



INTERNATIONAL UNION
FOR NATURE
CONSERVATION

REGIONAL OFFICE
CENTRAL AND WEST
AFRICA
ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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Design and layout by: studio E.concept- ngambyghislain6@gmail.com

Written by: Frédéric DAYAMBA, Mouhamadou Niang, Jean-Louis SANKA, Germain GOUNGOUNGA, TIEMTORÉ Souleymane

Proofread by: Pr. Aimé NIANOGO, Frédéric DAYAMBA, Eva Paule MOUZONG, BITCHICK BI BITCHICK Augustin Corin

Cover design elements: NGAMBY Ghislain, Cynthia BADJECK



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Acronyms and abbreviations

ABN	: Autorité du Bassin du Niger
ABV	: Autorité du Bassin de la Volta
ACF	: Africa Conservation Forum
ADM	: Analyse des Marchés
AME	: Accords Multilatéraux sur l'Environnement
AMP	: Aires Marines Protégées
BAD	: Banque Africaine de Développement
BIOPAMA	: Programme pour la biodiversité et la gestion des aires protégées
CBLT	: Commission du Bassin du Lac Tchad
CEC	: Commission de l'Éducation et de la Communication
CEDEAO	: Communauté Economique Des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest
CEW	: Cameroon Environmental Watch
FCFA	: Franc de la Communauté financière africaine
CHF	: Franc Suisse
CILSS	: Comité Permanent Inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel
CITES	: La Convention sur le commerce international des espèces de faune et de flore sauvages menacées d'extinction
CMAF	: Commission Mondiale des Aires Protégées
CWCS	: Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society
EFG	: Ecole de Faune de Garoua
FAO	: Organisation pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture
FEM	: Fonds pour l'Environnement Mondial
FFEM	: Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial
FODER	: Forêts et Développement Rural
FVC	: Fonds Vert pour le Climat
GIRE	: Gestion Intégrée des Ressources en Eau
GPPAM	: Global Partnership for Professionalising protected Area Management
Ha	: Hectare
IBAP	: Institut de la Biodiversité et des Aires Protégées
IFMN	: International Forest Model Network
IMET	: Outil intégré sur l'efficacité de gestion (Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool)
MAP	: Membership Application Platform
MEOR	: Méthodologie d'Évaluation des Opportunités pour la Restauration
MINEPAT	: Ministère de l'Économie et de la Planification du Territoire
MINEPDED	: Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Protection de la Nature et du Développement Durable
MINFOF	: Ministère des Forêts et de la Faune
NATURAMA	: Fondation des Amis de la nature
ODD	: Objectifs de Développement Durable
ONG	: Organisation Non Gouvernementale
OSC	: Organisation de la Société Civile
OSS	: Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel
PACO	: Programme Afrique Centrale et Occidentale
PPI	: Programme de Petites Initiatives
PTR	: Programmes thématiques régionaux
RASTOMA	: Réseau Tortues Marines d'Afrique centrale
RECONNECT	: Restoring Ecological Corridors in the Mayo-Kebbi Quest, Chad, to Support Multiple Land and Forest project
RNA	: Régénération Naturelle Assistée
SMART	: Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool
SfN	: Solutions fondées sur la Nature
TNS	: Tri-national de la Sangha
TRAFFIC	: Réseau de surveillance du commerce de faune et de flore sauvages
UEMOA	: Union économique et monétaire ouest-africaine
UICN	: Union internationale pour la conservation de la nature
UNESCO	: Organisation des Nations unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture
WAP	: Complexe du W-Arly-Pendjari



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICA
REGIONAL OFFICE

A Word from the Regional Director

Prof. Aimé Joseph Nianogo



Dear colleagues, partners, members and friends of conservation,

The year 2024 has been marked by important achievements and the launch of promising new initiatives. Therefore, I am honoured and enthusiastic to share this annual report with you. It offers a glimpse of our collective impact in Central and West Africa over the past year.

Our results, and not the least, have enabled us to reach the threshold of over 1,200 ha of degraded landscapes (farmland, forests, mangroves) restored and strengthen the protection of particular emblematic species. The application of nature-based solutions, the establishment of income-generating activities and the strengthening of local ecosystem governance and support for effectively managing protected areas have directly improved the livelihoods of over 350,000 people. The World Natural Heritage Expert Panel in Dakar explored the integration of thematic programs and countries in their efforts to have specific sites recognized as World Heritage Sites. The «Africa Conservation Forum» in Nairobi, in preparation for the IUCN World Conservation Congress to be held in October 2025, was another opportunity to strengthen institutional, programmatic and thematic relations between the three (3) pillars of the Union for an ever-stronger Union.

thus securing donors' loyalty, such as UNCCD. I would also like to point out that our region now boasts the largest portfolio of GEF projects, with all the challenges that entails.

Our commitment to our members remains unchanged, and we can look forward to a growing portfolio of initiatives in collaboration with them. The year 2025, which marks the end of the current four-year program and the start, in October, of the next four-year program, promises to be momentous. Its ambitious objectives include implementing our recently developed Vision + 20 years.

Despite the challenges affecting our region, we have maintained our commitment to offering countries our 75 years of experience and expertise to support their Conservation policies and strategies. All these achievements can be attributed to our committed staff, who deliver quality work and to whom I offer my sincere congratulations. Dear Members, Partners, Commission Experts, we are proud to count on your unfailing support to amplify our action in the field. Thank you for believing in our mission and supporting our commitment to build a better world that prioritizes Nature.

We have continued to mobilize and diversify our financial funding sources,

Enjoy your reading.





▶ 1 OUR STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

IUCN at a glance

IUCN is a Member Union of governments and civil society organizations. It provides public, private, and non-governmental organizations with the knowledge and tools to achieve harmony in human progress, economic development, and nature conservation.

Founded in 1948, IUCN has become the world's largest and most diverse environmental network. It relies on the experience, resources, and clout of its more than 1,400 member organizations and the skills of its more than 18,000 experts. IUCN is one of the world's leading providers of conservation data, assessments, and analyses. Its experience enables it to act as an incubator and reliable repository of best practices, tools, and international standards.

IUCN provides a neutral space where diverse stakeholders—governments, NGOs, scientists, companies, local communities, Indigenous peoples' groups, charities, and others—can work together to develop and implement solutions to environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development.

