with funds, trainings, release of tools and solutions (PPI, RECONNECT, BIOPAMA, BRICKS), consultation steps (RECONNECT), Monitoring & Evaluation, communication and leveraging of initiatives (BRICKS, BIOPAMA). Information on organizational structures of **45 grant beneficiary NGOs** of the FFEM-PPI programme were collected in 11 countries with the CSTT tool (Civil Society Tracking Tool) that was proposed by CEPF (Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund). This data base will help to optimize the organizational and institutional development of these organizations in 2019 in view of enhancing their sustainability and efficiency.

IUCN has also set up a tool for the monitoring of fish resource governance sea safety. The use of the tool was up scaled following a pilot phase. Evidence-based outcomes are visible, notably:

- ➔ Compliance monitoring of semi-industrial boats (red mullet fishing boats) in relating of current fishing regulations;
- ➔ Determination of encroachment and fishing activities within Protected Marine Areas (PMAs) with semi-industrial boats and artisanal fishing boats, in support of PMA surveillance and ecosystem conservation;
- ➔ Categorization of areas and types of fishing based on used boat design (revolving stage, simple line, icy line, etc.);
- ➔ Accurate delimitation of fishing area for fishing boats in view of locating the resource and preparing development measures.

Also, as part of the MIKES project, **16 executive staff of PAs** (Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger) and **10 eco guards from Benin and 10 from Niger** were trained on the use of the spatial monitoring and reporting tool (SMART-Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) with the aim of stepping up the fight against poaching in the transborder W-Arly-Pendjari Complex.

Moreover, the BIOPAMA programme has supported the Burundi national IMET data analysis. This has led to the production of a national plan to strengthen management effectiveness that has already received support from donor for implementation.

## • Strengthening of natural resource governance frameworks

IUCN has set up a consultation and dialogue framework around the issue of extractive industry mainstreaming into wetlands. A situational analysis of wetlands and extractive industry was carried out and a road map for the preparation of guidelines for extractive industry mainstreaming into wetlands were adopted. IUCN has also equipped over **3,165 persons** with a wide range of approaches: ❶ private sector engagement in general and extractive sector in particular in biodiversity conservation, and ❷ the mining code and other law tools governing mining activities in relation to its environmental impacts.

PACO has played a prominent role in operationalizing cross border dialogues aimed at sustainable natural resource and transnational ecosystem management. For instance, **3 committees** as well as consultation frameworks were **established**, notably in the Mano River Union region, around the Ziama-Diecke Protected Areas and Mounts Nimba in the Republic of Guinea, and around the Gola National Park in Sierra Leone.

In addition, IUCN has made available to actors, governance and decision-making tools and multisectoral dialogue frameworks in view of facilitating effective implementation of natural resource conservation and sustainable management activities. Overall, **4 cross border dialogue frameworks** were established in the Mano River Union countries (Sierra Leone, Guinea, Ivory Coast and Liberia). Also, **3 regional thematic networks** have received institutional, organizational and /or thematic support, namely:

→ The Central Africa Marine Turtle Network (RASTOMA) supported by the PPI and BIOPAMA Programmes to mainstream the **conservation of marine turtle occurrence sites within the** COMIFAC forest convergence plan;

→ The AGSAC Association for Central Africa Great Ape conservation has benefitted from the development and activation of its **website as well as several trainings** on communication;

→ A network of **15 local NGOs** was set up with the support of the PPI and BIOPAMA Programmes with the aim of building synergy in marine turtle conservation actions in 6 West African countries.

The meeting of Ministers in charge of Environment in MOLOA countries which was organized in July 2018 by IUCN and WAEMU has led to the validation of the 2016 assessment of West African Littorals. The said meeting was preceded by an expert meeting to review and update the assessment to be submitted to the Ministers. This is the outcome of a long process initiated in 2007 and involving 11 coastal countries in the harmonization of coastal littoral observation and planning frameworks.

