

Title: Conference on the ecosystems of the dense rainforests of Central Africa: Evaluation Mission of the CEFDHAC Project, IUCN, January 2000.

Evaluation Team: external

Year: 2000

Objectives of the Project:

The CEFDHAC is an initiative launched by several central African countries to encourage the sustainable use and conservation of the Central African forest belt, which is known for the great diversity of its ecosystems, genetic resources and fauna. The objectives of the Project supporting the CEFDHAC are: 1) to contribute to the design of policies, strategies, national and regional plans for the conservation and the sustainable use of Central African dense rainforest ecosystems, 2) to ensure the participation of all stakeholders, to build up local and regional capacities for

IUCN area of specialization: Forest Conservation

Geographical Area covered: Central Africa

Donors: European Union, Directorate General for International Cooperation (DGIS-Netherlands)

Type of evaluation: Mid-term Review

Objectives of the evaluation:

- To review the Project progress and results compared to expected outcomes, the internal management system, the Project organizational chart and the IUCN's technical and monitoring role
- To analyze the institutional partnership between IUCN and the CEFDHAC, the General Secretary and CEFDHAC structures and between CEFDHAC and other regional initiatives who support sustainable use and conservation of biological diversity in Central Africa.

Methodology:

The evaluation team reviewed CEFDHAC documents, interviewed IUCN staff and representatives from the governments of Burundi and Cameroon, international and national NGOs and donors. The evaluation undertook an analysis of the extent to which activities met the objectives of the 1998 and 1999 operational plans, supplementing this analysis with additional interviews.

Findings:

- The review of Project documents showed that all activities supported Project objectives, but some activities could have been more precisely defined. Furthermore, CEFDHAC objectives are often confused with the Project's objectives, which mislead partners. Approximately two-thirds of the planned activities have been completed.
- The financial audit report concluded that expenses complied with the original financial agreement for the Project.
- The comparative study on forestry policies and laws in central African Countries, entitled "Bases pour la mise en cohérence des politiques et lois forestières des pays d'Afrique Centrale", is a very useful for the continuation of the Project. All themes and questions addressed have a direct relevance to the Project. The Strategic Action Plan has allowed the regions to express their specific needs in relation to biodiversity conservation, which reinforces the sense of ownership. .
- Stakeholders generally appreciated the technical support provided by IUCN. IUCN is seen as a guarantee of technical neutrality and credibility, and as an effective catalyst for funding. IUCN's role should be better reflected in the organizational chart.
- The Project to support the CEFDHAC partially fulfilled stakeholder expectations. The CEFDHAC is seen as an exceptional opportunity for networking and professional exchange. The presence of CEFDHAC supporting structures in the sub-regional countries is a determining factor for the success of the Project.

Recommendations:

- Define the logical framework for the supporting Project to CEFDHAC and modify the Project's organizational chart to comply with the IUCN regulations and procedures
- Reinforce communication between the participants in the CEFDHAC as well as between the CEFDHAC and other regional structures, and disseminate information (studies and documents produced by the Project).
- Identify financial mechanisms and self-financing strategies

Language of the evaluation: French

Available from: IUCN HQ, IUCN ROCA