Working with numerous partners and supporters, IUCN implements a vast and diverse portfolio of conservation projects worldwide. Combining the most advanced scientific knowledge with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these projects aim to halt the disappearance of habitats, restore ecosystems and improve the well-being of populations.

www.iucn.org/fr

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

IUCN PACO 2024 in figures

245 748

people

benefited from capacity building and equipment

23

instruments and tools

for the sustainable management of natural

72 312,91 et 326 927

tCO₂eq de GES

directly and indirectly mitigated

06

new members

Joined PACO

1 191 070,37

hectares

of ecosystems and watersheds restored, protected and conserved

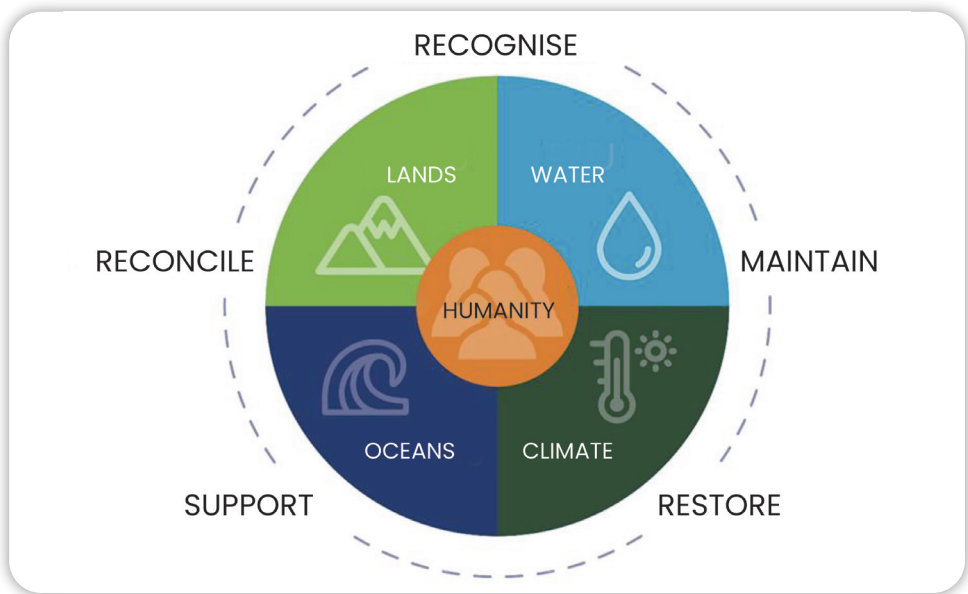
98

pApproximately CHF 98 millions

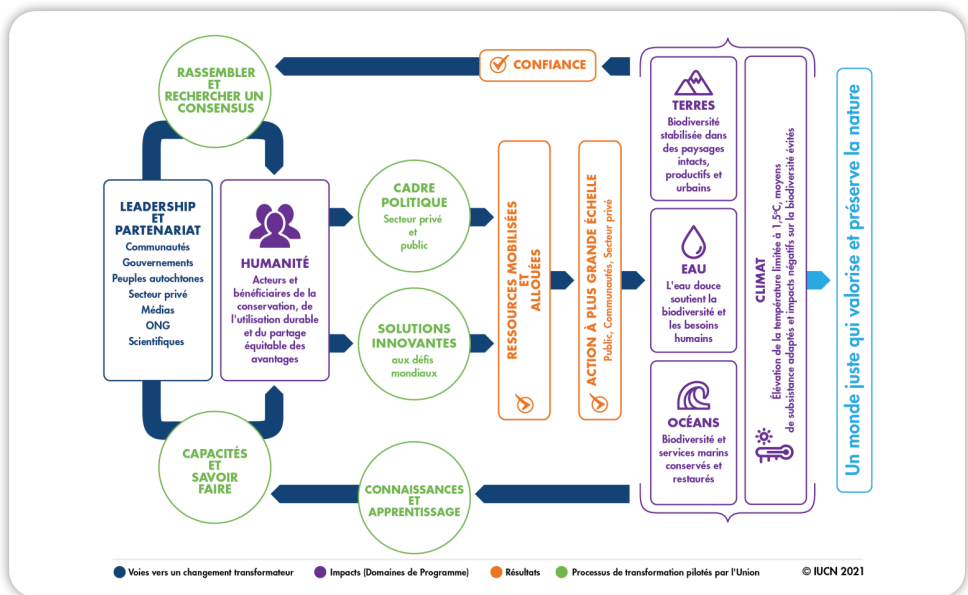
Mobilised for conservation

Nature 2030: One nature, one future

5 pillars for conserving nature and supporting sustainable development goals

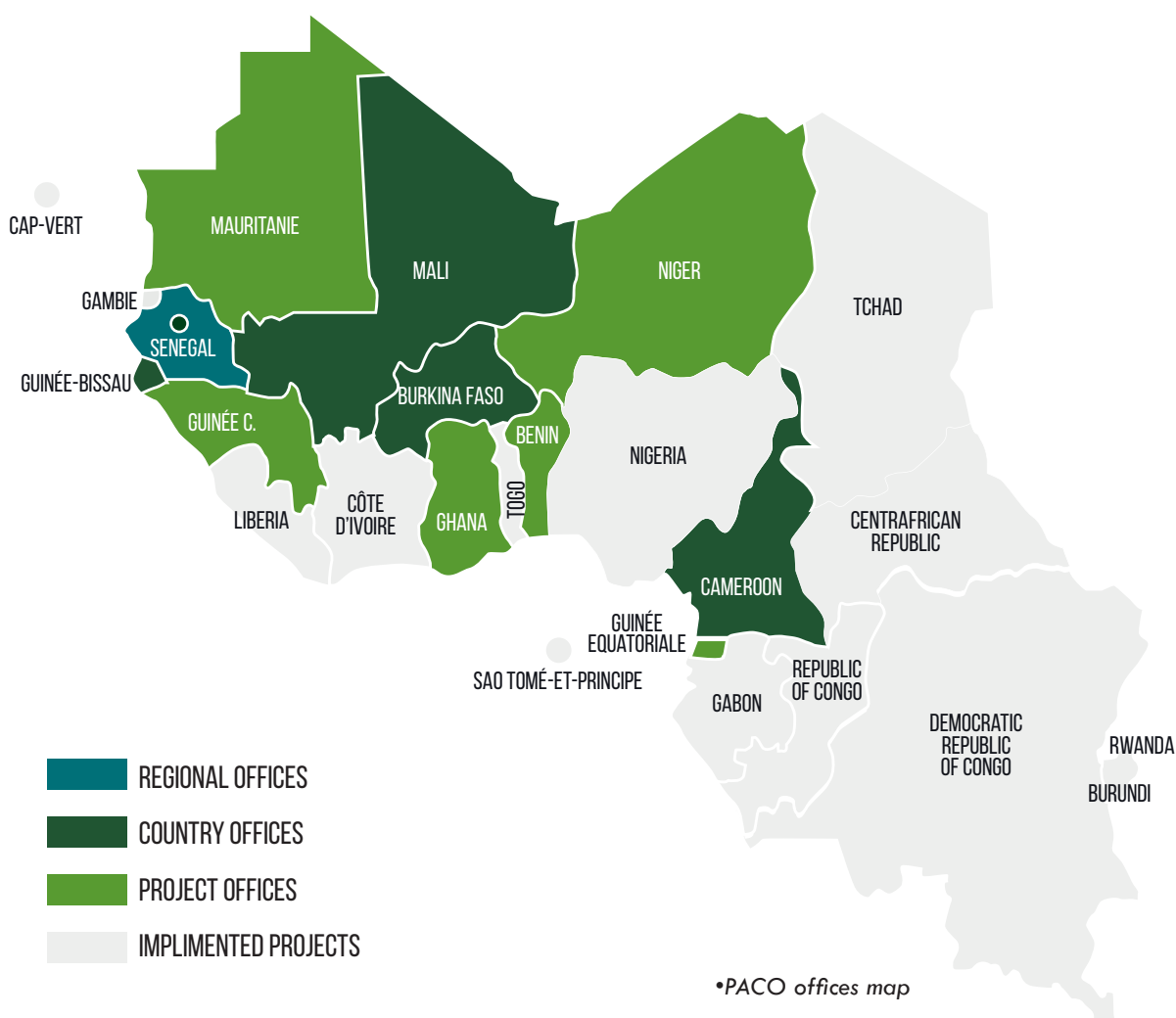


Towards a world that values and preserves nature



•Framework of the IUCN program : Nature 2030

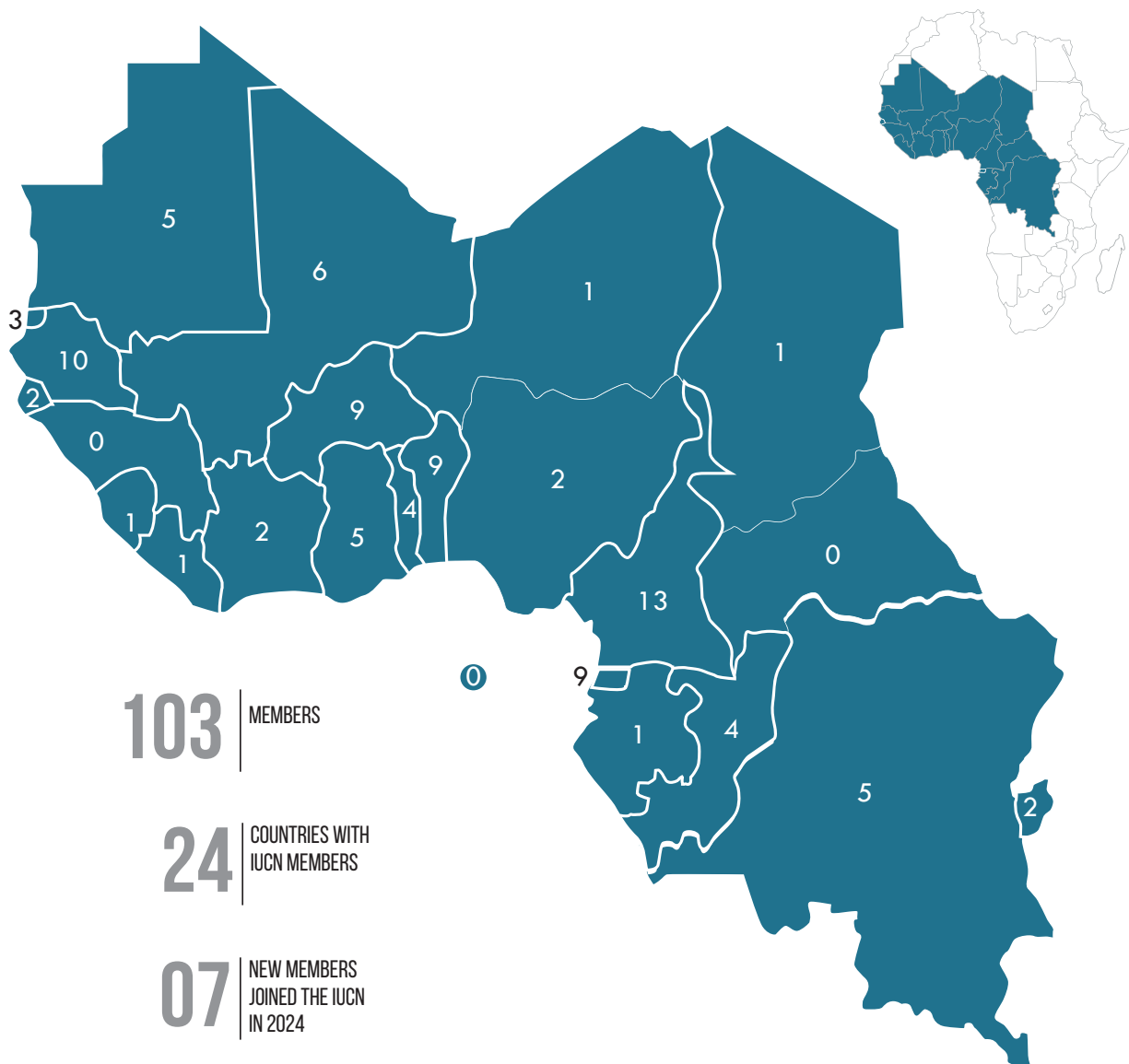