## • Support for technical departments in charge of water

In collaboration with CSOs, IUCN in Burkina Faso has equipped central and decentralized technical departments in charge of rural development and Associations active in the water and environment sector on ❶ natural resource management policy and its implementation instruments and tools, ❷ international Conventions that were ratified in relation to water and their implementation, ❸ the orientation law governing water management and its enforcement texts, ❹ water resources governance concepts and approaches.

## C. Deploying nature-based solutions to address societal challenges

### • Promotion of nature-based solutions

Women's, youth and male participation and empowerment mechanisms for the implementation of nature-based solutions were piloted in communes in Burkina Faso. Thus, in the Silly Commune, a land tenure management Charter was developed and validated. A participation mechanism in non-timber forest products valuing and climate change adaptation technologies were tested in **4 communes** in the Centre-East region of Burkina Faso.

The Union has also made available for over **200 actors**, methodological tools and knowledge for territorial development that mainstream natural resources management including ecosystem-related risks and market. As part of this effort, a first draft territorial development and management plan was prepared and validated by the actors of the Dori Commune, Burkina Faso.



*Marking pivot zones in Djilor, Senegal*

The Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) practice was disseminated by IUCN as a nature-based solution. To this effect, the capacities of several producers were developed for the delineation of core zones for establishing the NAR strip. This initiative was launched through a pilot action in the Djilor and Nioro Communes in the Senegal Rip, over a surface area of **32 hectares**.

In order to pool West Africa gallery forest and source head data, IUCN has operationalized the Webmapping tool in collaboration with NBA and VBA. This interface has helped Basin Authorities to pool gallery forest and source head data produced by all West Africa Basin Authorities. This is scheduled to be scaled up to cover Central Africa.

Furthermore, IUCN has built knowledge among actors on climate-related risks (floods, salinization and surface erosion). In collaboration with the relevant institutions in Guinea Bissau and in Senegal, the Union has contributed to the mainstreaming of natural disaster risk education in school curricula, by: **1** producing an **educational guide** on natural disaster risks and **2** education staff training (inspectors and teachers) on this emerging topic. It is within this framework that **60 school teachers and moderators** were trained on sustainable development education.

## • Developing innovative conservation financing mechanisms

An additional financial mechanism was put in place to encourage nature-based solutions in **32 communes** in Burkina Faso. A total of **80 developers** got access to this financing window for a total amount of CFA F **1 400 million** for the benefit of forest-dependent populations. Such funds have helped to generate income for the local population while preserving forest resources. Funds were also allocated for **50 beekeepers** in Dori Commune, Burkina Faso, to set up **100 beehives**. Also, **40 men and 10 women** received financial support for market-garden production inputs and equipment purchase. Finally, a strategy and action plan identifying the tax base and potential financing sources at communal, regional and national levels were validated and will facilitate financial resource mobilization for the restoration of the Dori communal forest in Burkina Faso.

IUCN has further supported the implementation of a range of mechanisms (for governance, legal, policy and financial, national and international) for biodiversity conservation and nature-based solutions. IUCN has benefitted from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for its preparatory support programme, resources for a programme to deploy nature-based solutions in Cameroon. This Fund was used for capacity building of the national designated authority, supporting direct access entities and developing strategic frameworks. More specifically:

- Over **400 persons** representing key actor groups (administrations, private sector, civil society, local and indigenous population, technical and financial partners, etc.) were sensitized and trained on how to use the window of opportunity that the Green Climate Fund represents;
- **A country programme** (Cameroon) targeting the GCF was developed;
- Numerous national and international institutions are striving to be eligible to the GCF in view of mobilizing resources from this financial mechanism.

## • Supporting effective management of terrestrial, marine and watershed landscapes

IUCN has ensured community mobilization around protected areas by involving them in the entire process that is expected to lead to effective management of such land areas with a high potential for conservation (e.g.: Mole ecological landscape and Wassa Amenfi landscape in Ghana). Community Resource Management Area managers (CREMA) within such landscapes were actively involved in the protection and surveillance of such territories. This has helped in reducing encroachment and illegal activities while strengthening community support for the authorities for protected area and forest reserve management.

