



A Regional Partnership for Conservation



EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), is the world's oldest and largest global environment organisation that has been finding pragmatic solutions to the most pressing environment and development challenges in Eastern and Southern Africa.

Working through over 100 members in the region (and more than 1,400 members globally), we demonstrate unique leadership in Eastern and Southern Africa by providing credible and trusted knowledge, convening and building partnerships for action, sustaining global-to-local and local-to-global reach, and influencing policies, standards and practices.

IUCN's Eastern and Southern African (ESARO) region comprises 24 countries in the Horn of Africa, east Africa, southern Africa and the Western Indian Ocean: Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

We implement our Programme through the Regional Office in Nairobi, Kenya and seven country offices (Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe), with a dedicated team of Technical Experts and a strong Corporate Services Department.

OUR STRENGTHS

IUCN has a unique democratic Membership that enables it to convene multi-stakeholder dialogues and processes to strategically influence the sustainability agenda and biodiversity conservation in the region.

IUCN has the ability to draw upon a large body of science embedded within its 7 Commissions. IUCN has a highly qualified and multi-disciplinary Secretariat with the experience and skills required to facilitate strong linkages between science, policy and practice.

IUCN has a long history of supporting the development of regional and national policies as well as ensuring strong linkages with global processes in a manner that is evidence-based and inclusive of multiple views.

HOW WE WORK

Building partnerships across boundaries:

Working with a diversity of actors and sectors through equitable partnerships that enable and encourage a diversity of views, knowledge and experiences.

Bridging practice-knowledge-policy linkages:

Seeking to draw on existing or new knowledge to influence policy and practise.

Integrated, holistic and learning-oriented perspectives:

Drawing on multiple disciplines to work together to apply integrated and holistic approaches in a learning-oriented manner.

Empowering and strengthening capacity:

Ensuring sustainability by enabling stakeholders to influence and hold accountable the institutions that affect their lives.

Identifying and utilising opportunities for scaling up:

Using innovative approaches to reach beyond the conservation sector and enhance local-national-regional-global linkages.

OUR MISSION AND PROGRAMME

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



WHAT WE DO

Valuing and conserving biodiversity is central to the mission of IUCN. However, we recognise that this in itself has not resulted in halting biodiversity loss. We therefore also focus our work on effective and equitable governance of nature use and deploying nature-based solutions to address societal challenges.

Our regional programme builds on the growing global recognition and understanding of the trends and links between ecosystem changes and human well-being. In doing so, we seek to contribute to the global sustainability agenda through conserving biodiversity and effectively managing natural resources.

IUCN THEMATIC FOCUS IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Coastal and ocean resilience

This programme addresses priorities for long-term sustainable coastal ecosystem management in the Western Indian Ocean, which include, among others: climate change adaptation and

resilience, promotion of ecosystem conservation and management, development of sustainable livelihoods, and influencing coastal economic development to be more environmentally sustainable.

Integrated water resources management

The goal of the programme is to implement policies and actions that deliver long-term resilience and ecological integrity of inland water systems while supporting sustainable development in the region.

Land systems management

The programme focuses on forests, drylands and agricultural landscapes to provide nature-based solutions to secure sustainable development and biodiversity conservation in Eastern and Southern Africa. To achieve this, the programme operates on four strategic focus areas namely

- Conservation, restoration and sustainable management of terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity,
- Promotion of sustainable agriculture,
- Development and enhancement of nature positive enterprise and livelihoods, and
- Increase dryland biodiversity and resilience in Eastern and Southern Africa.

CROSS-CUTTING INTEGRATION

Biodiversity

Biodiversity is crucial to human well-being and is increasingly threatened. Habitat destruction, invasive species, overexploitation, illegal wildlife trade, pollution and climate change put the survival of species and ecosystems worldwide at risk. IUCN is at the forefront of global efforts to halt the extinction crisis and to sustainably manage, conserve and restore ecosystems for nature and people's benefit.

Climate change

Climate change threatens people's lives and livelihoods, the survival of species, and the integrity of ecosystems all over the world. But Nature-based Solutions that protect and restore ecosystems absorb carbon dioxide and help shield communities from the effects of climate change.

Investing in the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of nature can provide around a third of climate mitigation needed by 2030.

Gender & Youth

Advancing gender equality and youth engagement is key to effective, efficient, equitable and sustainable environmental solutions.

IUCN champions a gender-responsive and youth-centred approach across its programme portfolio, identifying and overcoming gender and youth gaps across sectors and at all levels, to enable better natural resource governance and conservation outcomes.

THE REGION'S LARGEST CONSERVATION COMMUNITY - OUR MEMBERS AND EXPERTS

Commissions

ESARO has approximately 1,000 experts as members of the seven IUCN Commissions including:



Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)



Species Survival Commission (SSC)



Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)



Climate Crisis Commission (CCC)



Commission on Environmental Law (CEL)



Commission on Environmental, Economic & Social Policy (CEESP)



The World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA).

The Commissions are networks of expert volunteers entrusted to develop and advance IUCN's institutional knowledge and experience. In this region, there are number of active Specialist groups under the Species Survival Commission:

<https://www.iucn.org/our-union/commissions/species-survival-commission>

One-programme approach

Through the "One-Programme" approach, IUCN offers the unique opportunity for IUCN Members, Commissions and Secretariat staff to use their collective strength to address the environment and development issues in the region.

Members

Through its region-wide membership, IUCN is building links between countries in the region and more broadly in Africa and the rest of the world through experience sharing, convening multi-stakeholder platforms for consensus building and facilitation of transboundary processes.

In Eastern and Southern Africa, IUCN brings together more than 100 members who include states, government agencies, sub-national governments, conservation and development NGOs, indigenous people's organisations, and others with an interest in environmental management and conservation of natural resources.

If you would like to know more about IUCN membership and our services, fees and conditions, please contact: the Membership and Commission Support Unit.

E-mail: membership@iucn.org



HOW TO PARTNER WITH US

IUCN has evolved over six decades into the world's largest community of environmental experts. Help us build a sustainable future.

- ***Become a member organisation***
- ***Join one of our seven Commissions as a conservation professional***
- ***Provide support to our general work or to a specific project or initiative***

CONTACT US

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