Our presence in 25 countries of the region





► **2** A STRONG
MEMBER
UNION

Our members in Central and Western Africa



Our region harnesses the knowledge, resources, and reach of our more than 100 member organizations. These include states and government agencies at national and subnational levels, non-governmental organizations large and small, Indigenous peoples' organizations, and scientific and academic institutions. Through their affiliation with IUCN, our members work with the Commissions and the Secretariat to develop and implement solutions to the world's most significant environmental challenges.

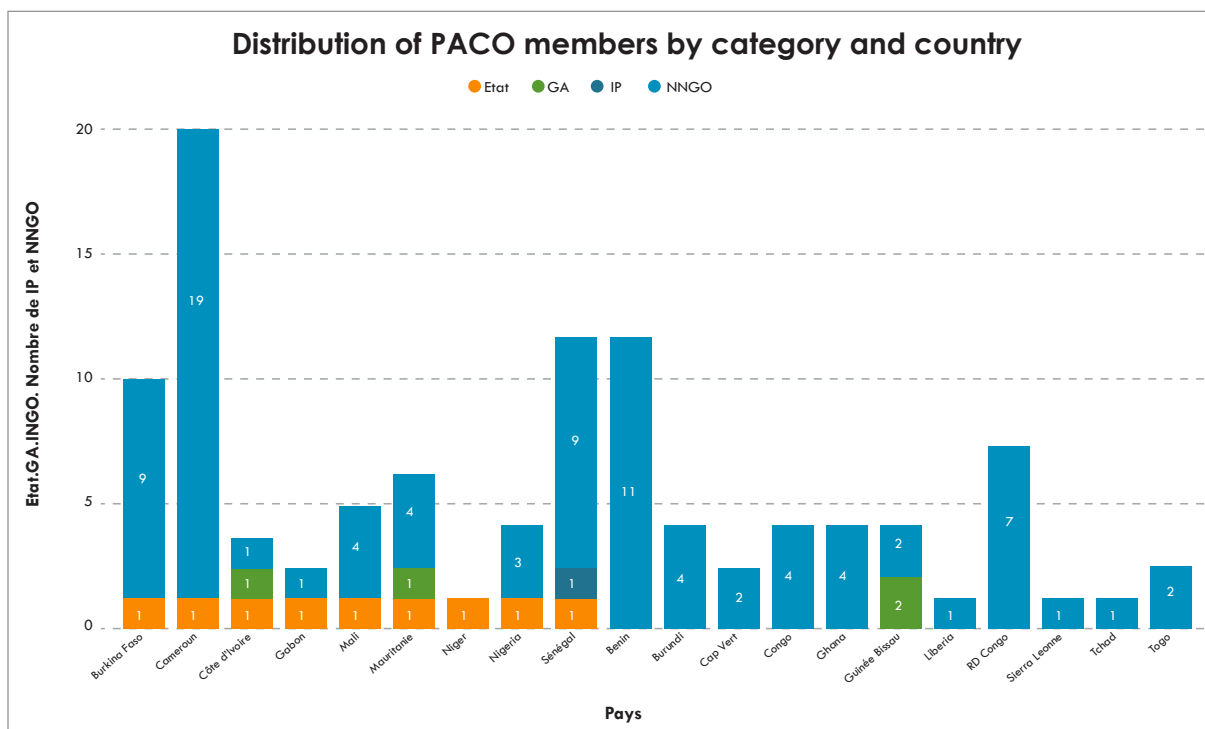
Our members also bring together and influence various stakeholders, including at the highest level, in favour of nature conservation. As part of a democratic process, at the IUCN World Conservation Congress, our members, like the general membership, vote on resolutions, which are then submitted to the Congress for approval. These resolutions guide the global conservation agenda and our actions in the field. IUCN's strength lies in members putting their knowledge and influence at the service of nature conservation in a "One Programme" approach.