IUCN also conducted an evaluation of the opportunities for restoring the Mangai landscapes in DRC (reserve and hunting area in the Kwilu Province) covering a surface area of **over one million ha**. The same assessment exercise was also implemented in the Wassa Amenfi reserve and Mole National Park in Ghana.

Also, the Ndiaël special bird reserve was extensively restored. It should be recalled that this reserve was listed in the Montreux Register since 1990 with the support of IUCN in partnership with the State of Senegal, African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

# MEMBERS AND EXPERTS OF THE COMMISSIONS

In 2018, IUCN admitted several new Members, including **8** in Central and West Africa. As of 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2018, IUCN had **102 Members** in Central and West Africa (figure 1), out of the 1360 at the global level, of which **10 States**, **11 Government agencies**, **2 international NGOs** and **79 national NGOs**.

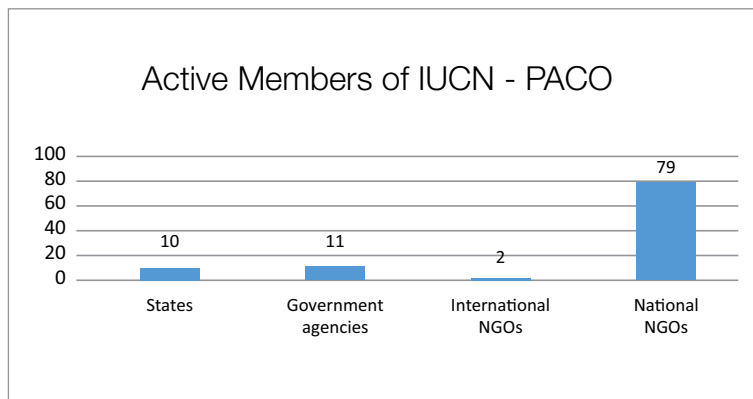


Figure 1 : Membership Categories within the region

There are also **1 regional Committee** of Members (CREMACO), **8 national committees**: Benin, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Guinea Bissau, Mali and Senegal, and **584 Commission members** (figure 2).

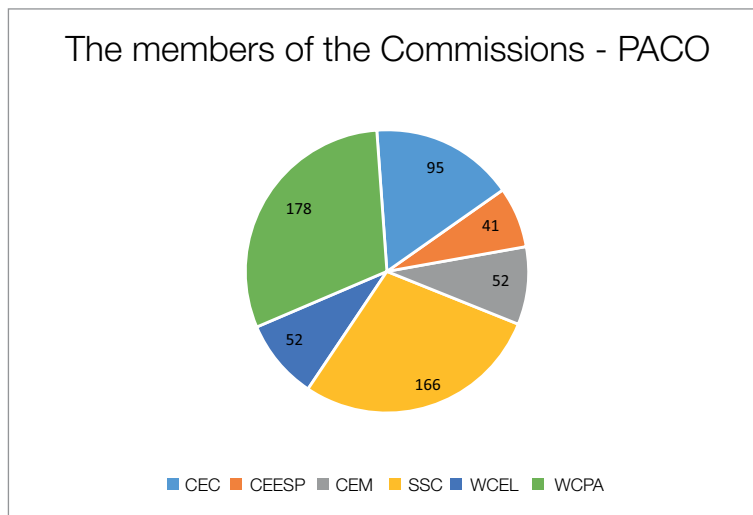


Figure 2 : Experts of the Commissions within the region



# INVOLVEMENT OF MEMBERS IN PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Generally speaking, IUCN-PACO through Country Programmes and Regional Thematic Programmes, jointly plan their activities or seeks to promote the participation and involvement of the Members and experts of the Commissions. In addition to this togetherness during planning activities, some Members actively participate in the implementation of field actions in several PACO Programmes. Year 2018 has seen the consolidation of the 'One Programme' approach through numerous initiatives, including the following:

