

A regional partnership dedicated to nature conservation

The Central and West Africa Program (PACO) is the result of a merger of the two former IUCN regional offices in Central and West Africa.

Its regional headquarters is located in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

This regional program spans over 26 States and has programs offices in eight countries: Burkina Faso, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Cameroun and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Other country programme offices are foreseen in West Africa, the Congo Basin and the Great lake regions.



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Shaping a sustainable future

The Central and West Africa Programme contributes to the 2009-2012 IUCN global Programme.



Environmental health and human well-being

A program dedicated to conservation and sustainable development.

Vision

A just world that values and conserves nature.

Mission

To influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

Objectives

The unique role of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is built upon:

- A conservation approach that links the health of the environment to human well-being;
- A change strategy that proceeds through improving knowledge and empowering actors for good environmental governance.

The PACO's actions are geared towards the implementation of the IUCN quadrennial program. They address conservation policies and environmental governance issues at global, regional and local levels, as well as field projects that deal with sustainable management of biological diversity.

The PACO is structured into five regional thematic programs:

- Forest Conservation;
- Water resources and Wetlands;
- Marine and Coastal ecosystems;
- Protected areas and Biodiversity;
- Law, Policy and Governance.

These thematic programs implement regional initiatives and projects. They will insure a better anchoring with the global Program and the six IUCN Commissions.

IUCN will strengthen its partnership policy, including through the hosting of other conservation organizations, the collaborative implementation of projects and the promotion of regional networks.

Several programs are currently hosted, such as MIKE (Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants), GWP-CAFTAC (Global Water Partnership-Central Africa Technical Advisory Committee), TRAFFIC (The wildlife trade monitoring network), Global Forest Watch (GFW) and World Resources Institute (WRI).

Members

In 2008, IUCN in Central and West Africa accounted for 70 members including 15 States, 12 government agencies and 43 national and international NGO's working in various activities in relation with the PACO's thematic programs.

These members are organised into two Regional committees (one in Central Africa and one in West Africa) and three National committees (Senegal, Mali, Guinea Bissau).

The mode of operation of IUCN-PACO outlined in its new strategy document translates into a much greater collaboration among the Secretariat, the members and the commissions.

IUCN in Central and West Africa intends to involve other constituent pillars -members and commissions- to closely work with the Union's secretariat.

In fact, the International union for conservation of nature (IUCN) is built on three pillars:

- *Members* (more than 1000 members originating from 140 countries);

- *Six Commissions*:

- * Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM);
- * Commission on Education and Communication (CEC);
- * Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)
- * Commission on Environmental Law (CEL);
- * Species Survival Commission (SSC)
- * World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA).

- *The Secretariat* composed of IUCN staff worldwide and, with its headquarters in Gland, Switzerland.

Strategies

IUCN's added values in conservation are:

- The delivery of quality scientific data and expertise;
- The development of actor's capacity, in particular the civil society and the Parliamentarians;
- The capacity to convey alliances and coalitions of various environmental, economic and social partners for action;
- A strong field's experience on ecosystems management and restoration;
- The promotion of conservation and sustainable development processes designed to influence the African regional policies and the international environmental agenda.

Main priority domains

The IUCN programme for 2009-2012 in Central and West Africa will mainly focus on five priority areas:

- Conserving the diversity of life;
- Changing the climate forecasts;
- Naturally energising the future;
- Managing ecosystems for human well-being;
- Greening the world economy.