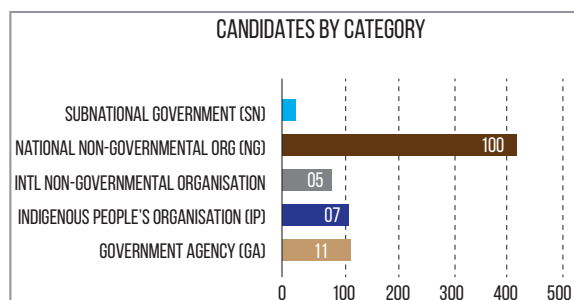
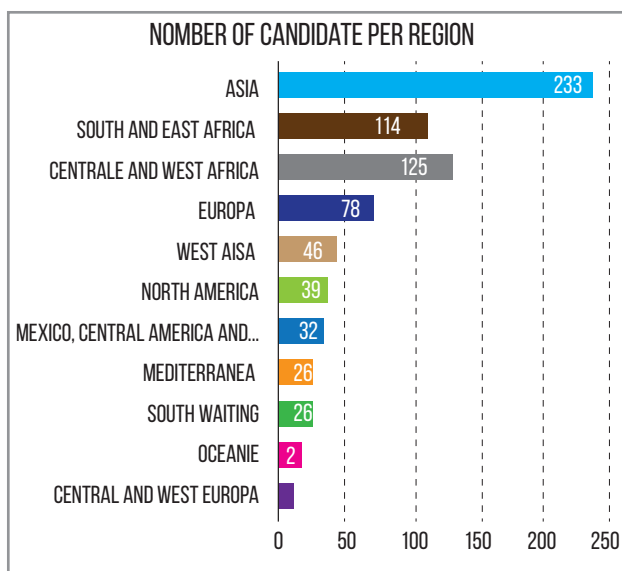
Key figures for our members in 2024



Membership dynamics



2025 Predicted growth in membership in 2025

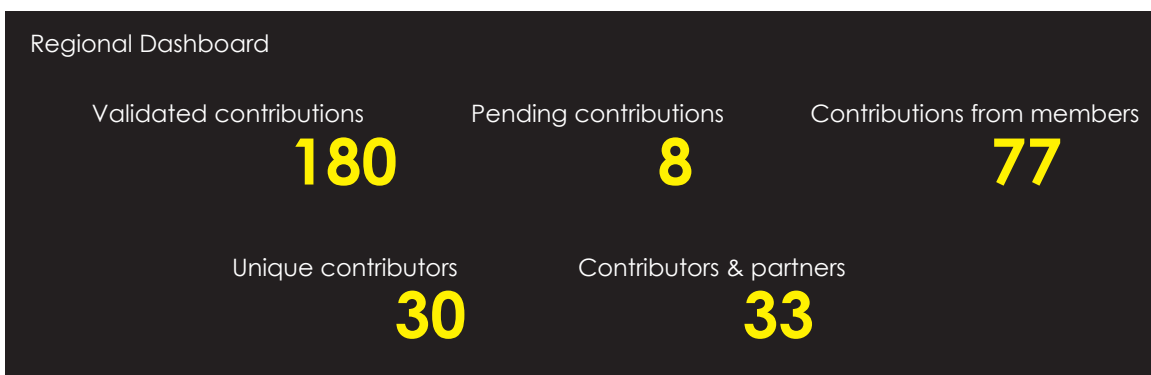


From the MAP onwards, there has been a growing interest in IUCN from organizations. 125 membership applications have been received, putting our region in 3rd position. We hope to achieve a growth rate of at least 20% by 2025.

Contribution platform for nature:

A tool for measuring the visibility of our actions in the field

<https://www.iucncontributionsfornature.org/fr>



The "Contributions for Nature" platform allows IUCN members to indicate where they are undertaking (or planning to undertake) conservation and restoration actions. It overlays data on biodiversity and nature-based solutions to climate change. In this way, IUCN members can document the contributions they intend to make to the IUCN Nature 2030 Agenda and, by extension, to other conservation frameworks and agreements such as the Global Biodiversity Framework, the Paris

Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While the long-term vision of the Contributions for Nature platform covers the entire IUCN Nature 2030 Programme, its first phase focuses on documenting potential contributions to the Land and Climate Programme areas. The Contributions for Nature platform builds on the datasets and list of Key Biodiversity Areas, the Green and Red Lists of Species, and the Restoration Barometer.



▶ 3 ACTING COLLECTIVELY
TO IMPACT CONSERVATION
IN CENTRAL AND WEST
AFRICA

IUCN-Climate Commission partnership for the Sahel Region (CCRS)

As part of developing the extensive partnership network with regional institutions, the IUCN-PACO Regional Directorate signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Climate Commission for the Sahel Region (CCRS) on November 15, 2024. This agreement aims to jointly:

Mobilize resources for the implementation of sustainable development projects and programs for the Sahel region;

- Implement projects and programs aimed at

strengthening the climate resilience of Sahelian rural communities in a context of multifaceted social changes and crises and the sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity;

- Strengthen the capacity of institutional partners, particularly in climate finance, and support IUCN and CCRS member states in the implementation of national and global climate and biodiversity roadmaps;
- Promote inclusive dialogue between IUCN technical teams and the CCRS.
- Take ownership of this agreement and propose a short-term action plan with objectives and results to be achieved as soon as possible

This signing opens up opportunities for collaboration between IUCN and the CCRS to better address the challenges facing states and communities in the Sahel region. To operationalise this MoU, a short-term action plan with tangible objectives and results will be developed.