- In **Guinea-Bissau**, the collaboration between the Members and Secretariat has made it possible to define common intervention strategies. This synergy led among other things, to the registration of national wetlands as a priority area for advocacy during the 2018-2019 period.
- In Cameroon, the collaboration between IUCN and the Government through three ministerial departments (MINEPDED, MINFOF and MINEPAT) has yielded the following results:
  - A convention was signed with the MINFOF for technical assistance for the Benoue National Park. The objective is to contribute to safeguarding the integrity of the said Park while facilitating the rehabilitation of wildlife habitats and their repopulation;
  - The MINEPDED has designated IUCN as an implementing agency of the *Readiness Support Project* for the GCF. The Ministry also contributes to the production of radio programmes (information, resource persons) that are broadcast by *Radio Environnement* in view of educating and creating awareness of environmental issues among the population;
- Two joint projects are being prepared with the MINEPAT: one on degraded land restoration in far North Cameroon and the other on pastoral livestock breeding development support.
- The **CEW** and IUCN have continued implementing the Ngog Mapubi forest massif sustainable management project which helped to produce leveraging tools. Furthermore, with the **CAFER**, another joint project which was submitted to the European Union for financing is intended to reduce the adverse impacts of mining activities on fauna and forest resources.
- With the Garoua Wildlife School (EFG), IUCN has revised training modules to mainstream the fight crime against fauna with the support of TRAFFIC. IUCN has in addition worked with the EFG to develop a knowledge enhancement project on the biodiversity of critical Lake Chad Basin sites and joint implementation is expected.
- The IUCN Secretariat and Members (CWCS, CEW and FODER) have developed the Project on 'Supporting Landscapes Restoration and Sustainable Use of local plant species and tree products for Biodiversity Conservation, Sustainable Livelihoods and Emissions Reduction in Cameroon'. The project was approved by GEF and discussions are underway towards a start in the near future.
- A member of the global Commission on Protected Areas has joined IUCN to develop an inventory and zoning project within the Cameroon communal forests. This project will be submitted for financing to the GEF/FAO Consortium.

- IUCN is jointly implementing with the French IUCN Committee the PPI project that is supporting NGOs (Action Plus, AGEREF-CL, AROCHA-Ghana, BEES, CEM, CEW, CREDI, ERUDEF, Friends of the Nation, Herp-Ghana, *Nature Tropicale*, etc.) as well as the RASTOMA network, all of which are IUCN Members.
- The BIOPAMA programme collaborates with the GPPAM (Global Partnership for Professionalising Protected Area Management) groups and SULi of CMAP and proposes work that aims at enhancing skills management and development of achievements for ANPN of Gabon.
- With the **Forest Programme**, IUCN Member Organizations have participated in the implementation of a range of activities:
  - In **Guinea**, the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests is involved in the implementation of the Mano River Project;
  - In **Ivory Coast**, the Ministry of Environment, Urban Sanitation and Sustainable Development contributes to the implementation of the «Mano River Union» Project and to the development of joint project proposals to be submitted to the GCF and GEF;
  - In **Ghana**, A Rocha-Ghana, CODESULT and Ghana Forestry Commission have been implementing partners of the Stabilizing Land Use Project.
- On the Water Resource and Wetlands area, interventions in Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Benin, Senegal and Ghana were carried by technical structures of the Ministries in charge of Environment and Water. In addition, actions undertaken within the framework of the SRJS programme with funds from the IUCN Dutch Committee have allowed collaboration with IUCN Member NGOs (BEES in Benin; A ROCHA NGO in Ghana, AGEREF/CL, AGED and NATURAMA in Burkina Faso) for its implementation.







# SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

## Celebration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IUCN

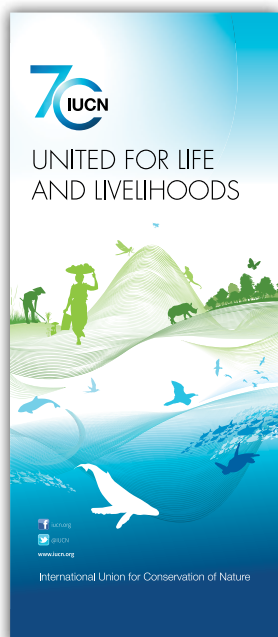
Since its establishment on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 1948 in Fontainebleau, France, IUCN has gradually become a world reference authority for nature and natural resources conservation issues. Diverse events and meetings were organized throughout 2018 to celebrate the 70 years of the Union. This was an occasion to bring together environment champions, experts and volunteers from around the world to uphold the cause of nature.

IUCN-PACO and its components have worked hard to celebrate this 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary and produce and disseminated many communication aids (leaflets, reel stands, folders...).

PACO also participated in the challenge launched by the [Nature4All](#) Movement by sending video records wishing 'Happy Birthday to IUCN, Nature4All'. The records were produced in French and English in the sidelines of the training workshop on Planning and implementing a communication

strategy, held in Khartoum, Sudan from 07 to 10 May, 2018, in collaboration with the IUCN Commission on Education and Communication (CEC). The videos are available [on line](#).

Moreover, PACO has contributed to promoting the [Crossroads](#) page which is an IUCN blog launched on the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Union. This forum was created to enable IUCN Members and partners to share their ideas and views on certain topics among the most controversial and current ones. [Crossroads](#) was designed to illustrate the crucial role played by nature conservation in sustainable development and to show the strength of IUCN and the global conservation community that the Union represents, to participate in building a more sustainable future for all.



## The IUCN Director General on a working visit to the region

In 2018, the IUCN Director General, Madam Inger Andersen visited Mauritania and Senegal. This was an opportunity for the Director General to give a new impetus to the region.

During her stay, she met with the top officials of the visited countries to discuss issues on the global and regional environmental agenda. She also discussed with the IUCN staff, the Members, experts of Commissions and the Union's partners on major environmental challenges and prospects for collaboration towards a healthier world that values and conserves nature. The visit served to share her vision of IUCN as the Director General for the coming years.

In Mauritania, the Director General had high level meetings with the leaders of the country including the President of the Republic, Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz and the Prime Minister, Yahya Ould Hademine; the Speaker of the National Assembly, Mohammed Ould Boillil; the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, Amedi Camara; the Permanent Secretary of the Government, Minister Zeinabou Ely Salem; Isselkou Ould Ahmed Izid Bih (Foreign Affairs and Cooperation) and Nani Ould Chrouga (Fisheries and Maritime Economy). With the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) highlighting the need to deepen collaboration was signed and testifies to the intention of Mauritania to join the Union as a Member State.



*Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in Mauritania*



*Committee of IUCN Members-Senegal receiving the IUCN DG*

In Senegal, in addition to the Union staff and Members, Madam Inger Andersen met with a number of personalities of whom the Speaker of the National Assembly, Moustapha Niasse, the Chairperson of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council, Madam Aminata Tall, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Diaspora, Sidiki Kaba; the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Mame Thierno Dieng; and the Chief of Staff of the Prime Minister.

This work agenda for the region has enabled IUCN to further strengthen its position in these countries in particular and in the region in general.



*A working session with staff in Senegal*



## The best examples of nature-based solutions were rewarded

At the end of the competition on Water and Environment, Mr. **Abdou Karim Sawadogo, of the Daily Observateur Paalga** of Burkina Faso **won the 1<sup>st</sup> prize**, with his report entitled *Le lac Boukou à Bourzanga : un poumon économique menacé d'asphyxie* published in the Daily *l'Observateur Paalga* of 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.

The report was intended to draw the attention of Government authorities on the threats looming over the resource and encourage the promotion of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) to save Boukou, one of the largest natural water reservoir in Burkina Faso. The report led to the production and broadcast of a programme on the TV channel France 24. Furthermore, a project is under preparation by the Bam City Council in view of restoring the said lake.



