



Regional Consultation and Discussion Meeting of IUCN Members in the Central and West Africa Region (PACO)

1.) Background :

The regionalization and decentralization of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), aimed at improving the implementation of its five-year programmes have made it possible to have a new organization and new functioning method of its Central and West Africa Regional Programme (PACO). In fact, relations with IUCN members fall under one of the main avenues of the PACO strategy, which aims at strengthening members of the region while ensuring that their interventions effectively contribute towards the outputs of the intersession programmes; in line with the mission of the Union in the region.

This avenue makes it possible to lay the groundwork for common understanding with members, and to put up a set of accepted objectives and outputs that will be achieved through the Secretariat, Commissions and members themselves. It develops understanding of interests, builds capacities and the strengths of members and thus makes it possible for members to take part in the execution of the Programme.

Members and commission experts are the main assets of IUCN. In Central and West Africa, IUCN presently has 64 members of which there are 11 States, 9 government agencies, 3 International NGOs, 41 National NGOs and more than 300 members of various commissions.

With this strategy, it has been observed that most members appreciate the unique partnership between NGOs and governments that IUCN membership makes possible. However, the composition of some, though varied, does not always meet the needs of the IUCN Programme. That is why they are hardly involved as partners in the execution of the programme.

There is thus the need to work in close collaboration in order to form a consensual regional, sub-regional and local conservation movement that involves the three pillars of IUCN, namely the Secretariat, Members, Commissions, Advisers and all partners who can contribute and lend their support towards achieving the mission of IUCN in the region.

In this regard, PACO has to develop synergies for efficient execution of its activities. That is why it is organizing a consultation and discussion meeting from the 15th to the 16th of June to lay down the foundation for collaboration and common understanding with all its components.

2.) Overall objective :

The overall objective of the meeting is to lay down the foundation for collaboration and common understanding between IUCN-PACO, Members, Advisers and Commissions.

3.) Specific objectives of the Meeting :

- Know one another and share the concern of belonging to one and the same organisation / region ;
- Strengthen communication between the Secretariat and members, between members and those of commissions, and between members themselves ;
- Formulate proposals to set up a Regional Members Committee for PACO ;
- Agree on a bi-annual action plan ;
- Prepare a roadmap for the 2011 preparatory Congress.

4.) *Expected outputs :*

- PACO members know themselves and share the feeling of belonging to one and the same organisation / region ;
- Communication between the Secretariat and members, between members and those of commissions, and between members themselves is strengthened ;
- The proposal to set up a Regional Members Committee is formulated ;
- A bi-annual action plan with members is drawn up and agreed to by all ;
- A roadmap for the 2011 preparatory Congress is prepared.

The meeting will be conducted using a participatory approach through Power Point presentations, questions and answers, and group work.

5.) Participants :

The participants shall be IUCN members of the PACO region, members of Commissions, Advisers and staff of the IUCN Secretariat.