COMMISSION CLIMAT
RÉGION SAHEL **CCRS**

Secrétariat Exécutif

Partnership, IUCN, IBAP OMVS for project implementation connectivity and corubal



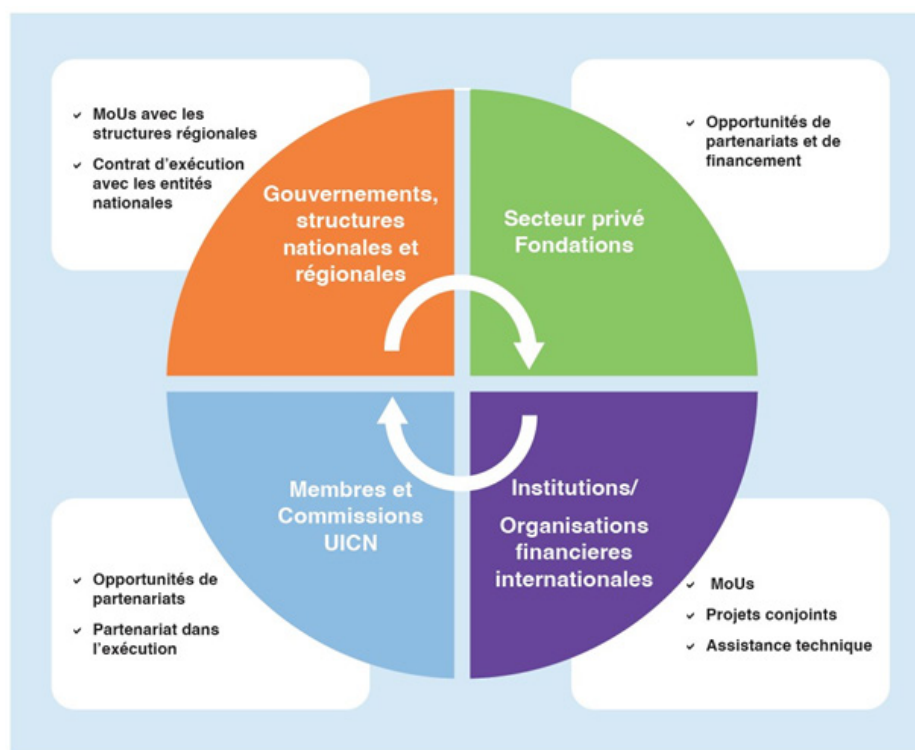
As part of IUCN's support to the country in mobilizing GEF funds, the Regional Office in Dakar was the venue for signing implementation contracts for two projects financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The projects are: 'Integrated Management of Natural and Water Resources in the Koliba-Corubal Watershed' and "Strengthening Ecological Connectivity in the Dulombi-Boé-Tchetché (DTB) Complex". These projects are responses to the effects of climate change, the intensification

of human activities and the degradation of water resources in the Koliba-Corubal catchment on the one hand, and the strengthening of ecological connectivity in the Dulombi-Boé-Tchetché complex on the other. The aim is to establish a multi-level dialogue to implement standard mechanisms and instruments for the integrated management of water resources in the Koliba-Corubal and to maintain ecological connectivity and the transnational protected areas of Niokolo-Koba and Badiar.

Collaboration with CILSS and OSS

Collaboration between IUCN and CILSS has been strengthened over the years, notably through regular meetings and participation in the IUCN strategic retreat. A memorandum of understanding dating from 1998 exists between the two institutions, and actions are underway to strengthen this collaboration. These include technical exchanges on standard tools and concepts such as the Red List, the Green List, and the Land Observatory, as well as an update of the Memorandum of Understanding.

This collaboration has been consolidated through discussions on land degradation issues and joint projects such as the IREE-Mono. Among the actions planned, the OSS will be integrated as a member of the IUCN, and experience sharing on the tools and concepts used by the two organizations will be strengthened. In addition, a draft of the medium-term Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is being discussed to formalize and structure this collaboration further.



•Our strategic approach



► 4 THE IMPACT OF OUR PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

Capacity building for fair and inclusive conservation

UCN has established itself as a key player in promoting equitable and inclusive conservation by focusing on building the capacity of conservation stakeholders, including local communities. The goal is to ensure that local stakeholders, particularly women and youth, can understand their rights and responsibilities in natural resource management and play an active role in preserving biodiversity.

This work is based on an integrated approach combining training, awareness-raising, and participatory governance to ensure that each group has the means to contribute to the sustainable and fair management of natural ecosystems. Thus, in Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Niger, our initiatives have impacted the technical and economic capacities of 220,519 beneficiaries, including 54.6% women and 43.1% youth.

These results were achieved through training and capacity-building activities such as managing agro-sylva-pastoral cooperatives, agricultural techniques focused on land rehabilitation, and promoting sustainable agriculture. At least 231,521 stakeholders will have directly benefited from PACO interventions in 2024 through capacity-building activities in sustainable management and development of natural resources, value chains, and agroecology.

+231 521

BENEFICIARIES
OF PACO
INTERVENTIONS
IN 2024



•Oyster farming

training

Ecosystem Restoration and Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)

IUCN promotes the restoration of degraded ecosystems through Nature-Based Solutions (NBS), which combines biodiversity conservation and improved livelihoods for local communities. These solutions rely on the sustainable use of ecosystems to address global challenges such as climate change, food security, and water resource management.

In 2024, IUCN-PACO mobilized multi-sectoral partnerships to restore land, sea, and coastal landscapes, promote climate resilience, and ensure equitable and inclusive management of natural resources. Our actions in this area are not limited to ecological restoration but also incorporate a socioeconomic dimension, aiming to strengthen the capacities of local populations, encourage their active participation, and create sustainable income opportunities. Through collaborative planning and inclusive implementation, IUCN has demonstrated that ecosystem restoration can simultaneously address conservation needs and human development priorities while strengthening community resilience to the impacts of climate change.

IUCN's restoration and protection initiatives have covered 1,200,000 hectares across West and Central Africa, including wetlands, forests, and coastal ecosystems. At least 57,000 hectares of

wetlands have been restored through reforestation and assisted natural regeneration (ANR) activities. In Senegal, community initiatives have led to planting 20 hectares of mangroves, strengthening marine biodiversity and fishermen's livelihoods. In Guinea, 46,328 hectares have been restored with native and fruit species, meeting community needs while promoting ecosystem resilience. In Ghana, IUCN has restored 1,321 hectares of land in the Wassa Amenfi and Lake Bosomtwe landscapes through agroforestry, buffer zone restoration, and the Taungya system. More than 236,000 trees have been planted, including native and fruit species such as coconut, mahogany, and mango, meeting local communities' ecological and socioeconomic needs. These efforts have benefited 102,386 people, including farmers using new techniques to improve their productivity.

These efforts have been supported by awareness campaigns, training on assisted natural regeneration techniques, and ecological monitoring programs that promote sustainable natural resource management and integrated conservation. The results demonstrate the transformative impact of Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) on ecosystems and local populations.