*Mr. Abdoukarim Sawadogo at the ceremony in Stockholm*

Organized by the West Africa Partnership for environmental governance (PAGE) Project, in collaboration with the Global Water Partnership-West Africa (GWP-WA), the competition was on the theme of 'Water resources management: some good examples of nature-based solutions'. The winner received his award in Stockholm, at the World Water Week and in the sidelines of a panel on PAGE results.



*Mr. Abdoukarim Sawadogo, winner of the award*





## Strengthened capacity for improved communication of results

IUCN has continued playing its leadership role in the areas of biodiversity and networking and communication strategies within the framework of the Building Resilience through Innovation, Communication and Knowledge Services (BRICKS) Project. Hence, **41** participants brought together in Khartoum, Sudan, received a training in developing and implementing a communication plan. They were made up of communication experts, journalists, representatives of the three BRICKS implementing agencies (CILSS, OSS, IUCN), of TerrAfrica and of the national coordination of the Great Green Wall Initiative in Burkina Faso; they were from the 12 SAWAP countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, Chad and Togo) and from South Africa.

Each SAWAP project representative developed a communication action plan that takes account of the target audiences, stakeholders, message directed to each target audience, the means, activities, channels to be used, implementation period, the person responsible for this implementation, the budget and evaluation method. The exercise is intended to facilitate improved sharing of project results and lead to more effective natural resource governance in general.



*Attendees at the Khartoum workshop in the meeting room*

The field visit to Gezira State, to a site of the Sudan Sustainable Natural Resource Management Project gave an opportunity to share experiences acquired by the project in the area of land and water management in collaboration with the communities. The Wadbugul forest rehabilitation zone that was visited was in the past two decades a biodiversity-rich forest. But the extensively degraded state of the forest and soil was observed in-situ during the visit. Also, the community garden of Taybeen village located at some kilometers away for the Wadbugul forest was also visited. Several resisting acacia species including *Acacia senegalensis* which is tolerant to the recurrent water stress in the zone (maximum of 100mm/year of rainfall) and fruit trees are planted by women for reforestation and fruits production for the populations.

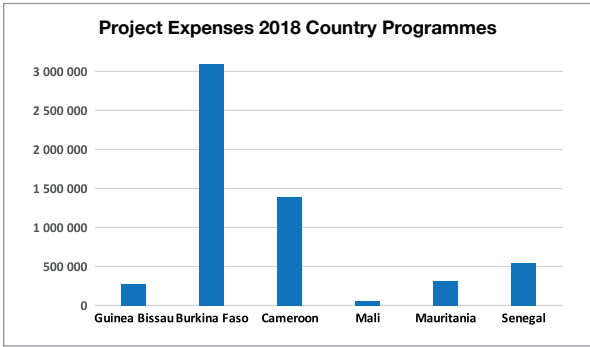
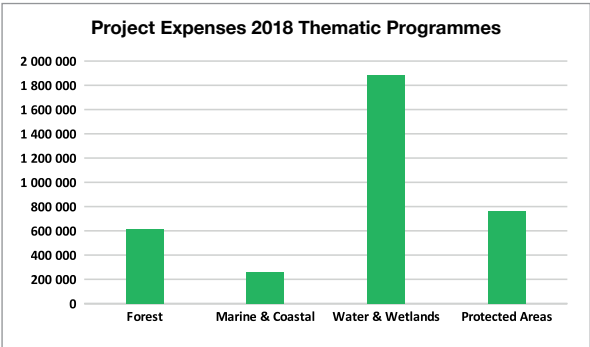