Sustainable management of natural resources

PACO continued its efforts to promote sustainable and equitable natural resource management by placing local communities at the heart of decision-making. This is essential for preserving ecosystems while meeting populations' economic, social, and cultural needs. The approach combines field interventions, political advocacy, and capacity-building initiatives to create inclusive and effective governance structures at all levels. Through strategic partnerships with governments, communities, and local organizations, the region has consolidated institutional frameworks and implemented participatory natural resource management tools. Examples include support for developing strategies aligned with Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) to integrate environmental objectives into municipal plans in seven municipalities in Burkina Faso, promoting ecosystem preservation and soil restoration. In Senegal, eight local agreements were developed to strengthen sustainable natural resource management. Other initiatives, such as developing sustainable natural resource management plans in the Ferlo Reserve, mangrove restoration plans, and biodiversity action plans, were implemented.

These actions include implementing collaborative approaches such as the Green List process, which encourages protected areas to achieve international sustainability standards.

The Green List process in Central Africa, launched in Yaoundé, brought together participants from five countries (Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome, and Chad) who learned how to use the COMPASS platform to assess the management effectiveness of protected areas. Other countries in the same region were informed of the launch of the Green List process and expressed interest in participating in the following phases. This initiative laid the foundation for improving protected area governance and integrating local communities into natural resource management.

These efforts are resulting in improved ecosystem resilience to human pressures, reduced conflicts over natural resources, and equitable access to the benefits derived from their management. By 2024, these initiatives had reached thousands of beneficiaries in West and Central Africa while promoting regional harmonization of sustainable management practices.



Adaptation to climate change and community resilience

Faced with the complex and growing challenges of climate change, the region is committed to implementing innovative and inclusive solutions to strengthen the resilience of ecosystems and vulnerable populations. It adopts an integrated approach that combines biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation, and improving local livelihoods.

In 2024, PACO placed women and youth at the heart of its initiatives, recognizing their essential role in natural resource management and increased vulnerability to climate impacts. Through programs focused on Nature-Based Solutions (NBS), the organization has demonstrated that ecosystem restoration can enhance biodiversity and reduce climate risks. These projects have strengthened food security and provided sustainable economic opportunities for communities.

Burkina Faso and Guinea, in collaboration with local communities, the region conducted training on Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) and ecological restoration techniques, reaching 3,100 stakeholders, 25% of whom were women. These trainings helped integrate NBS into regional policies to promote landscape restoration and stren-

gthen ecosystem resilience to climate change.

In Niger, the installation of two solar-powered irrigation systems in the Tahoua and Dosso regions helped develop 70 hectares of dryland. This modern agricultural infrastructure has benefited 600 households, increased agricultural productivity and reduced dependence on traditional methods. At the same time, 87 people, 39% of whom were women, were trained in using vulnerability analysis tools to plan climate adaptation actions.

The partnership with GRID Arendal supported five African countries (Senegal, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Cape Verde) in international negotiations to develop a legally binding treaty against plastic pollution. This support focuses on the technical and legal preparation of national delegations, data collection on the plastics value chain, and assessment of legislative frameworks to ensure the effective implementation of the future treaty.

All these actions contribute to mitigating the effects of climate change and building more resilient, self-sufficient communities better equipped to face future environmental challenges.

Cross-border governance and regional cooperation

Managing ecosystems and natural resources requires concerted efforts and collaborative governance between countries. Recognizing the importance of transboundary initiatives, the region stepped up its regional cooperation efforts in 2024 to promote integrated and sustainable natural resource management. These efforts align with global biodiversity goals, including the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, by promoting a collective approach to complex environmental challenges such as ecosystem degradation, climate change, and biodiversity conservation.

Through dialogue platforms, bilateral and regional agreements, and stakeholder capacity building, we have contributed to structuring more inclusive and effective governance mechanisms to address transboundary challenges such as watershed management, protecting shared protected areas, and the fight against poaching.

These transboundary initiatives have aimed to harmonize policies, exchange best practices, and promote sustainable solutions that benefit local popula-

tions and ecosystems.

The regional workshop on the transboundary Mano and Makona basins, which brought together Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, is an example of cooperation and integrating NBS into water resource management. In Central Africa, between Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea, discussions have been initiated on updating the binational agreement on the transboundary protected areas of Campo Ma'an and Río Campo. This agreement provides joint mechanisms to combat poaching and promote the conservation of transboundary ecosystems.

At the Senegal River Delta Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (RBTDs), between Senegal and Mauritania, efforts to create local natural resource management associations and develop management plans have improved cross-border governance and regional cooperation.

By focusing on sustainable regional cooperation, IUCN contributes to biodiversity conservation and peacebuilding and socio-economic resilience in regions often vulnerable to tensions related to natural resources.



Innovation and development of sustainable value chains



In 2024, the region intensified its efforts to integrate innovative approaches into developing sustainable value chains, focusing on the economic empowerment of local communities while preserving biodiversity. Natural resource management is intrinsically linked to local economic activities, and a sustainable approach is essential to maintain the balance between exploitation and conservation. IUCN is, therefore, committed to promoting economic models that utilize natural resources responsibly while creating income opportunities for local communities.

These initiatives rely on the development of local know-how and the transformation of natural resources into high-value-added products. They particularly target the most vulnerable groups, such as women and youth, to improve their access to economic opportunities, diversify their incomes, and strengthen their role in sustainable resource management.

By supporting the creation of sustainable value chains, such as the fair dedicated to dryland products in Ghana, Cameroon, and Senegal, which benefited 188 women, providing training and equipment for grain processing and the recovery of agricultural waste into ecological charcoal, IUCN-PACO has contributed to the resilience of ecosystems by integrating environmentally friendly practices.

A strategic reflection to strengthen PACO's achievements, performance, and influence in the region and guide our actions for the next program

The strategic reflection of the IUCN Regional Office for Central and West Africa (PACO), held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from December 18 to 20, 2024, aimed to continue discussions on PACO's organizational structure and development prospects to better repositioning it in the region.

To better identify the region's priorities, an inclusive approach was adopted with the participation of several members, regional partners, and the Ministries of Environment, Forestry, and Wildlife of Cameroon, the host country of this strategic reflection. This reflection led to the identification of three workstreams:

Workstream 1: A strategy to strengthen our positioning and scale our actions:

- Define regional priorities and ensure alignment with the 20-year vision, the next four-year program, and the IUCN Centers.
- Involve key conservation players in

the region and IUCN Members more closely in order to ensure that these strategic orientations are properly appropriated.

Workstream 2: A dynamic membership to better respond to the Union's challenges and principles

- Finalize a member engagement strategy to ensure the effectiveness of the «One Programme» approach.
- Ensure adequate support for Members through capacity building and documentation of Member contributions at the Secretariat level.

Workstream 3: Strengthened regional partnership and institutional presence

- Develop a strategic partnership with partners, with the common aim of conserving nature
- Strengthen PACO's presence in certain strategic countries for the implementation of the ecoregion approach.





► **5** AT THE HEART
OF EVENTS
IN 2024

IUCN African Conservation Forum

From June 24 to 28, 2024, Nairobi hosted the first African Continental Conservation Forum. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the world's largest conservation organization, organized this event in partnership with the Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife. It was an important gathering, bringing together IUCN members and stakeholders from Africa and beyond to address pressing environmental conservation issues on the continent. In addition, the Forum provides a platform for sharing information and knowledge, fostering partnerships, and facilitating connections among members across different regions of Africa.

The IUCN Africa Conservation Forum was organized by the three IUCN regional offices: IUCN Central and West Africa (PACO), IUCN North Africa and Central Mediterranean Cooperation (MED), and IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa (ESARO). As a reminder, the IUCN Africa Conservation Forum is one of the main continental assemblies where Africans and all in-

terest groups come together to deliberate on safeguarding Africa's natural resources, providing essential ecosystem services, promoting sustainable development, and conserving Africa's biodiversity.

This event, which included more than 700 key activities, including plenary and thematic sessions, addressed critical conservation challenges and trends in Africa, side events dedicated to specific topics, sessions designed to engage IUCN members with IUCN programs, poster exhibitions, booths, interactive learning sessions, and networking opportunities for youth, indigenous peoples, and local communities. The Forum also remains an important step toward the World Conservation Congress.



ACF 2024 in figures





Leaders' Forum

Under the theme «Harnessing Innovation and Enabling Conservation,» the Leaders' Forum provided an opportunity to reflect on a variety of issues, including the role of innovation in transformative changes in conservation, integrating Indigenous knowledge into nature conservation initiatives, and its integration into science and technology, large-scale conservation funding, and more.

To highlight the contribution of the region's private sector, the regional office facilitated the participation of Olam Agri through its Corporate Responsibility and Sustainable Development Directorate and the Managing Director of Beko Capital Advisory S.A. IUCN PACO is committed to strengthening its collaborations with international partners such as Société Générale, the IKEA Foundation, and the Islamic Development Bank, while aligning its projects with global objectives such as the 30x30

ambition and the targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework. These efforts aim to maximize the impact of conservation initiatives for sustainable development in West and Central Africa.



Conference of the Parties on Biodiversity

COP16 Biodiversity, held from October 24 to 30, 2024, in Cali, Colombia, under the theme «Peace with Nature,» provided an opportunity for parties to review progress made in implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). PACO's participation enabled the following:

- Share experiences and results on the integration of Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) to strengthen national strategies and action plans for biodiversity and National Ecosystem

Services (NBSAPs), particularly within the framework of the implementation of the regional project supporting the preservation of biodiversity and fragile ecosystems, environmental governance, and climate change in West Africa (PAPBio). The discussion session organized by the Sahara and Sahel Observatory demonstrated that the NCA allows for integrating ecosystem service values into national planning processes and contributes to sustainable development goals. IUCN-PACO is committed to strengthening





partnerships with financial institutions and regional stakeholders to ensure sustainable funding aligned with the objectives of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

- Discuss the vision of the CBD regional scientific and technical support centres in Africa with the five centres established for this purpose. The roundtable organized by the BIOPAMA project provided an opportunity to present each centre's geographic and technical scope, discuss synergies and bridges for dialogue between the centres, and illustrate the opportunities and benefits for financial partners and donors of investing in these centres.

COP16 CBD provided an opportunity to forge partnerships with:

- Islamic Development Bank: areas of collaboration through capacity building and training on the positive nature approach and technical assistance within the framework of the Bank's projects in its countries of operation;
- Société Générale: We explored areas of collaboration, including reconnecting protected areas through corridors, restoring livelihoods, and promoting sustainable agriculture...
- Ministries of the Environment of Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in the Senegal River Valley



At the invitation of the World Bank, an IUCN-PACO delegation led by the Regional Director took part in the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development of the Senegal River Valley. Held on January 18, 2024, the Forum welcomed approximately one hundred participants from Senegal and Mauritania to discuss the challenges of sustainable development in this area in the context of climate change. To this end, the PACO Regional Director chaired the high-level panel on the **«Role of Policymakers and Development Partners in Ensuring**

Sustainable Development in the Senegal River Valley. «The Senegal River Valley Development and Resilience Project was presented during this panel, along with the commitments of the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation.

This panel provided an opportunity to review the role of technical and financial partners and to assess the investments made in the valley area over the past few decades. The coherence of the interventions and the impact of these investments were highlighted.

20th Conference of the Parties of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP)

PACO's presence at this important conference helped strengthen IUCN's presence within the CBFP, strengthen strategic partnerships with various stakeholders in the Congo Basin, and contribute to further discussions on approaches and tools to facilitate the nexus of resource mobilization, environmental governance, and sustainable community development.

Through its active participation in panels, thematic workshops, and bilateral meetings, IUCN advocated for sustainable conservation based on the involvement of local communities, ecosystem restoration, and the development of non-timber forest product (NTFP) value chains with the private sector. The focus was on sustainable financing, including payments for ecosystem services and debt-for-nature initiatives, while promoting bankable projects to attract donors. Youth were at the heart of the discussions, with recommendations to strengthen their research and conservation capacities.

Indeed, IUCN-PACO contributed technically and financially to organizing the first CBFP Youth Forum.

The main conclusions highlight the need for holistic approaches integrating socioeconomic dimensions into environmental policies. Five governments expressed their commitment to collaborating with IUCN on conservation and sustainable development initiatives. At the same time, partners such as the Economic Commission of Central African States (ECCAS) and the AfDB recognized IUCN as a central player in implementing regional projects.

Key recommendations include maintaining dialogue with partners, building the capacity of local stakeholders, increasing financial resource mobilization, and integrating youth into conservation strategies.

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World Heritage Expert Group Panel



•World Heritage members accompanied by IUCN staff at the World Heritage Expert Group Panel at their meeting held at PACO in Dakar

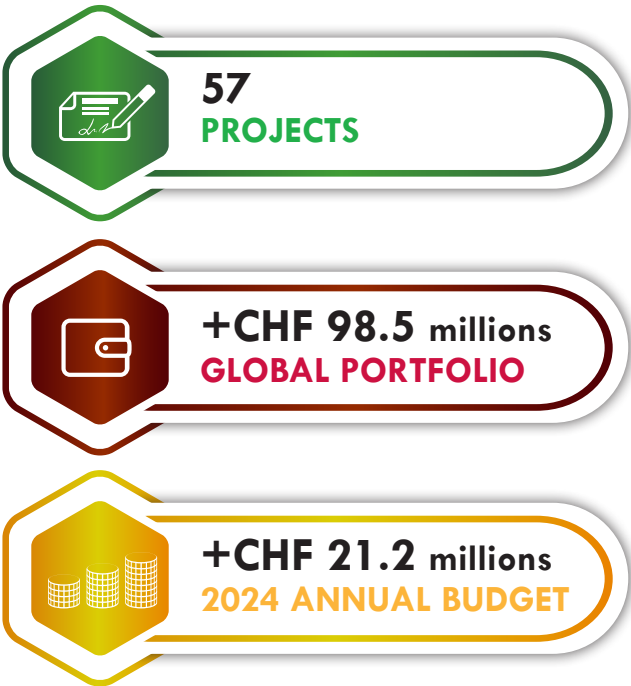
The IUCN-PACO Regional Office in Dakar hosted the World Heritage Expert Panel. This was the first time such a meeting has been held in Africa, and more specifically in West Africa. As a reminder, of the more than 1,200 World Heritage sites, approximately 12% are located in Africa, mainly consisting of ecosystems and central cultural values.