*The participants in the Khartoum workshop in the field*

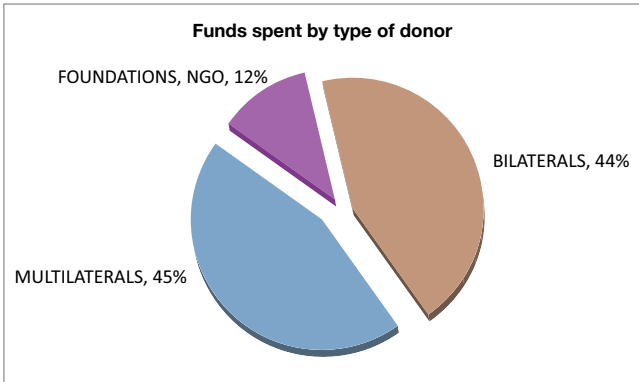
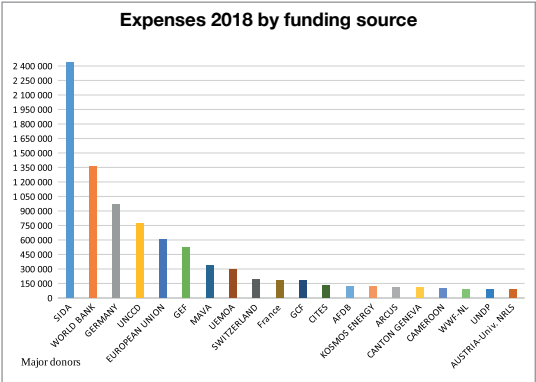
# FINANCIAL SITUATION IN 2018

For 2018, PACO implemented activities worth CHF 9.2 million out of a budget of CHF 14.8 million. Such project expenses account for 38% for all four regional thematic programmes (PTR) 62% for country programmes. Taking the *Core fund* and other resources into account, the total amount of expenses for the entire region is CHF 11.2 million.

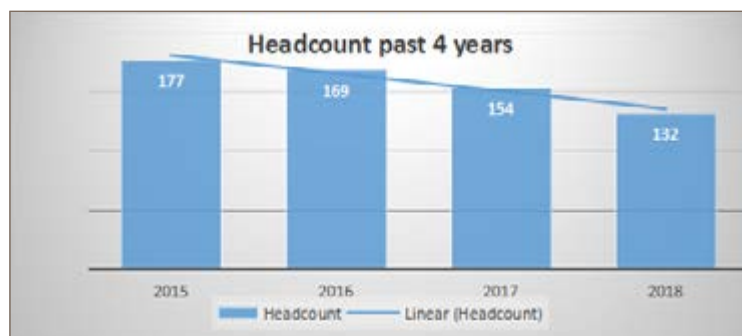
Financing sources are diverse and made up of about forty donors contributing at different levels of financing, ranging from some thousands to millions of CHF.



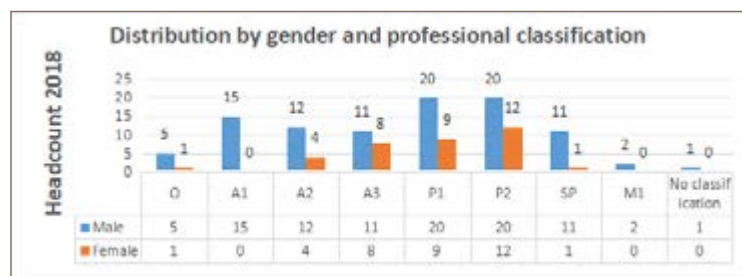
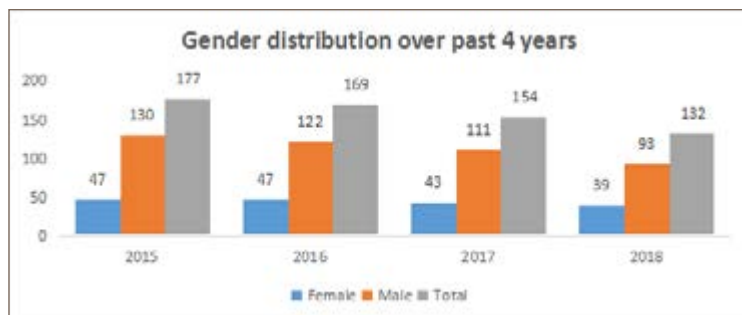
The funds spent according to types of donors are somehow balanced between bilateral government agencies (44%) and multilateral organizations (45%). The proportion of financing originating from foundations, Non-Governmental Organizations and private sector is 12%.