This panel provided an opportunity to explore the increased integration of thematic and country programs into IUCN's monitoring efforts for the recognition of World Heritage sites. It was also an opportunity to consider the mobilization of regional and local expertise in the World Heritage process.

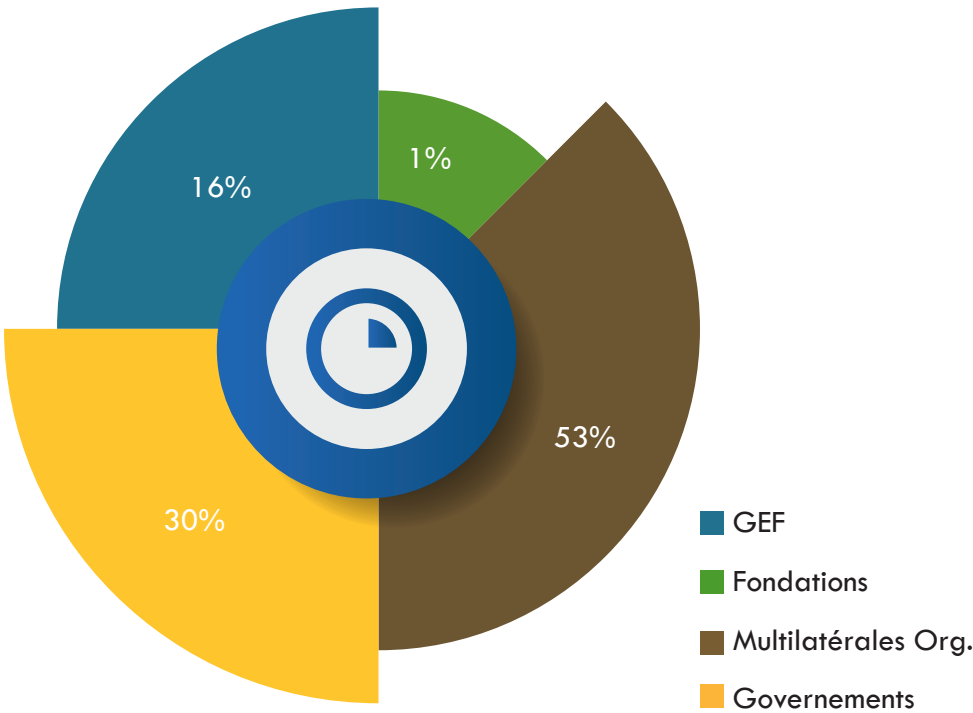


► **6** FINANCIAL
SITUATION

Our projetscs portfolio



2024 operational budget



Our financial partners



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF DENMARK



UNOPS



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



Gouvernement
du Canada



WUSC-EUMC



▶ **7** EXPERTS FROM
THE SPECIALIZED
COMMISSIONS
AT PACO



Education and Communication Commission

Promoting change through communication, learning, and knowledge



Commission on Ecosystem Management

Promoting ecosystem approaches to land and seascape management



Committee on Environmental, Economic and Social Policies

Harmonize nature conservation and the essential concerns of social, cultural, environmental and economic justice of human societies.



Species Survival Commission

Influencing, encouraging, and helping societies to conserve biodiversity by increasing knowledge about the status of species and the threats they face.



World Commission on Environmental Law

Advancing environmental law to strengthen the legal foundations of nature conservation and sustainable development..



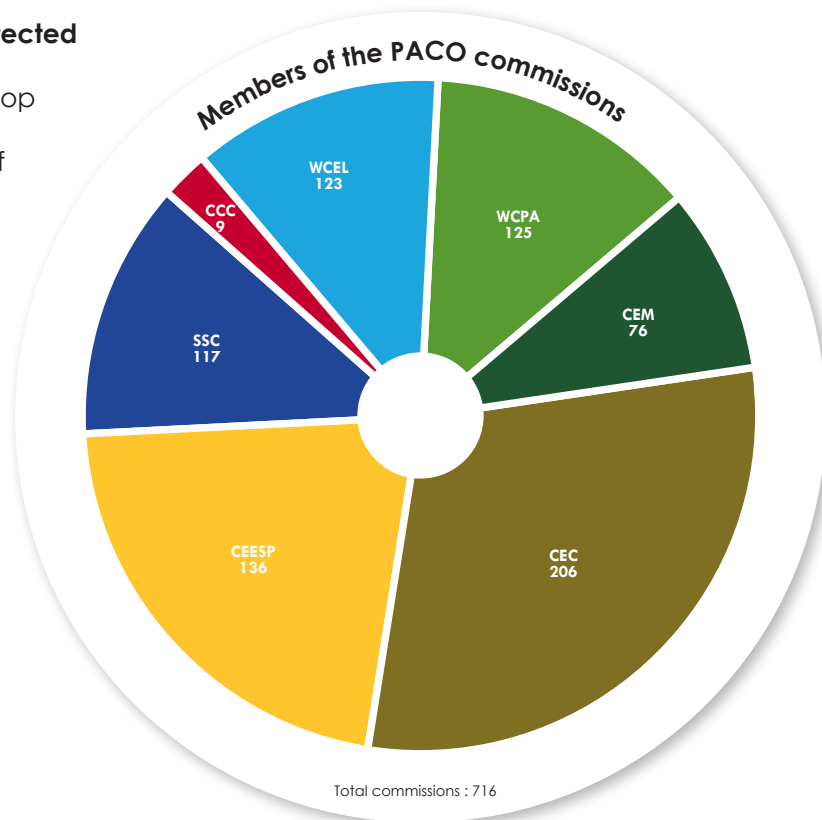
World Commission on Protected Areas

Using knowledge to develop policy, advice, and guidance on the full range of issues surrounding protected areas.



IUCN Commission on the Climate Crisis

To promote appropriate, effective, fair, and nature-friendly solutions to the climate crisis, based on the best available scientific evidence from all reputable international bodies and indigenous knowledge systems.



**Work for
a just world
that values and
conserves nature**



INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR
NATURE CONSERVATION

Regional Office
Central and West Africa Program – PACO
Apartments Lots 26 et 27, Building ELYSIUM Almadies Zone 7
Route du Méridien
B.P. : 3215 Dakar
www.iucn.org/fr/regions/afrique-centrale-et-occidentale
www.iucn.org/resources/publications
E-mail : paco@iucn.org

🐦 twitter.com/iucn
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