# HUMAN RESOURCES



The workforce analysis shows that since 2015, our Headcount experience a decline from one year to another, with a fairly high percentage over the last year (15%).



Despite the reduction, the percentage of women seems to have been maintained and even raised up a bit in recent years. However, a more in-depth analysis based on the professional classification shows that there is still a huge effort to be made as far as senior level positions are concerned.



# STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

IUCN thanks its technical and financial partners for their multi-faceted support and unflinching engagement in natural resource conservation and sustainable development.







# PUBLICATIONS AND OTHER PRODUCTS

## Annual reports, findings of studies and guidelines

- IUCN-PACO (2018). Annual Report 2017. Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. IUCN. 36pp.
- IUCN-Programme Cameroon (2018). Annual Report 2017. Yaoundé, Cameroon. IUCN. 48 pp.
- Evaluation Report of the amount of carbon sequestered by the *Sablogo* and *Soudougui* Forest massifs;
- Study Report on beekeeping sectors in the localities of the intercommunal Sablogo Forest (*Tenkodogo*, *Bissiga* and *Lalgaye* communes), Centre-East Region;
- Study Report on the beekeeping and rhone palm tree product value chains within the framework of the implementation of the support project on Climate Change adaptation of Communities adjacent to Forests (PACOF-CC): Soudougui Commune;
- Evaluation Report of the level of implementation of seventeen Business Plans in the shea nut sector;
- Preparation Report of two strategies for operationalizing local forest planning and management as part of the implementation of the Support Project on Climate Change adaptation of Communities adjacent to Forests (PACOF-CC);
- Study Report on documenting the baseline status of the Dori communal forest and its area of influence;
- Study Report on the potential for creating new taxes and incidental taxes for the benefit of the Dori Commune;
- Study Report on the identification of and support for a value-adding productive sector that promotes sustainable land management in the Dori Commune;

- School Headmaster's Guide on natural disaster risk education;
- Capitalization Document on knowledge, traditional practices, appropriate technologies and innovations (land tenure, agricultural, forest and cultural) in the rural areas of Burkina Faso.

## Video and other products

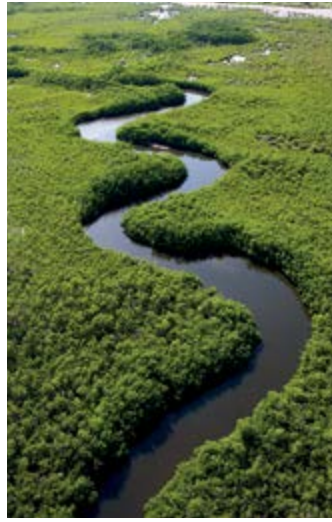
- The newsletter PACO News
- Video on the capitalization on the support project on sustainable management of Ngog Mapubi Forest Massif
- Climate change posters, causes and consequences (Arabic)
- Image box on the various adaptation techniques by key sector (agriculture, livestock breeding and fisheries)
- Water briefing (French - English) on two topics:
  - Concerted management of shared water resources: for the empowerment of local actors and sustainable water use;
  - IWRM: Changing approaches to reconcile dams and inclusive sustainable development in West Africa;
- ORYX Brochure, Network of leaders from various social segments of five countries.

## Publications in partnership

- *The Green Economy Barometer 2018 Senegal* – Co-produced by IUCN, IED, Green Economy Coalition.







working for  
a just world  
that values and  
conserves nature



INTERNATIONAL UNION  
FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

Regional Office  
Central and West Africa Programme - PACO  
01 PO Box 1618 Ouagadougou 01  
Burkina Faso  
Phone: +226 25 37 42 16  
E-mail: [paco@iucn.org](mailto:paco@iucn.org)  
[www.iucn.org/paco](http://www.iucn.org/paco)

[twitter.com/iucn](https://twitter.com/iucn)  
[facebook.com/iucn.org](https://facebook.com/iucn.org)